

## HEBDEN BRIDGE PARTNERSHIP

Minutes of meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2013 in HB Town Hall

- 1. Present:** Cllr Janet Batty, Andrew Bibby, Charlie Carr, Stephen Curry, David Fletcher, Dave Nelson, Susan Quick, Anthony Rae, Polly Webber
- 2. Apologies:** Marc Collett, Bob Deacon, Lesley McKay, Cllr Jonathan Timbers
- 3. Election of Chair and other officers for 2013/14:**

**Company secretary: Andrew Bibby:** nominated by Cllr Janet Batty, seconded by Anthony Rae. Endorsed by the meeting.

**Minute secretary: Cllr Janet Batty**

**Treasurer: Bob Deacon** has indicated that he is prepared to continue for another year

**Chair:** In the absence of several members, it was agreed that **Stephen Curry** would chair the meeting this evening but both this position and that of Treasurer would be agreed at the next meeting.

- 4. Minutes of Executive Board meeting of 12 September:** Agreed
- 5. Mary Portas/Town Team Support Programme: Beth Ward** Beth is the local advisor for the North East/Yorkshire and Humber Region. Hebden Bridge is one of 400 Towns being helped through this programme, aimed at helping High Streets. Those towns not successful in getting a large grant, were awarded £10,000 plus the support of an advisor. It's recognised that the substance of the original bid may be different to what can be achieved with a smaller grant (ours was to revive the Town Team by regenerating the market). Beth was Halifax Town Centre Manager, has worked with Visit Britain Tourist Board, and is now working on marketing and the use of social media.

Support for Town Teams is not only through the advisor, but also assisted by a programme of workshops. The Association of Town and City Manager, with over 600 members, has a website with examples of best practice and what can be achieved. It's good to learn from experience elsewhere.

There are 50 Town Teams in the area, with a range of ideas and activities eg. Puffin Festival. Otley is looking at a Business Improvement District where businesses pay an additional 1 or 2% to create a pot of money to be used locally. A referendum is taken on this, needing 51% in favour. Rotherham had a full Portas programme and have provided business support, training, pop-up shops etc etc. Ripon are working on a Neighbourhood Plan. "Love your market" is popular, as are community days.

Car parking is a common problem on which a study is being done by ATCM.

We're identifying **business development** as an issue locally that we want to work on. Everywhere struggles to engage businesses especially retailers. Social media can be useful. It may be that we need to take a different approach – perhaps set up an **Enterprise group** with a different emphasis ?

AGREED: AB to write to the Community Association and the Town Council.

TARGET: to launch next year with 50 businesses signed up

6. **AGM Review:** Successful meeting – real partnership in action. New members signed up: Hope Baptist, Junior Band, Dodnaze Community Association, Rotary Club, Enabling Theatre, Calder and Colne River Trust. Anthony Rae has joined as an individual member. Noted that the member list is on the website.  
AGREED: Partnership meetings to be open to all
7. **Action Plan distribution:** 100 spare hard copies of the final version. Also summary leaflets. AGREED that we will all help to distribute them widely across the town.
8. **Treasurer's report:** Noted from BD's report that there is a balance of £7,241.48 as at Oct 31<sup>st</sup>, with most of the money spent on printing of the Action Plan (some £1,400) and room hire. £3/4k is committed in principle to market stall upgrade/electricity (JB to get a detailed proposal for this). This leaves a balance of approx £4k available for Town Team related activities.
9. **Task groups:**
  - a. **Shared space/traffic:** A useful meeting with Ian Gray (Calderdale/s Director of Economy and Environment) recently. 2 issues: integrated transport hub; and shared space. IG said that Calderdale Council are backing both of these through the West Yorkshire Transport Fund. Shared space needs action points and a timescale. Need to start somewhere – outside Innovation/Bridge Mill ? This needs writing up and firm proposals made.
  - b. **Housing:** AB organised a recent walk around HB to begin to identify potential sites for the 250 units envisaged by the Local Plan – we need to take control of this. Brownfield sites preferred to Greenfield/greenbelt.  
2 strands: 1. Sites already being identified within the Local Plan. Looked at old sites.  
2. community-controlled: CIC/Community Land Trust, perhaps using asset-transfer. Meeting planned with Calderdale Officers (Ian Gray/Mark Thompson)
  - c. **Market:** On the basis of this evening's discussion with Beth Ward, JMB will now plan a further meeting to develop plans for the market, following the intention to relocate it into Lees Yard with temporary markets into St George's Sq/down Bridgegate.
  - d. **Park:** Charlie reported, having developed some outline plans for a performance space, they are now looking at funding opportunities for this possibly using the National Lottery scheme "Parks for People". They need more help to take this forward. The importance of open, free public space is recognised, especially in a town where a substantial number of people don't have back gardens. They are

looking for Pledges of Support. They are working on a Needs Analysis with aims and objectives, including the history of the park. The Brass Band hasn't had a home in Hebden Bridge for a long time and there are cultural traditions eg of storytelling. There is a deadline for submission of the application of 28 February with a decision in June 2014.

This led us onto talking about the possible use of the Park for the Tour de France – as a campsite, with a large screen to transmit the Tour.

- e. **Visitor economy:** Initial meeting was postponed until September. The group has been reviewing previous work, especially the Strategy document from 2005. Given the lack of resources, a new approach is required. They are producing vox pops around the town and Case Studies of what's worked elsewhere eg. Glasgow changes its image; Shrewsbury. Once a strategy is worked up, then it will need to be implemented/

#### **10. Announcements/AOB**

- **Planning application on Brown's site/Mytholm Works:** It's expected that this will come to Planning Cttee at end November/December. IEM are working up their plans.
- **Use of social media: website/twitter.** While Andrew and Stephen look after these, a policy is needed for them.

**Date and venue for next Executive Board meeting: Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2013: 7pm at Innovation**

**Next Partnership meeting: Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January: 7pm**