

HEBDEN BRIDGE PARTNERSHIP

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 15th December 2009 in the Committee room, Hebden Bridge Town Hall

1. Present: David Fletcher (Chair), Polly Webber, Andrew Bibby, Cllr Janet Battye, Cllr Lesley Jones, Penny Eastwood, Bear (Steve Gibson), Lesley Mackay, Sally Naylor, Becky Liddell **Guests:** PCSO Steve Bates, Jason Boom, Louise Harrison, Michael Newton, Mark Humphreys, Marcus Bull

2. Apologies: Cllr Richard Marshall, Cllr Dorothy Sutcliffe, Ian Oates,

3. Ian Gray, Calderdale Council's new Director of Economy and Environment: Ian was welcomed to the Partnership. He started by describing his background and his approach to the range of responsibilities of his new job. He plans to stay with CMBC for 5 years: he lives in a rural area (Pateley Bridge) and is interested in rural issues.

Ian has worked in property development both in the private and public sector, and believes that Councils should have a facilitative role. He is concerned that Councils should use their resources wisely and is asking his Officers to distinguish between what is core/peripheral/preventative.

He is concerned about the Big Vision and wants to be strategic eg. he wants to see Planning and Regeneration better joined-up, he is concerned with connectivity between the Regions (Leeds/Manchester). Halifax Master Plan feels like 12 linked projects rather than a Plan.

Issues raised with him included:

- Sustainable (Happy) Valley: our desire for the area to be low carbon.
- Rail links
- Town teams
- Tourism (and the balance between residents and visitors)
- Derelict shops in Market St
- Conservation area will be reviewed in mid-2010
- The need for the plan for Hebden Bridge (originally drafted abt 5 years ago) to be revisited, and the sense of "place".

4. Minutes of last meeting: These were agreed as an accurate record.

5. Projects:

Town Hall: The decision to transfer the asset (initially with a 40yr lease) has now been taken by Calderdale Council's Cabinet. This should come into force on 1.April.2010. Congratulations to the Project Leaders (Andrew Bibby and Cllr Janet Battye). Plans are now being developed for building work (funded by ERDF and Community Builders): there will be further public consultation in the New Year.

Pennine Inheritance (based at Youth House): David Fletcher and Becky Liddle reported that professionals have now been appointed for all the required tasks. Application for funding now being made to HLF and LEADER.

Market: Cllr Janet Battye reported that the plans are completed for this and funding awaited (probably through Yorkshire Forward). Some reservations expressed by the

Civic Trust about the design for the stalls but there has been extensive work done by the Working Group.

Central St: Informal agreement now with Calderdale Cabinet that, if frontagers wish, their payment for the work could be by a charge on their property. Confirmation of the wording of this legal agreement is awaited from Calderdale's Officers. JB pursuing this.

Parks: Cllr Lesley Jones reported that plans are in place for the skatepark to be extended with the active involvement of the youngsters who use it and have already raised £25,000 themselves. Funding applications being made via the Town Council to Sport England and Groundwork

Hope Baptist: New heating has been installed and the roof repaired. The kitchen is being refurbished along with the rooms at the back of the chapel. It is planned to develop social housing in the old manse, and to reopen the garden (with notice being given to Metro for removal of the bus shelter).

6. Other local developments:

Little Theatre: There are plans to develop the premises by putting a storey onto op toilets etc because of limited space. Active fundraising is now underway;

Bridge Mill: DF reported that he is planning to make the building sustainable in terms of energy generation and to come off-grid within 12 months (with solar panels, water turbine, heat pump etc).

Town Council: Jason Boom reported on development of allotments on Calderdale Council land at Sandy Gate.

7. **UCVR:** LH advised that there is to be an Enterprise Conference in Mytholmroyd on February 8th.
8. **Police:** Brief report on recent crime statistics: reported crime has been quite low with 208 calls between 11 Nov and today. 43 of these were in HB town centre and 11 recorded crimes. Drugs warrants have been issued. Question about whether buskers need licences (JB to enquire of CMBC).
9. **Constitutional changes:** The proposals for changes (as previously circulated) were agreed in principle. The necessary textual changes will now be drafted and brought to the next meeting. It was AGREED that this should be the first item at the next meeting and copy of the proposals circulated to all. Legal advice may be needed on this.
10. **Visit to Settle** to see the new water turbine: DF and AB reported briefly on this interesting visit. There is a question about how much noise the turbine makes.
11. **Appointment of Treasurer:** As noted, we need to separate the role of secretary (held by AB) and Treasurer. AB is prepared to continue to do both until end financial year in Jan 2010, but this is becoming very urgent that a new Treasurer is found.
12. **Parking Review:** LM reported that students from Leeds Met University have been doing a study which will be reported to Hebden Royd Town Council on Feb 10th.

AGREED to invite Lindsay Smales to next meeting of the Partnership to talk about this. This can include the **Vision for HB** which Lindsay also has some students working on.

13. Lift at HB Railway station: This also needs to be discussed at the next meeting.

Meetings in 2010:

Monday Feb 1st

Tuesday April 27th

Monday June 28th

Tues August 31st

AGM Monday October 4th

Monday October 18th

Tuesday December 14th

All meetings to start at 7pm and be held in the Committee room, Hebden Bridge Town Hall (unless otherwise notified)