

Hebden Bridge Partnership Ltd

Meeting of management board, Monday 7 March 2016

Present: Bob Deacon (chair), Paul Forrest, Andrew Bibby, Cllr Dave Young, Stephen Curry, Susan Quick, Anthony Rae. Also present: Cllr Janet Battye, Austen Warne, Iain Bairstow. Apologies: David Fletcher, Lesley Mackay; Helen Dziemidko, Fiona Pattison.

It was agreed to send a get-well message to Lesley Mackay, who was undergoing an operation.

1. Minutes of Feb 8 agreed as a correct record

2. Matters arising

a. Recruitment of new chair. Andrew reported that he had held back on advertising the vacancy because of the floods, but now intended to start the recruitment process. This was agreed. Action: **Andrew**

b. 'Historic development'. Janet reported that there were as yet no further developments.

c. 20 mph monitoring. Action: **Anthony** to check with Jae Campbell re radar gun. Sustainable Transport Group were proceeding with the flyers.

d. Disability access. It was noted that the Neighbourhood Plan committee had confirmed that access was an issue which the Neighbourhood Plan considered relevant to its work. Janet reported that Geraldine Rushton was retiring from Calderdale, and the arrangements for replacing her were not yet clear. Action: **Janet** to follow up.

It was noted that Disability Support Calderdale had had funding from the ward forum on this issue, but the results of its work did not appear to be readily available.

Susan stressed that Hebden Bridge could demonstrate good practice nationally in this area, and this was endorsed.

It was noted that the results of the 2012 and 2015 floods were tending to make the town less accessible to wheelchair users. It was agreed to make a supplementary submission to the Flood Commission on this issue. Action: **Bob**

It was agreed that **Andrew** would raise the issue also with the Community Foundation.

e. Royd Regeneration. Austen and Iain briefly reported on their initiatives. It was noted that both the Partnership and Royd Regeneration's applications to the town council for financial support had now been submitted.

f. Valley Rd. Bob shared responses he had received from Mark Thompson and Richard Seaman (Calderdale council), which suggested that the developers were intending to try again with a new proposal. It was agreed to reconvene the task group. Action; **Bob**. The potential relevance of the Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plan, once adopted, was noted.

g. Neighbourhood Plan. Dave advised that the town council had offered to reduce its involvement in the sub-committee to two councillors, in an attempt to resolve an issue which had arisen in relation to one of the parish councils.

h. Market relocation. Janet said that Calderdale council were committing £160,000 to the relocation (£80,000 from the new town regeneration budget, and £80,000 from former market town funds). There was an issue with relocating the (almost never used) taxi rank by Lees Yard. A Traffic Regulation Order would be needed. The best guess for completion of these legal steps would be the Autumn.

There were suggestions of a second-hand book market, including a 'literary' market. Andrew asked if the opportunity of the TRO could be used to help reconfigure the junction with Commercial St, and to make the Police parking in Hope St open to all.

3. Flood activities

a. Bob was thanked for his hard work in producing the Flood Commission submission.

b. Stephen encouraged all board members to help the current business survey, being coordinated by Upper Calder Valley Renaissance and the local business groups. This initiative was strongly endorsed. It was agreed that **Stephen** would liaise with **Bob** on the survey findings, in order to update Bob's existing report

c. April 4th public meeting. It was agreed that **Andrew** and **Bob** would invite speakers. It was agreed that the meeting should cover all the aspects: flood recovery, flood resilience, flood insurance, flood compensation.

d. HB visitor leaflet. Following much hard work by Bob and Anthony, the 2016 edition of the leaflet was ready to print and should be available by Easter, subject to town council funding.

e. Dave advised that the Partnership's submission to the Flood Commission had also been endorsed by the town council.

f. EA and Calderdale flood alleviation work. Members expressed considerable concern at the fact that current meetings between the EA and the council to discuss future remedial work were taking place in private. It was agreed to formally minute this concern and to call for the process to be transparent and accessible.

Bob advised that his understanding was that the brief for the Hebden Bridge work was 'being written' at present by the EA. The questions are whether the brief is adequate, and whether the funds will be there. Janet reported a previous funding gap of £15m. No funds had come through either for highway infrastructure work.

g. Self-insurance. Andrew briefed members on the current development work being undertaken on the proposed self-insurance scheme.

5. Upper Calder Valley Renaissance

Stephen, as chair of UCVR, introduced this item. He described the development of UCVR since the days of Yorkshire Forward's market towns initiative. The previous structure, with a steering group made up of town team representatives, had proved unsustainable. The former UCVR company had been struck off. However, a new (Phase 2) UCVR had been launched, as a social enterprise structured as a company limited by guarantee. The constitution made provision for a board of eight, directors to be chosen on a skills-based basis, together with an advisory board (max 16). The new UCVR's plans had been overtaken by the Boxing Day flood, and UCVR had taken the initiative in bringing together business groupings from the upper valley. There were currently four directors. UCVR had a short-term project office in the Town Hall.

Andrew said that it would be important that the respective roles of the Partnership (and the other town teams) and the relaunched UCVR were clear, so that there was no danger of competition between our bodies. He asked UCVR to be more transparent about the way directors were chosen, and to publish minutes of meetings. Stephen suggested there might be commercial reasons why this could not be done.

Austen suggested that representatives of the town teams could meet UCVR to discuss common issues. Stephen pointed out that the town team delegate system had previously failed.

Andrew asked if the UCVR had published its objectives and strategy. Stephen referred him to the UCVR website.

6. Visitor economy strategy

Stephen advised members that this significant piece of work was now nearing completion and he hoped to have something available for members next month.

7. Financial

a. The treasurer gave a verbal update.

b. HB Business Forum. Stephen raised the issue of a request from the Business Forum for £500 for project funding. Bob reported that he had been to a HBBF meeting and had advised them that our offer of seedcorn funding was intended to match their own funds raised from members. There was a sense that HBBF had perhaps seen the Partnership as a grant-making body. Stephen pointed out that the Business Forum operated primarily using networking (including social media) and it was unrealistic to expect an old-style Business Association with formal membership to be established.

There was no other business. Future meetings were agreed for Mon April 4 (general meeting), Mon May 9, Mon June 6 and Mon July 4 (general meeting).