

HEBDEN BRIDGE PARTNERSHIP

Minutes of Management Board meeting held on 3 March 2014

1. **Present:** Bob Deacon (Chair and Treasurer), Andrew Bibby (Company Secretary), Cllr Janet Battye (Minutes), Stephen Curry, Lesley Mackay, Susan Quick, Anthony Rae, Cllr Jonathan Timbers, Dave Nelson
2. **Apologies:** David Fletcher, Nick Shields
3. **Declarations of Interest:** None
4. **Minutes of Board meeting (3 February):** Agreed.
5. **Matters arising:**
 - Item 4: Tour de France Co-ordinating meeting:** This has been arranged to take place tomorrow (4 March)

 - Item 8: Hebden Bridge brochure:** BD shared the most recent version: it includes information about heritage, shopping etc. Nick Shields (for the Visitor Economy group) is developing it with Kreativ Bomb (based in the Town Hall). £2,000 has been raised (incl £500 from the Town Council) to cover production costs

 - Item 10: Land Allocation consultation:** Part of Calderdale Council's work on the Local Plan. Several people attended this workshop for the Hebden Bridge area to consider identifying potential sites for new development (housing and employment). AR (who is attending all the workshops across Calderdale) proposes principles about using brownfield land and (for HB) building along the valley road. JT is considering the fit between this and the Neighbourhood Plan (which should now cover both the Town Council and adjacent Parish Council areas)
6. **Disability:** This was a major discussion at this evening's meeting, a key issue for 2014. We considered the list of issues from the "What Disables?" workshop from the Action Plan Open Day in 2013. A wider survey is needed: we noted that Kate Smyth did one sometime ago. There are different types of disabilities, we're not just talking about people in wheelchairs: much more than that.
Key issues include:
 - **Access to trains at the station.** A previous assessment of cost was in the region of £1m. Railway Heritage Fund may be a useful source. We want to ask the Friend of the Station to pursue this.
 - **Neighbourhood Plan:** We hope that this will include disability/access issues.
 - **Lifetime housing in Hebden Bridge ?**
 - **Role of Council Highways** in improving access: no action to date

- **Getting about:** using the paths around HB (including the towpath), steps into shops, initiatives such as Living Streets and Shared Space
- **Facilities:** availability of toilets

How can we get change ? Doesn't necessarily cost money. Ideas to get started:

- **Good Practice Guide**
- **HB as an exemplar for disability**
- **Partnership to convene a special meeting with local expert guests** (eg Kate Smyth; Ged Haley) including the disability forum

7. Update on Progress with Priority areas: Including discussion about targets:

Community Land Trust: AB reported that there have been further meetings of the working group, being run jointly with Tod Pride. Most recently Andy Lloyd from Cumbria Rural Housing Trust attended. There may be some funding available from April. A loan of £250 from the Partnership may be required. The group is looking to incorporate itself and then go back to CMBC having identified 2/3 sites in Council ownership – examples being considered are in Ashenhurst in Todmorden, Gauxholme/Walsden; and in Hebden Bridge. A pot of money will be needed for this.

Valley Rd: BD/AR have had a meeting with CMBC Planning Officers: 3 issues have been identified:

- Traffic – especially delivery lorries loading/unloading
- Retail Impact Assessment
- Poor design of the building

This may be scheduled to come to Planning Committee in April. HBP has been encouraged to submit the whole Valley Road site as a potential area for development including houses for use should the Sainsbury application be rejected.

Shared Space/Station: AR reported from his recent contact with Mary Farrar (CMBC) and Metro. It would be v expensive for the Council to do any work on Shared Space: if funding is available, it is more likely that this would now be spent in the Lower Valley because of the greater potential for development there.

Integrated transport at station: there may be a funding opportunity at West Yorkshire/Leeds City Region level. No mention of expanding the car park which is a key issue

A creative, inexpensive approach to Shared Space could be explored eg. use of portals, different colour road surfacing. Noted that flow of traffic reduces speed and improves air quality.

Consultation on 20mph completed and a 3yr implementation plan is expected.

AR is reflecting and bringing further ideas forward, recognising that this takes time.

Visitor Economy: Nick Shields is doing detailed work on this and SC reported on his behalf. Data and Research is being reviewed and analysed, and interviews conducted in the town. A further meeting is being planned to review this information and plan the next steps, probably involving focus groups. Branding research is being done by CMBC.

Calder Holmes Park: They are still working on funding sources: We agreed to give them more help and noted that Dave Nelson has started to attend their meetings.

Markets: JB reminded the meeting that it has been agreed to take an evolutionary/developmental approach to this and a further meeting is planned in early April.

Low Carbon: AR reported that a local response is being planned for HB to the Calderdale Energy Future work.

Business Forum: An initial meeting is planned for Thurs 13 March (from 6 to 7) which is likely to be well-supported.

8. Treasurers report: Noted that the Partnership gets a 40% discount on room hire in the Town Hall for which we thank the Community Association.
Replacement Treasurer still required and suggestions made to be explored.

9. Any Other Business:

- **Local Plan:** Brief report back from those attending recent workshop looking at potential development sites (housing/employment). AR noted that the final version of the Core Strategy is likely to be produced in autumn this year
- **Priority Action areas:** Suggestion that there could be 2 levels of implementation: less/more expensive.

Next Open meeting: Monday 7 April 2014: 7pm in Hebden Bridge Town Hall

**Topics: Tour de France
Visitor Economy
Plastic waste**

Next Board meetings: Tuesday May 6th: 7.30pm

**Monday June 2nd
Monday July 7th (General Meeting)**