

## HEBDEN BRIDGE PARTNERSHIP

### Minutes of Management Board meeting held on 6 May 2014

1. **Present:** Bob Deacon (Chair and Treasurer), Cllr Janet Battye (Minutes), Stephen Curry, Lesley Mackay, Susan Quick, Anthony Rae, David Fletcher, Dave Nelson, Nick Shields

**Welcome to** Giles Dring, new Chair of the Business Forum

2. **Apologies:** Andrew Bibby (Company Secretary), Cllrs Kate Drury and Jonathan Timbers

3. **Declarations of Interest:** None

4. **Minutes of Board meeting (3 March):** Agreed.

5. **Matters arising:**

- a) **Further issues for Tour de France (July 6) and Spectator Hub:** BD has tried to contact Katie Kinsella to ask her for more details about the planning for the TdF (eg about road closures; parking, hub etc) but has not had a response from her. AGREED to invite her to the next meeting (BD/AB)

- b) **Hebden Bridge Visitor Brochures: distribution of remaining brochures and plans for 2015:** BD and AB have discussed and organised this: of the 20,000 copies printed, 10,000 have been lodged with HB TIC; 5,000 distributed around the TICS in broader T de F area; 3,500 put into pubs etc in West York and East Lanc through Northern Print (at an extra cost of £150), leaving 1,500 available for use locally. Also available through Info Point agency on request.

Preliminary suggestion about 2015 included approaching the Town Council to become involved in a partnership and/or the Business Community. There is a wider value in producing this publicity material to the benefit of local people (eg over 750 people are employed in retail, catering etc in the town). Decision re 2015 brochure to be made in autumn after Visitor Economy report (see below).

- c) **Development of Disability Strategy:** Recognising that this is a high priority for us and following on from our recent discussion, JB has had an initial discussion with Bev Maybury, Calderdale Council's Director of Adult, Health and Social Care. Consequently JB proposes that we involve some CMBC Officers in helping with this – first with a preliminary meeting with them, followed by a more structured, public meeting. AGREED: JB to action.

- d) **HB Business Forum:** Giles brought us up-to-date with the development of the Forum of which he has recently been elected Chair. They are currently

having fortnightly meetings and working on their governance arrangements. Their Aims and Objectives include:

- Promoting business in the town;
- Supporting business (eg through buddying/mentoring; exchanging information, developing capacity)
- Acting as advocacy on behalf of businesses

Issues raised are not the immediate focus, rather getting the Forum established, building on previous groups (eg the former Business Association), intending to be inclusive. It is important to keep the early enthusiasm and momentum going ! This initiative was welcomed and the HBBF invited to become a Partnership member.

## 6. Matters arising from General Meeting on April 7:

a. **Flooding and Risk Management:** AR reported on this as Chair of Calder Future and distributed an information sheet on “Becoming a River Stewardship Volunteer” to help to manage riverbank vegetation to help to protect the river from flooding. Environment Agency modelling for Mytholmroyd shows that this is more effective than dredging. A wide range of volunteers are being sought to help with this.

**Insurance** (both for businesses and households) is becoming a key issue: JB will take this forward to the Calderdale Flood Recovery Steering group of which she is a member.

b. **Conservation area:** Diana Monahan raised concerns about a number of ways in which the fabric and appearance of the conservation area seems to be eroded eg. when roadwork is undertaken and setts not replaced; illuminated signs etc. AGREED that we will invite a speaker from CMBC’s Conservation section (Kate Peach/Sheena Campbell?) to the next General Meeting (together with the Calder Civic Trust ?) (AB)

c. **Publicising General meetings:** Whilst there was a good attendance at the previous meeting, it was disappointing at the most recent one. AGREED that we will ensure that there is wide publicity including Valley Life and Hebweb.(AB)

## 7. Updates of HB 2020 Action Plan priorities:

**Housing:** the Community Land Trust is becoming established, and is meeting regularly. It is identifying land in public ownership which may be able to be made available for the CLT, starting with Calderdale Council.

**Valley Road:** Apparently the Planning application consultation is awaiting the transport response which may be a critical issue. It was expected to come to Planning Cttee in June. Given the previous permission (which might be seen as setting a precedent), it might be difficult for permission to be resisted although it can be argued that the situation has changed since then. Given the development of the CMBC and HRTC Local Plans, this has been submitted to CMBC as a potential new Town Square. SOS are interested in the potential to develop this site, the adjacent Council carpark/market, and the telephone exchange site.

**Shared Space:** Need to take stock and consider where this is going and what the real potential is (although we are still interested in it). CMBC seem to indicate that any monies for infrastructure is more likely to be spent in the Lower Valley which is where the greater amount of new housebuilding may go within the CMBC Local Plan. What would a cheaper version of shared space be for us ? What could be the natural development of what we already have ? eg use of the area outside Innovation Mill.

**Transport (incl transport hub):** Good News of funding for lifts/disability access to the far platform, and for a small extension to the station carpark (60 additional spaces by 2016) which should, hopefully, include a change in the regulations so that it can be used by the general public at weekends.

**Visitor Economy:** Presentation by Nick Shields, reminding us of the process and timeline they have set for this work. There are 4 members of the core group (Nick, Stephen, Jonathan, and Harriet Rodgers). They have completed Steps 1 and 2, and are now moving to Step 3 where they plan to hold some small workshops (4/6 each with 8 people) to get expert opinions and follow up with questionnaires, this will help them with the task of developing HB's "identity" (rather than "brand"). They expect to have the Strategy prepared by mid-Autumn. AGREED to provide up to £200 funding for the workshops.

**Calder Holmes Park and Memorial Gardens:** There is a meeting of the group this evening. They are continuing to explore the development of the area between the skatepark and the children's playground (including the tennis courts) and now have help from Groundwork Leeds, Michael Harrop (CMBC) and an architect. Question of the role of the Town Council – would an asset transfer be a productive way forward ?

**Markets:** Funding for extending the electricity supply and new, smaller market stalls is still identified within the Partnership Budget. JB is awaiting Calderdale's imminent appointment of a Market and Retail Development Officer to take this forward

**Low Carbon:** Noted that ATC is in the process of moving to a unit down Valley Road. AR reported that Calderdale Energy Future could use HB as a local area but there is currently change of staff in this area.

AGREED that we will have an Annual Review of the 2020 Action Plan including planning for the year ahead at a future management meeting to be agreed.

8. **Treasurer's Report:** Noted that £6,637 remains available (including £3,000 committed for the market) but we have AGREED expenditure of £150 for distributing brochures and £200 for workshops for the Visitor Economy Strategy tonight.
9. **Neighbourhood Plan progress and timetable:** JT not here to report but some progress is being made although one Parish Council (Wadsworth) has not yet agreed to participate. This is a disappointment because it will be most productive/effective if it includes the whole area. Application is being submitted to Calderdale for the right to develop the Plan, which will, ultimately, be linked to the CMBC Local Plan. It is a long

process which should culminate in the Plan being produced in 2016 (first information likely to be available at end 2014)

**10. Invitation to Mayor's inauguration on May 14<sup>th</sup>:** JT will be next year's Town Mayor and an invitation has been extended to the Partnership. BD and SQ will attend. Regrettably it clashes with a full meeting of Calderdale Council so JB will not be able to attend.

**11. Any Other Business**

a. **700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Bridge Mill: Sat 6<sup>th</sup> September: 2.30 to 4.30.** DF reminded us of his plans for this celebration. Agreed this should receive wide support.

b. **Upper Calder Valley Renaissance:** brief feedback from recent meeting. A 10 year celebration event is being planned to review achievements and look ahead.

**Dates of next meetings:**

**Management Board: Monday June 2<sup>nd</sup>: 7.30pm**

**General meeting: Monday July 14: 7pm (change of date)**

Proposed topics:

- Conservation area
- Manufacturing (to invite Calrec to talk)

We AGREED that there would be no meeting in August

**Management Board: Monday Sept 8<sup>th</sup>: 7.30pm**

**AGM in October on a date to be agreed.**