

Minutes Of Hebden Bridge Partnership Meeting 6th February 2012
Held At Hebden Bridge Town Hall, The Greenwood Room.

Present.

Jason Boom, Stephen Curry, Dongria Kondh (Treasurer), Andrew Bibby, Jae Campbell, Diana Monahan, Lesley Jones, Cllr. Janet Battye, Tom Black, Lesley Mackay, Lindsay Smales, Sarah Lister-Blow, Amy Leader, Dave Nelson, Robin Dixon (Chair), Bear (Secretary).

1). Apologies for absence.

Judith Patrick, Polly Webber, Gerard Liston, Sally Naylor, Cllr. Dave Young, Guy Rees, David Fletcher, Katie Kinsella, Steve Murty, Mark Simmonds, David Nixon, Emma Housman, Susan Quick.

2). Announcements from Bear (Secretary)

Mark Humphries has taken early retirement from Calderdale Council, and thus will not be attending Partnership meetings in the future. He wrote to thank the Partnership for the evenings of lively debate, and for the way it had devised and delivered a programme of improvements to the town. The meeting agreed to write and thank him for his service. **Bear is to write to Mark Humphreys.**

Bear also apologised to the meeting for the lack of minutes from the previous meeting, due to them being lost (hopefully temporarily) in a broken down computer.

3). Visioning exercise - the Parish Plan.

The Chair, Robin Dixon began by updating the meeting with the following information: There have been four or five meetings of HRTC's Parish Plan Working Group to date. There has not been continuity of attendees at these meetings, which has made it difficult to make progress. Rural Action Yorkshire, who had been expected to do a large part of the work of preparing the plan are no longer able to offer this service without charging due to cuts to their funding. There had provisionally been £7500 allocated to the Parish Plan by HRTC in the earliest 2012/13 budget setting sessions, but at the final budget setting meeting this had been withdrawn. The Neighbourhood Manager, Emma Housman had been asked to prepare an Awards For All funding application to help pay for the work, but this has proved to be too complex. Basically, there is currently no money available to pay for any work in the immediate future. Robin's suggestion to the Partnership is that we review the 2005 Hebden Bridge Action Plan and come up with some new ideas, and that HRTC be asked to "knit in" the parishes.

Jason Boom agreed that there had been a lack of leadership from councillors, and that there had not been enough continuity in the attendance at meetings, resulting in the same things being discussed several times.

Robin continued by outlining some of the successes relating to the 2005 plan, which include:

- Valley Road Enterprise Zone, particularly the Town Hall development.
- Social housing development in Spring Grove.
- Pedestrianisation of Bridge Street and St. Georges Square.
- Landscape improvements to the area around the Packhorse Bridge.
- Regeneration of Calder Holmes Park.
- Totally Locally campaign.
- The Picture House.

The most significant failure of the 2005 plan has been the regeneration of Central Street.

The subject was then left open for discussion, during which the following comments were noted:

- Robin - We need to decide how far ahead we want to vision.
- Bear - Calderdale's Energy Future will hopefully be passed by Calderdale Council on 15th February. This will demonstrate the Council's acknowledgement of the dangers of man made climate change, and it's commitment to mitigating the effects. It sets out a framework for how the Council and its partners can achieve a 40% reduction in carbon emissions by 2020 from a 2005 baseline. A wide range of approaches are covered, such as promoting a strong local economy, educating people about where our food and energy comes from, enabling people to grow their own food, encouraging communities to generate renewable energy, moving to lower carbon intensive means of transport, managing woodlands to provide fuel and much more besides. We should incorporate the same thinking in all of our plans.
- Andrew - The old plan is a good foundation to base our work on.
- Jason - Central Street should remain on the agenda.
- Lindsay - This is his specific area of interest, and his reason for coming to the Partnership meeting. He teaches this topic at Leeds Metropolitan University. His students did a lot of work on modelling Hebden Bridge in 2010. Todmorden are going to publish their own plan next month. £10,000 is a good guide to how much it should cost to produce a plan, including the printing.
There is a potential pot of money available which was recently announced by Grant Shapps MP, where twelve towns can win a share of £1 million to help turn around their "unloved and unused" high streets. (See <http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/2082138>)
- Dongria - Many people in town are not securely housed. The provision of secure housing needs to be a priority. There has not been much progress in the provision of affordable housing, despite it being mentioned in the 2005 action plan. New funding called "Empty Homes Community Grant" has been announced, and expressions of interest need to be in by the end of March. £10 million is available, some of which is available for community groups. (See www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/emptyhomeappguidance)
- Lesley Jones - There used to be a policy locally to encourage owners of premises above shops to let them be used as accomodation, but this now seems to be in abeyance.
- Janet - Also recalls this. There was an incentive to landlords in the form of some kind of rates or council tax advantage.
- Andrew - We should not be too concerned about money issues at this stage. If we have a good project then we will be able to raise funds for it. Money follows success.
- Lindsay - Offered to facilitate a Saturday workshop for the Partnership for up to 25 people.
- Andrew - We should identify people who can take on particular themes, such as economy, transport, environment, arts and culture etc.
- Dave - It is a mistake to think that all the blue sky thinkers in town are present. Other people should be invited to the workshop event.
- Lindsay - It would work better if the workshop was just for members of the Partnership at first. Any community workshop should take place afterwards.
- Stephen - Was interested in what had happened to the work carried out for UCVR in 2003.
- Lesley Mackay - The world is a different place now. We have climate change and economic instability to think about nowadays.
- Robin - Lindsay's offer to facilitate a workshop is a good starting place.
- Dave - We should invite people on the periphery of the Partnership.
- Diana - Agrees with Dave. We should invite members first, then people outside to make up the numbers.

Robin then proposed that we take up the offer of a workshop and set a date. A short discussion about setting a date and venue followed. It was agreed to hold the workshop at Wainsgate Chapel on Saturday 3rd March, between 10.30 am and 3.30 pm with a "bring and share" lunch.

People were asked to think about what topics they might be interested in helping to develop plans around. In a go round the following ideas came out:-

- Andrew - Economy and local finance.
- Diana - Small scale environment, paths and footpaths, housing above shops.
- Dave - Arts and entertainment.
- Lesley Jones - Community capital, sheltered housing for the elderly.
- Janet - Strong local economy.
- Tom - Housing, infrastructure and economy.
- Lesley Mackay - Transport, young and elderly people, disability issues.
- Sarah - Services and development, infrastructure, demographics.
- Amy - Economy, inclusion, community groups working together better.
- Robin - Housing.
- Bear - Environment, renewable energy.
- Jason - Retail, more varied shops.
- Stephen - Economy, the visitor market, maximising the benefit of visitors, accomodation.
- Dongria - Housing, inclusion.

Linsay will prepare an agenda for the day approximately two weeks before the event.

Bear will email invitations to the workshop to everyone on the mailing list. Partnership members will get priority and the number of attendees will be capped at 30.

4). HRTC report.

The Town Clerk, Jason Boom gave the following report:-

There has been a degree of falling out between some councillors over the budget setting for the coming financial year 2012/13.

Calderdale Council is being generally supportive regarding the asset transfer of the Picture House but is falling behind in some areas. There is a rather wooly management contract to be signed in which CMBC appears to want to sign the whole thing over, but seems at the same time to feel that it needs to retain responsibility for some areas. There are still staff contracts to be sorted out. Cinema programming will remain unchanged. Everything appears as though it will be ready in time for the handover in April, but things could still be a little messy. The opening night is planned to be on the 22nd April. The Friends Of The Picture House group is very positive and most people are being supportive.

Andrew wished to re-affirm the Partnership's support for Hebden Royd Town Council.

5). Other business.

Website. Robin's design for the Partnership's website is deferred until the next meeting.

Hope Baptist Church update. Gerard Liston was unable to attend, but had sent an update, which was read out. A copy is attached with these minutes.

Trades Club. The Trades Club has it's 30th anniversary this year. They are planning to do some major fundraising to prepare the club for the next 30 years. **Dongria will ask the club to join the Partnership.**

Communities Living Sustainably. Andrew reported that Polly has been working with a coalition of groups to put in an expression of interest to the CLS fund. The lead partner is Hebden Bridge Community Association, as the funders required all bids to be submitted by a registered charity. Northern Rail are also involved, as is the Partnership through it's officers.

Fox And Goose. The Fox And Goose public house is to be sold, and a community buyout is being planned by a newly formed co-operative of interested people. **Bear is to invite the co-operative to join the Partnership.**

Calder Holmes Park Pavillion. Lesley Jones reported that after several years and many setbacks the Pavillion is due to be opened by easter.

Hebden Bridge Arts Festival. Dave Nelson reported that he will not be representing the Hebden Bridge Arts Festival at Partnership meetings as he is no longer on the board, although he still works on programming. **Dave is to invite a new director to represent the Arts Festival at the Partnership meetings.**

6). Dates of future meetings.

Dates for the remaining meetings for 2012 are set as follows:-

Monday 5th March

Tuesday 3rd April

Tuesday 8th May

Monday 11th June

Tuesday 10th July

No meeting in August

Tuesday 4th September

Monday 8th October

Monday 15th October for AGM and presentations from groups

Tuesday 20th November