

Hebden Bridge Partnership

Minutes of Management Board, Mon Jan 18th at HB Town Hall

Present: Bob Deacon (chair), Andrew Bibby, Lesley Mackay, Cllr Dave Young, Paul Forrest, Thom Bull, Stephen Curry, Anthony Rae. Guests: Cllr Janet Battye, Cllr Val Wade, Derek Bispham (Rotary Club president). Apologies: Cllr Jonathan Timbers, Susan Quick, Fiona Pattison, David Fletcher; Giles Dring, Helen Dziemidko.

The management board welcomed Derek Bispham, current Rotary Club president to the meeting.

1. Public meeting on Jan 18th. The meeting expressed its thanks to the Chair Bob Deacon for all his work in preparing for this event, and for chairing it on the day. There was consensus that the event had been extremely useful and well-managed.

2. Minutes of Dec 7 meeting approved as a correct record.

3. Matters arising

a. Strengthening the Partnership's Board. A paper previously circulated by Andrew Bibby, proposing the recruitment process for the new Partnership Chair, to take over from Bob later in the year, was approved. This would be circulated as widely as possible. It was agreed that in the first instance **Andrew, Bob and Paul** as officers would assess candidates. The decision would be taken by the Management Board at a future meeting.

Andrew Bibby also briefed members on his own intentions, which was to stand down as Secretary once the new Chair was safely in post. The new Secretary could be found by a similar recruitment exercise. The meeting noted that the secretary did not need to be a management board member.

b. Market relocation. Janet Battye gave a comprehensive report on developments. A public consultation exercise would be taking place on Thursday. It would be necessary to check business attitudes as well as public views. Assuming positive feedback there was an aim of taking the decision to Cabinet this Spring. Before the

flood it had been intended to move the market in July. This might be deferred. Issues of parking for traders' vans remained under discussion.

It was noted that the Partnership had taken an 'in principle' decision in May 2013 to contribute funds towards the relocation, subject to detailed proposals being presented by Janet Battye. It was noted that £103 had already been spent on market consultation by the Partnership. £2897 would therefore remain if the Partnership wished to contribute the £3000 originally discussed.

Andrew Bibby suggested that at least some of this amount could be contributed by the Partnership towards specific initiatives to strengthen the market, which could be such things as a launch event, marketing or promoting the market in the new 2016 tourism leaflet. Stephen Curry suggests new street signage would be another possibility. It was agreed that this would be fully discussed when a proposal had been received at a future meeting.

c. Historic development. Janet Battye gave an update and advised that Calderdale internal audit were investigating. It was agreed to maintain a watching brief and defer sending a letter at this stage to the developer. (More detailed minute available).

d. Responses to local plan. The response sent by the Chair was formally endorsed.

e. 20mph. The meeting clarified that up to £175 was available if required by the Sustainable Transport Group for this initiative. The Partnership were expecting the **Sustainable Transport** group to lead on this.

f. Valley Road site. It was noted that the Judicial Review called by the developers on behalf of Sainsburys had failed. Bob Deacon reported that the possibility of Calderdale approaching the developer had been discussed at a recent meeting with Mark Thompson. It was agreed that **Bob and Andrew** would follow this up with Mark Thompson.

g. Disability issues. Janet Battye reported that she was still trying to talk informally with Jonathan Timbers regarding the approach to Geraldine Rushton. It was agreed that **Janet Battye** would now go ahead and approach Geraldine Rushton about the viability of a disability survey for Hebden Bridge.

Lesley Mackay pointed out the flood recovery period was a unique opportunity to design in better disability access to local businesses. It was agreed that this should be raised strongly with funding bodies, including the Community Foundation. Agreed, **Stephen Curry** to discuss further with Calderdale business support staff.

h. Town Board. Bob Deacon reported on the meeting he and Andrew had had with Mark Thompson and his colleague Kate Thompson (who was responsible for the town board initiative). Bob said that the Partnership's approach (particularly on public accountability and openness of any Town Board) had been received favourably. It was agreed that a very strong link between any Town Board for Hebden Bridge and the Partnership was essential. Bob Deacon's report was endorsed by the meeting.

i. Partnership finances.

Paul Forrest's treasurer's report was received and approved. It was agreed to put in as soon as possible an application to the Town Council for a grant, to cover Partnership expenses (venues, publicity, website etc) and possibly other costs (such as the tourist brochure). Agreed **Paul Forrest** to progress, in conjunction with Chair and Secretary.

4. Flooding issues

a. Bob Deacon was thanked for his report on the impact of the flood on the local economy, which had been very well received.

b. Public meeting. **Andrew Bibby** will be circulating notes of this meeting. The speakers' Powerpoint slides are already on the website.

c. Future steps. Stephen Curry reported that the number of businesses affected in Hebden Bridge was probably close to 85, a very significant number but a little less than originally feared. He drew attention to an app created by Giles Dring, which advised when shops were reopening.

Bob Deacon's suggestion that the Partnership had a continuing role to play in rebuilding the local economy was endorsed and it was agreed that **Bob Deacon** would prepare a short ideas paper for circulation. The intention would be to approach the Community Foundation for support.

Thom Bull drew attention to the support which could be given by Calder High Student Council, a body he was actively engaged in.

d. Community self insurance. There was considerable interest in this proposal raised by Simon Waring at the public meeting. It was agreed that **Andrew Bibby** would follow up with Simon on behalf of the Partnership.

e. Flood prevention. Anthony Rae gave a short update on the meeting which he would be chairing on Thursday 21st. He stressed the importance of imposing a deadline for a report on flood causes, which he suggested should be no more than six months after the flood. Paul Forrest stressed that it was important that discussions were not held behind closed doors by professionals, and that the community was involved.

Bob Deacon stressed that the Partnership would have a role to play when it came to the time to review firm proposals for any flood prevention scheme that impacted on the town centre, and this was agreed.

f. Flood commission. It was agreed that the Partnership would make a submission to the Flood Commission called by Calderdale. The details of the submission were deferred.

5. Future meetings.

It was agreed to hold management board meetings on Feb 8 and Mar 7. The Spring General Meeting would be on April 4, the topic to be decided.

There was no other business.