

HEBDEN BRIDGE PARTNERSHIP

Minutes of meeting held on Monday 8th July 2013 at HB Town Hall

Present: Andrew Bibby (Chair) Cllr Janet Battye, CMBC (Minutes)
Cllr J Timbers (HRTC) Cllr John Dunford (Heptonstall PC)t
Gerard Liston (Hope Baptist) David Groves (Calder Civic Trust)
Diana Monaghan (Local History) Christina Hooley (The Source)
Jenny Shepherd (IEM) Anthony Rae (FOE)
Susan Quick (Enabling Theatre) Stephen Curry (HBCA/Angeldale)
Lesley Mackay (Sustainable Transport) Nina Smith (Sus Transport/Station)
Myra James (Sus Transpt)
John Wilson Ralph Nimmann
Ian Johnson Reg Czudek

In attendance:

Phil Ratcliffe (CMBC, Strategic Planning)
Katie Kinsella (CMBC Tourism)

Apologies: David Fletcher Bob Deacon
Dongria Kondh Ian Vickridge
Michael Newton Stewart J Brown
Sally Naylor Emma Green (HRTC)
Jae Campbell (CMBC) Judith Patrick (National Trust)

Agenda items:

Chair's welcome: AB welcome those present, reminding the meeting that the Partnership was established in 2001 as a local not-for-profit organisation aiming to support and promote regeneration in the town. It became the "Town Team" for Hebden Bridge as part of the Upper Calder Valley Renaissance (UCVR). Over the years, it has had its ups and downs – both active and engaged, and less so at other times but there has been a drive over the last year or so to increase the membership.

It is a useful vehicle when needed, he suggested. Town Teams are now being promoted by the government, for example to help High Streets through Mary Portas' work.

The original Hebden Bridge Action Plan was devised in 2005 and encouraged "Priority Projects" of which the Town Hall was one. We have been revisiting and revising the Action Plan with the aim of again stimulating discussion to set an agenda of collective action for the next few years.

AB became Chair earlier this year but pointed out that at the AGM in October this year he will stand down, having served his maximum term of 2 x 3 years as a board member.

1. Feedback on Action Plan: 2020 Vision

- i. General comments:** This came out of a workshop in March 2012 at Wainsgate Chapel. AB thanked those who have participated and contributed to the work so far. The draft was launched at an event in the Town Hall on May 18th which around 75 people attended. There was a high quality of participation with stimulating discussions in the workshops. 58 responses were received (generally supportive, some detailed) which are all on the website. Additionally there were 3 separate, substantial submissions from:
 - Anthony Rae
 - Incredible Edible Mytholm
 - Hebden Royd Town Council

- ii. Topic areas:** It is proposed that further work will now be done in smaller groups:
 - **Local economy incl visitor economy:** led by SC/BD
Need to review research and establish a strategy group. The notion of a Town Promotion Manager was not strongly supported, although there is a question over whether the concept or the funding was considered the difficulty.

 - **Market:** led by JB
Attracted 60% support (higher for Farmers' market) but concerns raised about the siting of a market. First meeting planned for Weds 17th July. John Walker, CMBC Markets Manager enthusiastic about developing the market. Some funding through the Portas scheme.

 - **Traffic/shared space:** led by LM and the Sustainable Transport group.
Preliminary meeting planned for Tuesday 9th July in the Albert. Noted that 13 out of the 39 proposals relate to traffic and transport: many difficult to tackle. Considerable interest in "shared space" and the video of Poynton (suggestion to invite the consultant here). This work will include looking at the future of the bus services, some not within our control but mix of local (Calderdale) and national

policy/funding. Quality varies from excellent to poor. Concern that train station still inaccessible. Never enough car parking space within the town !

- **Disability access:** led by SQ
Important that we are mindful of the range of disabilities. SQ suggests freeflowing discussion via email etc rather than series of meetings, and link with Calderdale Disability group.
- **Valley Road site:** to be convened by AB
Proposed to begin this work in Autumn 2013. This is an important town centre site and its future potential needs to be carefully examined.
- **Low carbon transition – greening valley:** to be convened by Polly Webber (ATC) and include Incredible Edible Mytholm.
- **Calder Holmes Park:** The Friends group is now very active and taking this work forward. Architects and future funding is being actively researched.
- **Housing** is a critical issue especially low income/affordable, and for later life.

Other comments:

Noted that there is still an active **UCVR Linear park/canal group**

Important not to lose site of artistic element which was a central part of the previous plan – eg the Arts Festival; Piano Festival etc

There is a **Performing Arts network** (KK)

Supporting businesses needs to be included (through the local economy group ?): they have been less involved/active with the Partnership recently.

2. Guest speaker: Calderdale Local Plan: Phil Ratcliffe (Calderdale MBC)

The former Unitary Development Plan is now being superseded by the Local Plan but it is likely that nothing will go back to Calderdale Council until after the elections next year. Work had been underway on the Local Development Framework overarching core strategy from 2004 onwards. Consultation on the preferred options had produced 1,300 comments and a feedback document which shortly be released.

Your Area, Your Plan has been a useful document but now has no legal basis.

There is a duty to co-operate especially around transport, housing, the economy and renewable energy at regional level. Although formally the Regional Spatial Strategy has been abolished, this is potentially a new regional plan.

It is important that there is continuing evidence-based research work on housing, the economy, flood-risk etc. The proposed Combined Authority and West Yorkshire Transport Fund will all impact on the Local Plan, as will useful work such as the Hebden Bridge 2020 Vision.

The housing allocation for “greater” Hebden Bridge (ie including Heptonstall, Old Town etc) is in the region of 250 units (houses, flats etc). While there may be some opportunities within the town, more will be needed. Brownfield sites have been the priority but this is becoming less strict.

Is Air Quality Management taken into account ?

There are continuing calls for potential sites – open space, housing, retail etc – to which the Partnership could usefully contribute eg re-examining old sites around the town.

The UDP is still in existence and is still the primary source when considering planning applications.

3. Possible Hebden Royd Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr Jonathan Timbers (HRTC)

Noted that this is part of the Localism Act and there have been some pilot Neighbourhood Plans. It is important to understand what they can/not do. It is technically an add-on to the Local Plan. The first one, Eden Valley, has just 6 policies including self-build housing on farms to help local people stay in the area, and broadband connection.

There appears to be some government funding available (£9,500 per plan) to help develop it. The evidence base is important and HRTC will need to rely on the work of CMBC. A community referendum has to be part of the process – perhaps alongside the Council elections in 2015 ? There will also be an examination by a Planning Inspector.

Key issues suggested by JT were: the siting of houses (in conjunction with neighbouring Parishes ?)

Flooding resilience (noted modelling workshops)

Disability access

A working party has been set up within the Town council. There are problems but also opportunities.

4. Current initiative and activities

i. **The Source:** CH explained that this brings together Treesresponsibility with the Environment Agency, Colne and Calder River Trust, and Calder Futures. The aim is to look at the catchment of the river Calder and how to improve and alleviate flooding risks. It was launched in 2011 and work began in February 2012, primarily with treeplanting on steep valley sides to slow run-off and erosion control (funded by EA) which is experimental, using bundles of brashwood along the contours and planting into it to stabilise the hillside. The Rivers Trust is to monitor invertebrate life which should improve as there is less sediment with reduced erosion. The search area (for sites) is now broadened to include the Hebden Water catchment. In Feb Prof Newsom looked at Walshaw Dean and there is a presentation of his findings and a Source opening meeting on Tuesday 16th July. The Partnership is important for keeping in touch with other work in the area.

ii. **Flood wardens and Incident Action Plan (Robin Dixon)** Item deferred

iii. **Any others: Tour de France (Katie Kinsella)** A Public meeting is planned for Thursday July 18th: 7.30pm in HB Town Hall. There was a Tourism conference in Hebden Bridge in April, with Welcome to Yorkshire, followed up with local roadshows. Planning is advancing within Calderdale and within Yorkshire, including emergency planning. Calderdale is leading on cultural activity for which £1m funding is available. It will start with a 100day countdown from 27 March 2014, rebranding existing festivals and route

animation. Guidance is available for temporary campsites: accommodation will be in demand with 160,000 visitors expected It is planned that there will be a biking legacy (York leading on this) with guided rides. Almost anybody can ride a bike !

Hope Baptist: GL outlined the next phase of building work: the bus shelter is being changed to a glass one and the garden can now be seen. A further £1/4m (through English Heritage) is being spent on more restoration work on the building (hence the scaffolding) for completion by end Nov 2013. This is in furtherance of the vision of the building as an inclusive centre for spiritual and emotional wellbeing.

5. Partnership business:

- i. **3 New members:** IEM; Civic Trust; Trades Club

- ii. **Arrangements for AGM and Management Board elections:** It is planned that the AGM on Thurs 10th October: 7pm in the Town Hall will follow the previous successful format of each member organisation making a 3 min presentation on their activities. We will need a new Chairperson and new members of the Board.

Cllr Janet Battye