

SUMMARY OF FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION AT THE HBP CONSULTATION EVENT RE VISION 2020.

TRAFFIC AND SHARED SPACE.

- a) Potential sites of shared space: Old Gate, St Georges Street, New Street (to open up Canal Basin).
- b) 20 mph needs enforcement.
- c) (From Disability Group: More Disabled Parking all over town: e.g. Market Street)
- d) (From Disability Group: Make a part of 'cobbled' Bridge Gate and any new surfaces in shared space wheel-chair friendly).

STATION AND TRAIN SERVICES

- a) Fabric of station needs attention: leaking roof.
- b) Agreed that lift is a priority unless smooth ramp access under bridge via signal box to West Bound Platform can be arranged.
- c) Increased free parking a priority.
- d) BUT possibly plan to upgrade Mytholmroyd car park would take pressure off HB.
- e) Explore option of car park east of station via road past stone yard.(Dispute about whether this site flooded)
- f) Updated rolling stock needs space for buggies and wheel chairs.
- g) Late trains from Leeds a priority.
- h) Trains to Huddersfield needed.
- i) Connecting buses need real time information.

VISITOR ECONOMY

- a) Agreed HB needs promotion material of the town but also within context of South Pennines and Yorkshire etc
- b) Promotion by train operators with Posters of HB needed. Encourage train visitors.
- c) Agreed a need for promotion of accommodation. Some differing views about whether existing accommodation enough if want visitors to stay over-night. (NOTE FROM BOB: Jason's subsequent comments re Blues Festival might move if no new accommodation found)
- d) Moorings for Boats needed so they STOP here.
- e) Town Publicity Officer/Promotion Manager IS needed.
- f) Better bus timetable coordination needed with publicity re use for visitors in area.
- g) Code of conduct needed re use of canal bank: cycles, buggies, walkers, dogs.

ROLE OF HBCA.

- a) Role as a membership organization needs exploring
- b) Better communication with Members
- c) Use of members as Volunteers?
- d) HBCA is more than Ton Hall
- e) Work in partnership with Town Council and HB partnership.
- f) Could be a Community Hub for Services
- g) Foyer in Town Hall needs lots of info re who is who and what is where

DISABILITY ACCESS.

WHAT DISABLES ?

1. **Tow path**
 - a. Tow path surface inaccessible.
 - b. No wheelchair access.
 - c. Ownership of tow path and access points is an issue: British Waterways + private
2. **Station**
 - a. Crossing platforms to access Westbound trains needs either
 - i. Lift
 - ii. Crossing point at signal box
3. **Linden Mill** steps
But shops and restaurants are accessible
4. **Footpaths peter out on one side of road and widen on opposite side as a result of road straightening. As a result one either has to cross the road twice, often in 30mph, or walk in road:**
 - a. South side of main road from Todmorden crossing bridge in Mytholm;
 - b. Pavement on station side of main road from town centre.
5. **Pedestrian traffic lights** in town centre change too quickly for people who don't walk fast to complete crossing.
6. **Cobbles** eg on Bridge Gate and Marina means no access for people in wheelchairs and those with other forms of mobility impairments .
7. **Parking: a detailed analysis is needed**
 - a. is better on some roads than others eg Market Street and Holme Street.
 - b. Restrictions can cause problems eg 3hr limit may be insufficient
 - c. Do businesses or school have spaces available at weekends?
8. **Access**, issues for future analysis
 - a. **Park 'n Ride** into Hebden
 - b. **Station**

- c. Need to speak to wheelchairs users and people with sensory impairments.
 - d. Path surfacing is important eg many pavements have holes and/or uneven surfaces
 - e. Rain gathers on dropped pavements; drainage in needed.
9. There should be information available on the web dedicated to access features. Currently there is no such info either on the HebWeb or Calderdale Tourist Information.

In order to promote this we suggest that the Partnership host a site dedicated to acquiring information on issues which impede access – the forum at the Town Hall was just the beginning. Either this site could be added to the Partnership website or the HebWeb or we could set up a Twitter account dedicated to collecting such information. The Partnership's Disability representative should be responsible for collating the information.

We proposed that a full page article be published in the Hebden Bridge Times and in other local broadsheets/magazines eg Hebden Bridge Matters following the establishment of such a site.