

Hebden Bridge Partnership

Meeting held on Tues 31st August, 7pm, HB Town Hall

Present: Sally Naylor, Lesley Mackay, Dave Nelson, Robin Dixon, Andrew Bibby, Polly Webber (chair), Dongria Kondh (previously Penny Eastwood), Susan Quick, Janet Battye.

In attendance: Sgt Michael Bowden, PC Kengyelics, Louise Harrison, Jason Boom, Gwen Goddard

Apologies: David Fletcher, Lesley Jones, Bear, Richard Marshall, PCSO Stephen Bates, Dorothy Sutcliffe

1. There were no declarations of interest.

2. Minutes of June meeting were approved

Matters arising:

a) Central St. It was unclear whether **David F** had sent the letters to Central Street frontagers.

b) Academy of Urbanism. Noted that this visit had taken place. Thanks were expressed to Robin, Polly, Catherine Groves and others for their work in sorting out this visit.

c) Business Association. It was agreed to invite the Business Association next time to discuss jointly how we could ensure a healthy retail sector locally in difficult trading environments.

Sally N to arrange.

It was noted that a £5000 Totally Locally grant at Christmas was likely again this year from Calderdale. Dongria asked for this to be spent on encouraging sale and purchase of real local items, and for a link to be made with the Transition Towns initiative. Andrew said that this year the Partnership should follow standard voluntary sector practice and request a 10% contribution from the grant towards general administration. He pointed out that the Partnership was not otherwise funded for its work.

Sally N was asked to institute the setting up of a Partnership/Business Assoc sub-cttee to propose particular initiatives for the grant

3. Forward strategy for Hebden Bridge

a) It was noted that no report was available on progress on the Action Plan. It was agreed that **Louise H and Janet B** would convene the next meeting of the cttee. The CD of student presentations was available on request from Louise. **Jason B** agreed to copy the CD as required.

b) Anticipating public sector funding difficulties

Andrew said that, given the national economic situation, it was appropriate to proactively discuss potential public services and resources at risk.

Janet said that the council was inviting the public to identify services it wished to protect.

The ward forum for Hebden Bridge would be on Sep 16th in the Town Hall, 6.30 for 7pm.

Following the October Comprehensive Spending Review, the formal process of setting Calderdale's 2011-2 budget would get under way in January, and would be agreed at the end of Feb. Janet mentioned that the council was looking at the scope for establishing social enterprises.

Dongria said that the Transition Town local economy group was interested in this area.

Robin said that the Town Council strategy sub-cttee was also looking at this issue, in relation to (among other facilities) the cinema and the park. Dave said that the cinema might be more appropriately managed by the community than by the council.

Agreed: **Andrew B, Lesley M, Dave N, Susan Q** to work with Town Council on these issues.

4. Updates

- a) Station. Fruit bushes were flowering. The MP had been lobbied over the issue of disabled access.
- b) HB Self-Build Sustainability Housing Group have been in discussions with John Fawcett Centre over former manse
- c) Town Hall. The first wedding had taken place. Funding bids were awaiting decision.
- d) Pennine Horizons. Second round bid to HLF was just in.
- e) Central St. Robin reported that a somewhat less ambitious proposal might be the way forward. The Town Council were exploring the options
- f) Market relocation. There is currently no funding available to make this happen.
- g) Transition Towns. Several active sub-groups are meeting: food, energy, local economy, woodlands, outreach, wellbeing.

5. Issues raised by Board members

- a) Traffic lights and A464. Stephen Murty was not present to address this item. However, it was agreed that the present phasing of lights was chaotic. **Lesley M** agreed to contact CMBC.
- b) Treesponsibility. Dongria pointed out that Treesponsibility was now exactly half way through its 25 year project, to plant 5ha of land each year. A celebratory weekend (linked to fundraising) would take place on Sep 10-12. Fri: Trades Club benefit. Sat: 1000 tress challenge. Meet Jack Bridge. Sun: Valley walks.

6. Officer reports

- a) Louise advised that the next UCVR meeting was on Sep 7. A further meeting on UCVR 'difficult issues' would take place on Sep 28. Louise herself announced that her contract was expiring at the end of Sep, so that this would be the last meeting she attended in her current capacity. She was warmly thanked by the meeting for the contribution she had made.
- b) Jason reported on behalf of the Town Council. The skate park bid was progressing well, and would have spin-off benefits for the park generally. The next stage would be to consider the future of the bowling green, tennis courts and pitch & putt. The Town Council would be advertising for a project officer shortly.
- c) Sgt Bowden reported. A new police community support officer Anthony Farmery was about to take up his post.
- d) Calderdale. It was noted that there was no officer present from Calderdale. The meeting agreed that it was important that regeneration officers at the council were fully informed of the thinking of the Partnership, as Hebden Bridge town team.

7. Partnership business

- a) The secretary reminded the meeting that the AGM was on Mon 4 Oct at 7pm. The Waterfront Hall in the Town Hall had been booked. It was agreed to follow the format of previous years and invite local organisations to speak for no more than 3 minutes on their activities. **Andrew B** agreed to issue the invites.
Andrew also pointed out that, under the new constitution, we were actively welcoming local organisations as members of the Partnership. It was agreed that there would be no membership charge. **All present** agreed to encourage organisations they belonged to to join.
- b) The Treasurer reported that there had been no transactions since the previous meeting. It was agreed to change the bank mandate. Authorised signatories would be: David Fletcher, Polly Webber, Andrew Bibby, Dongria Kondh

8. AOB

- a) Calder & Colne Rivers Trust. Sally said that the trust could offer free advice to people with land including watercourses on issues such as water pollution. A free day's training was on offer to people wishing to undertake watercourse monitoring for eg invertebrates
- b) Ginnelgate. Gwen advised the meeting on the attempt by a landowner to remove a long-established route from the Stubbing ginnel to St John's Close. It was noted that Calderdale's rights of way department was extremely slow in processing claims for rights of way.
- c) At Dave's suggestion, it was agreed that all future meetings of the Partnership would include a report on arts activities.

Next Partnership meeting: Monday 18 Oct, 7pm, Town Hall

AGM: Mon 4 Oct, 7pm, Town Hall