

Hebden Bridge Partnership Ltd

Meeting of Management Board, Mon Sep 7 2015 at Hebden Bridge Town Hall

Present: Bob Deacon (chair), Cllr Val Wade, Stephen Curry, Lesley Mackay, Cllr Dave Young, Susan Quick, Thom Bull, Anthony Rae, Paul Forrest. Also present: Andrew Bibby (secretary), Cllr Janet Battye, Richard Peters (HB Walkers Action), Mo Ludlam (HB Walkers Action), Mary Keady (HB Cruises).

Apologies: Cllr Jonathan Timbers, David Fletcher

1. Declarations of interest. None made.

2. Proposed Bed and Breakfast narrowboat at Stubbing Wharf

This item was brought forward. Susan Quick advised that Hebden Bridge Cruises had applied for planning permission (ref 15/00750) for a moored boat offering overnight accommodation. Mary Keady from HB Cruises explained the background to the proposal, which had Canal and River Trust support. However the Town Council had opposed the proposal, perhaps based on incomplete information. There was general consensus that the proposal was worthy of support, but the meeting also reaffirmed Partnership policy to consider planning applications only when they directly affected our strategic objectives.

Cllr Dave Young, supporting the planning application, encouraged members present to contact Calderdale in support on a personal basis.

3. Welcome to new Management Board member

Cllr Val Wade, chair of Wadsworth Parish Council, was welcomed. Cllr Wade is the representative of Blackshaw, Erringden, Heptonstall and Wadsworth Parish Councils.

4. Minutes of 8 June approved as a correct record. Minutes of 6 July General Meeting noted.

5. Matters arising

a. Valley Road. Bob Deacon advised that architectural sketches were being prepared for, among other ideas, an underground car park, housing and a hotel.

Further information on the judicial review was awaited. Noted that the car park was being temporarily by the Happy Valley film crew.

b. Disability Action project

It was noted that Cllr Timbers had significant new work responsibilities, which raised a question as to his capacity to lead on this project. It was agreed to try to attract other members, particularly from the disabled community. **Action: all members to mention the initiative to friends or contacts with disabilities**

It was also noted that Mike Troke is leading on liaison regarding lifts and accessibility at the station.

c. Market consultation

Stephen Curry, Cllr Dave Young and Cllr Janet Battye reported on recent developments. A Calderdale officer, John Cattanach, was helping on design work. There were several highways issues which would need sorting. It was noted that further consultation was also necessary. Cllr Battye advised that a formal application to the Partnership for a financial contribution would be made shortly.

d. Town Council.

Bob Deacon reported on the briefing which he and Andrew Bibby had given town councillors in mid July.

e. Civic Trust. Noted that the AGM was on Oct 14 at Machpelah Mill. Bob Deacon encouraged members to help rebuild a strong Civic Trust.

6. Relaunch of Walkers are Welcome

Richard Peters and Mo Ludlam were welcomed. Bob Deacon spoke to his paper, previously circulated, which set out a proposal for a new stakeholder group to oversee Hebden Bridge's status as a Walkers are Welcome town. Richard Peters saw such as body as bringing together, among others, HB Walkers Action, the town council and Calderdale tourism staff, as well as business representatives. He encouraged Partnership members to identify others who might be interested in participating. The aim was not to develop a very complex structure. Bob Deacon offered to be the Partnership representative on such a body, and this was agreed.

7. Canal works

Following an approach from Gwen Goddard, the Partnership discussed the fact that the proposed internet café (Canal Works) which had been grant funded was still

unoccupied. Cllr Battye advised that she was considering whether an approach to the police was relevant. It was agreed that Cllrs Young and Battye would investigate the status of the unit in relation to Uniform Business Rates, and whether pressure could be imposed to use the empty space for appropriate community usage.

8. Priority areas

a. Annual report. Anthony Rae offered to prepare a report on past activities and future plans for approval at the October management board and presentation to the AGM. **Action: Anthony Rae**

b. Traffic calming. It was noted that the main road was about to be resurfaced. Andrew Bibby called for imaginative measures (such as coloured tarmac) to encourage motorists to slow down. Lesley Mackay thought that, as air quality was directly affected, some financial support might be available from public health funds (Paul Butcher). Cllrs Young and Battye agreed to pursue this with Highways Dept. **Action: Cllr Young, Cllr Battye.**

Looking further ahead to the introduction of 20mph limits in residential streets, it was agreed to try to seek a meeting between Calderdale officers, Partnership members and town councillors. **Action: Cllr Young, Cllr Battye**

b. Visitor economy. The paper circulated by Stephen Curry was noted. It was noted that the timetable on the development of the visitor economy strategy was slipping, partly due to Nick Shields having to step down from this commitment. It was agreed to progress with a 2016 visitor leaflet, with funding being sought from local businesses, the ward forum and probably the town council. Agreed that Bob Deacon and Anthony Rae would coordinate this. **Action: Bob Deacon, Anthony Rae**

c. Housing. Andrew Bibby advised that the CLT would be holding its AGM on Sat Oct 17. The CLT now had charitable status. The Fielden Centre in Todmorden was in the process of being gifted to the CLT. Pre-feasibility work had started on the High Street site (HB), and if this was positive an application for a further grant would be sought.

d. Transport and parking. It was noted that the town council strategy committee was developing work on a parking strategy for the town. Cllr Wade stressed the importance of this issue, particularly for local people living in the hillside parishes.

e. Calder Holmes Park. Bob Deacon and Dave Young reported on recent developments. A number of new active members of the Friends of Calder Holmes Park had been recruited. Andrew Bibby reported that, following an approach from the Partnership, the children's water play feature had been turned on by Calderdale.

f. Low carbon. A bid for funding from LEADER was being made jointly by the ATC and the sustainable transport group. Murray Seccombe was to meet Craig Whittaker MP to discuss issues such as air quality, railway electrification, public transport to hospitals.

9. Treasurer's report

The report, previously circulated, was approved. It was noted that funds, currently a little over £4000, might fall markedly next year, if the Partnership agreed support for the market relocation. It was agreed that in this situation funds would need to be sought. **Action: Anthony Rae, Andrew Bibby**

10. AGM

The secretary reported on arrangements to date. The AGM would be held at 7pm on Mon Oct 12 at Hope Baptists (main meeting room), and would follow the same format as last year. It was agreed that the Partnership AGM would be in the middle of the group reports, and would aim to be take no longer than 15 minutes. To date the following groups had requested 3 min slots: Woodcraft Folk, Fox & Goose, Hebweb (tbc), Mill Pond group. Hope Baptists, HB Walkers Action, Egg Factory, HB Community Association, Sustainable Transport. Members were asked to follow up other potential groups. **Action: all**

It was agreed at Bob Deacon's suggestion that the opportunity would be taken to seek to recruit more volunteers for Partnership task groups/projects.

It was agreed to invite the MP to attend as an observer. **Action: Andrew Bibby**

It was noted that the term of office for the following elected management board members would end in 2016, not this year: Stephen Curry, Dave Nelson, David Fletcher, Lesley Mackay, Susan Quick, Anthony Rae, Bob Deacon. (All except Susan Quick would be eligible to stand for a second term). Elections would be

needed for casual vacancies in the young people's groups/schools category, the environment category, the sporting organisations category and for one place in the general category. Thom Bull advised that he intended to stand for the first category; Paul Forrest advised that he intended to stand for the second category.

11. AOB

a. It was agreed to invite Jae Campbell to the next Management Board meeting, to discuss Calderdale's budget.

b. Bob Deacon advised members on work being undertaken locally around the refugee crisis.

c. Shared use of towpath. Anthony Rae agreed to approach Gavin Roberts (Canal and River Trust) regarding signage on the HB section of the towpath.