

**Hebden Bridge Partnership Limited Management Board
Minutes of meeting held on Monday 16 February 2009 at 7 p.m.
at the Council Offices, Hebden Bridge**

Members Present

Andrew Bibby (Hebden Bridge Walkers Action)
David Fletcher (Pennine Heritage)
Cllr Lesley Jones (HRTC)
Lesley Mackay (Sustainable Transport Group)
Nicola Milburn-Jones (Calder Civic Trust)
Diana Monahan (Local History)
Steve Murty (Rotary) (Part)
Michael Newton (Camera Club/International Group)
Richard Hull (Next generation broadband)

Guests

Louise Harrison (UCVR), Jae Campbell (Salem Community Centre), Ruth Hair (Pennine Prospects), Jason Boom (HRTC)

1. Declarations of interest - there were none.

2. Apologies for absence

Gwen Goddard (RA), Polly Webber (ATC), Susan Quick (Enabling Radio), Cllr Janet Battye (CMBC), Mark Humphreys (CMBC), Lee Comer, Dave Nelson

3. Minutes of Dec meeting, and matters arising (minutes enclosed) – approved.

4. Guests:

Ruth Hair: update on the LEADER programme

Ruth explained that as a result of a successful bid, the Leader Programme, via Pennine Prospects had now been launched. The programme was looking for projects that would specifically promote the 'South Pennines', rather than small project applications.

The programme now has a core strategy and bids would be determined based on a 3 measures:

- Culture & Heritage
- Village renewal
- Access to Services

Within that were a further 10 priorities, with an emphasis on increasing tourism and access within the district. They had been provided with £2.4 million budget, which equated to £1/2 million per year until the end of the project in 2013.

This had been roughly anticipated to be spent as 50% on Culture & Heritage; 25% each on Village Renewal and Access to Services.

There was no maximum grant ceiling, though groups applying would need to find 40% match funding.

The decisions would be made by a local action group, which is comprised of 12 members, who have already met 3 times and rigorous guidelines would be applied, as the group had been chosen as an audited project. No officers would be involved in the decision making process and it would be entirely community managed.

The website had been developed and the 1st stage application process was now available online, with a deadline of 11 March for initial applications. It was anticipated that post-Easter, there would be further communication and workshops held to offer guidance and the 2nd stage would then have been refined.

It was thought that there may well be certain projects commissioned by the project, where there were gaps in particular areas, Ruth cited an example of a walking network to cover the entire area, which has been developed for the Highlands region, which was the kind of thing, that might fall under that scope – see www.walkhighlands.co.uk

An initial workshop was planned for mid-March for the group to work on example applications and to develop thinking on the sorts of issues that may arise.

Following the initial launch, there would be a bi-monthly cycle of applications.

Full FAQ's and information, including the core strategy is available on www.pennineprospects.co.uk - go to Programmes: LEADER project

b) Jae Campbell - DOT-COMmunications IT project/other initiatives at Salem Centre

Jae Campbell introduced the DOT-COMmunications project now being operated from Salem Community Centre, which had evolved from an earlier IT support project. The organisation incorporates a recycling arm – 3R-iT – which uses donated IT equipment and recycles and refurbishes, before selling, on a not-for-profit basis, to other third sector organisations and individuals on low income.

This initiative complies fully with all government WEEE legislation and DOT-COMm have received a number of awards for this innovative project, most recently from 02 "Its Your Community" Award for their work named as one of the top 15 innovative projects in the country.

3R-iT provides an opportunity for long-term unemployed and workers with mental health issues, to develop their skills. Around 90% of the computer parts can be recycled and the organisation works closely with a number of UK companies to ensure that everything that can be is recycled, from the plastic casing to the gold within circuit boards etc.

Collection of donated equipment is free from within Hebden Royd and equipment is available to purchase from as little as £25 for a refurbished PC. Leaflets with further information on the project are attached to the minutes.

Other initiatives at Salem.

Ground Floor has now been established for over 28 years with over 50 groups who use the premises on a regular basis – such as an Outschool Club and Yoga Group and there will soon be a music project starting on Saturday evenings for young people – a project which has taken some time to achieve a green light. For further information on Ground Floor visit www.groundfloor.org.uk

5. Topics for Discussion

a) Calderdale Community Forum

Andrew Bibby had received a request from Paul Owens asking for a volunteer from the Partnership Group to attend meetings held by this Forum. Jae Campbell gave a brief background on the organisation. The group were intended to be a representative body for Calderdale and to provide a voice for all the various forums and groups. The intention was for the group to work within the wider West Yorkshire area and their intention currently is to expand the group, to include groups who are supporting other organisations – such as the Partnership Group.

AB asked for a volunteer at the end of the meeting, it was felt further detail on regulatory of meetings was required before commitment and this would be investigated.

b) Telecommunications initiative (Richard Hull)

Richard explained that the telecoms project with which he was involved had now been provided with £5,000 for a part-time project worker for the next 6 months through the Community Foundation. This would be worked on a job share basis, with two people commencing work on 1 March. They were Robert Curry, who has a network/telecoms background and Beate Kubitz, public sector, ex-Amnesty – who would be undertaking a pre-feasibility study on the communications network and would be looking to raise awareness of next generation access and looking to raise money for a full feasibility study.

Andrew Bibby mentioned he was aware of a similar project in North Yorkshire and wondered if this would tie in with the group's work. RH explained that this was particularly focused on harnessing existing resource used for NHS/health projects which focussed on providing network facilities to areas, rather than to individual homes.

Richard explained the key benefits of next generation were the ability to provide symmetric send/receive capability of broadband, ie it would be as quick to upload as download files/media etc and also an example in the Netherlands, where residents without computer access were using the technology to achieve videoconferencing with their local GP etc, through their home tv's.

b) Sustainable Communities - papers enclosed (Polly Webber)

As Polly had been unavailable for the meeting and no-one else was familiar with the subject – this item has been postponed to next meeting.

c) Walkers are Welcome update (verbal report, Andrew Bibby)

Andrew reported that the project had really taken off with 15 other towns joining in the last two years. Hebden Bridge was gaining great publicity on the back of this – recently a 7 page 'special' in *walk* magazine.

The group were planning a Walkers are Welcome Weekend, timed to coincide with Heritage weekend in mid-September (10th) and it was hoped that this would prove to be a popular tourist activity and also deliver economic benefit to the town. They are currently negotiating with the Business Association to potentially offer 10% discount to walkers that weekend.

It was agreed that activity between the various groups – Station Group, Local History and Civic Trust, would be useful at an early stage to coordinate activity for the weekend. AB to invite to next Walkers meeting.

6. Priority project reports

a) Central St – Lesley Mackey/Jason Boom/Lesley Jones

It was reported that feedback and cooperation had improved and some of the delays encountered with landlords were being overcome. However, there was apparently an issue with the Cooperative being particularly unhelpful and Lesley Jones agreed to investigate the issue with Robin Dixon.

Jason Boom reported that the owner of the Adult Education building was now awaiting planning approval.

b) Calder Holmes Park – Jason Boom

Jason reported that the Memorial Gardens had recently been tidied up and further work was ongoing. However, the park has struggled somewhat due to the Council's decision to remove the park worker's bonuses and this had resulted in their reluctance to do more than was necessary.

However, Friends of the Park had already held an action planning meeting to develop a list of potential projects. A further meeting was scheduled for 24 February, when this would be whittled down further. Then on 17 March, wider stakeholders would be invited to narrow this down into key projects.

The new waterplay area was due to officially open on 4 April.

c) Market – Lesley Mackey

It was reported that the Planning Application was finally due to be submitted this week and consultation would follow.

Steve Murty raised a concern that the plans he had seen had reneged on earlier discussions relating to the parking around Valley Road etc and the plans involving the tiered steps, which resulted in potentially the old walls remaining and therefore not providing the planned improvement originally outlined.

It was suggested the plans be carefully reviewed once application had been submitted, as this could result in lost parking in the town centre, including the relocation of the disabled space.

d) Pennine Museum – David Fletcher

David Fletcher reported that the 'museum' had undergone a name change, having been advised to 'lose' museum in the title as this resulted in different assessment criteria. For the moment, the working title is now 'Pennine Inheritance'. The group are under discussion with Calderdale for various funding 'pots' and the budget has been reduced to approx £1.15 million.

They are continuing to work on trails in the town and are looking at potentially 6 per year. There are now various working groups established to assist in the set up – a Governance group; Building group and Design/Interior group. David welcomed further involvement by anyone wishing to assist and advised

meetings were held every two months at the Golden Lion in Todmorden. Next meeting would be on 26 March.

e) Council Offices Project – Andrew Bibby

There had been innumerable meetings, which had caused some frustrating delays to the project. The next was scheduled for 16 March.

Nick Wilding had been involved in preparing a short 5 minute film on the history and background of the offices, which will form part of the launch of the 'Friends' scheme.

A document had also now been prepared 'Community Participation and Inclusion Strategy' which would tie in with the launch and provide a basis for the approach to the community acquisition of the building.

The new organisation was now formed 'Hebden Bridge Community Association' and they were already in talks with Yorkshire Forward about a planned new building to adjoin the existing offices, to fulfil the recognised need for small business space in the town.

7. Reports from officers:

a) Louise Harrison, UCVR (including linear park, training events)

Louise reported on a recent meeting with the Waterways Trust, who had identified a 'quick win' in terms of improving signage along the Linear Park route. A further meeting was scheduled to take forward related funding proposals.

There was potential some funding may arise directly from the new LEADER project.

Details of a meeting scheduled for 26 February had already been circulate to members by Louise, which was entitled '**Making the economy work for your town**' and involved a case study of Pocklington.

Louise also confirmed there was now a DVD produced of the UCVR town project 'The Story So Far', which a number of members indicated they would like copies of. Louise will obtain and distribute.

b) Jason Boom, HRTC

Jason indicated that the Rural Target Fund had provided monies for some projects in the town. This included redecoration of the Picture House, which would commence shortly.

However, he was extremely concerned that, despite numerous repeated requests, Mark Humphries had not been responding on outstanding monies which had been promised some time ago. This was now becoming worrying as it was holding back works. Jason agreed to draft a further letter to elicit a response directly. Chris also agreed to raise this separately to see what was causing the delay.

Separately the group thanked Jason for his work on restoring the Carlton Chambers clock to working order and the Council offices meeting room clock.

c) Mark Humphries, CMBC

No report.

8. Partnership business

a) Report from parking group

Lindsay Smales, University of Leeds had been commissioned to undertake a parking audit within the town of who is using/not using/reasons for visit.

This was following a similar piece of work undertaken by Renaissance Towns who had created an understandable profile of users.

Lesley Mackay would report back on this. Next meeting was in around 3 weeks time.

The Medical Centre had been approached to use their parking out of hours. However, this had not been signed. Lesley Jones would investigate further with David Dempsey.

Steve Murty raised the issue of 5 spaces permanently occupied by vehicles at one end of Market Street, which were not being managed by Parking. Lesley stated that this was due to that Health & Social Services managed this and this was why they had not been penalised. Others had raised the issue and Janet Battye had followed up with the individual involved. This would need to be raised with Parking Services to try and resolve.

b) Report from constitution working party

Lesley Jones, Lee Comer, Susan Quick and Polly Webber had recently attended a governance training session provided by Keith Arrowsmith of HL Law and thanked Louise Harrison for organising. All agreed it had been extremely useful and would need a further meeting with Andrew Bibby to now implement some of this for the Mem & Arts of the group etc.

c) Report from treasurer – enclosed

Treasurer's report was presented – little movement had occurred this year. Richard Hull had previously suggested that it would be good practice to have the books independently audited. Both Richard and Jason Boom volunteered to do this.

9. Announcements and information sharing/AOB

Diana Monahan raised the issue of new signage which had started to appear around town. In particular, an ongoing battle with the Council about erecting signage to some of the listed buildings, without consent eg, Picture House. The group gave their blessing for Diana to use the leverage of the Partnership to bring some weight to the objection and to keep the group informed on this.

Nicola Milburn-Jones mentioned that she had established a website for Calder Civic Trust, which could be found at www.caldercivictrust.webs.com. Within it was a 'Links' page, which she had built to promote information on other groups around the Valley, with links to their websites. Anyone wishing to be added to email caldercivictrust@hotmail.co.uk for inclusion. Additionally a Community

Calendar was available to add meeting dates to. It was hoped this would help with the innumerable commitments volunteers had to prevent overlap of meetings and awareness of others' commitments. Again, please advise any ongoing dates.

Date of next meeting - Tuesday 21 April 2009