

**Minutes Of Hebden Bridge Partnership Meeting 14th November 2011**  
**Held At Hebden Bridge Town Hall, The Greenwood Room.**

**Present.**

Cllr. Janet Battye, Andrew Bibby, David Nixon, Mary Farrar, Polly Webber, Lesley Mackay, Susan Quick, Robin Dixon, Jason Boom, Katie Kinsella, Cllr. Dave Young, Jae Campbell, Nabil Abbas, Cllr. Susan Press, Lesley Jones, Bear (minutes)

**1). Apologies for absence.**

David Fletcher, Ben Oubridge

**2). Appointment of officers for 2011-2012.**

The following persons were elected as officers for the coming year:

Chair - Robin Dixon. Proposed by Cllr. Dave Young, seconded by Bear.

Secretary - Bear. Proposed by Andrew Bibby, seconded by Robin Dixon.

Vice Chair - None elected.

Treasurer - Dongria Kondh. Proposed Bear, seconded Cllr. Janet Battye.

**3). Minutes of 5th September meeting.**

The minutes of 5th September meeting were approved with no matters arising.

**4). Guest presentation by Mary Farrar of CMBC.**

Mary Farrar gave a presentation on two strategic priorities for the area. These are High Speed Broadband and Rail Transportation. The key points are noted below.

**Broadband.**

It has become increasingly difficult to access high speed broadband in the area. There are potential benefits of over 150 million pounds to Calderdale from having high speed broadband, but without it many businesses may not want to come here. The Calder Valley has dark fibre running along the canal side which passes through Hebden Bridge, but currently we have no access to it. We have the potential to have the fastest broadband in the world, but it is expensive to tap into at the moment.

The government wants the UK to have the fastest broadband in Europe by 2015, and plan to deliver at least 2 Megabytes per second to every business and household in the country by then.

They have made 530 million pounds available nationally to achieve this, of which Calderdale is likely to receive 6.3 million pounds.

Calderdale Council is currently carrying out a consultation exercise across the whole of the borough to find out people's requirements. Copies are available online at the following address:- [http://calderdale-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal/planning\\_services/bb/](http://calderdale-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal/planning_services/bb/)

Questionnaires for businesses and households are available, and these need to be completed and returned by 3rd January 2012.

Andrew Bibby suggested that we need to keep pressure on the council to keep up with the installation.

**Rail Transportation.**

1.1 million people live within the M62 corridor, yet the area has some of the slowest lines in the country. Both Calderdale and Burnley councils have been pushing for increased services and line

improvements, and this work has been recognised and some funding is in place. All recommendations for the Calder valley Line are in the Rail blueprint for 2014 -2019. It is now important to lobby the government to provide all the necessary funding to make this a reality. Lesley Mackay pointed out that West Yorkshire does not get it's fair share of funding, and never has.

Cllr. Susan Press wishes to know why nothing seems to be done about the journey time taken to get to Leeds.

Andrew Bibby wishes to know what is happening about extending the car parking area into the coal yard adjacent to Hebden Bridge Station. **ACTION POINT: Mary Farrar to find out about this.**

## **5). Project and activity reports.**

### Pennine Horizons

In the absence of David Fletcher, it was reported that Pennine Horizons have been successful in their bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund, and have been awarded £524,000. Congratulations go to the project funding team.

### Town Hall.

Andrew Bibby reported that work on the town Hall development is progressing well, and that Hebden Bridge Community Association has appointed it's new Executive Director who will start work on 1st January 2012.

### Parks.

Lesley Jones reported that things were quiet at present. The pavillion is currenyly not in use and will be put out to tender again in the near future.

### Young People.

Lesley Jones reported that "Lifeline Calderdale Step 2" was going to be made available by CMBC's Young People's Services.

### Transition Town.

Bear reported that there was considerable difficulty keeping people engaged with the Transition Town process. A plan being made for a consultation event to find out what people want from the process, with the assistance of an external facilitator who is not part of the group. Meanwhile, the HebVeg community supported agriculture scheme is still going strong and is looking for more members. Anyone wishing to get locally sourced seasonal veg can get more information by emailing [info@hebveg.org.uk](mailto:info@hebveg.org.uk)

## **6). Hebden Bridge Action Plan.**

Hebden Bridge Neighbourhood and Parish Plans are being progressed. The Parish Plan will be the replacement for the Hebden Bridge Action Plan from 2005, much of which has now been acheived. The most recent meeting of the Parish Plan Working Party took place on the 9th November.

The Neighbourhood Plan is about planning issues around land and community and will be fed into Calderdale's overall neighbourhood planning process, whereas the Parish Plan is an all encompassing plan for Hebden Royd Town Council, taking into account the views of the residents of Hebden Royd and it's surrounding parishes. The first steps are to make people aware of the intention to undertake a Parish Plan, and to ask to simple questions which will develop a theme for the Plan.

There is a Parish Plan meeting in the council chamber in the Town Hall on Wednesday 14th December at 6.30pm. Cllr. Janet Batty, Andrew Bibby and Bear will all try to attend to represent the Partnership.

Andrew Bibby pointed out that the Hebden Bridge Partnership deserves the right to have a big say in the process, as we are the Town Team.

Green issues, young people's issues and transport issues all need to be fed into the plan, as does climate change. Along with the 2008 Climate Change Bill which makes it mandatory to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050, the consultation on Calderdale's Energy Future carried out by Calderdale Forward is recommending a 40% cut in greenhouse gas emissions across the whole of Calderdale by 2020, and we expect that this will be adopted by CMBC as policy. This will also need to be a big part of our local planning.

The Parish Plan will target funding of £10,000 from Hebden Royd's budget for 2012/13.

## **7). Partnership matters.**

### Membership.

The number of signed up members of the partnership was previously 7, but now stands at 33. We are aiming to reach 50 during the year 2011-12. Thanks to Andrew and Robin for their work on this.

### Review of AGM.

As in previous years groups had been invited to give a short presentation about themselves. 24 groups presented before the start of the AGM. The partnership thanks Andrew for coming up with the idea for this.

Three directors (David Fletcher, Polly Webber and Dave Nelson) stood down as directors, and one person (Lesley Jones) was elected to the board. Thanks were given to the retiring directors for their service to the partnership.

### Accessibility.

Due to the Greenwood Room not being easily accessible to disabled persons, it was suggested that meetings be alternated between Mondays and Tuesdays in future in order that we might use Holme Street Arts Centre as a venue. It was noted that Susan Quick is unavailable on two Tuesdays every month.

(Note: I have since contacted the Holme Street Arts Centre, and unfortunately they do not have any Tuesday evenings available as they have a regular booking every week.)

### UCVR.

It was reported that the Upper Calder Valley Renaissance group have not met lately, and that their next meeting takes place on Thursday 1st December at 6pm in the Greenwood Room.

### Topics for future presentations.

The following names were suggested as possibilities for presentations at future Partnership meetings:-

- Emma Appleton (Carbon Partnerships Officer at CMBC) - Calderdale's Energy Future
- Kate Smyth (Secretary of Calderdale Disability Partnership) - Improving Hebden Bridge's facilities for disabled people.
- Mark Simmonds - (Co-operatives UK) - How Co-operative Structures Are Relevant Today

Other suggestions are welcome. Please email your suggestions to [iamthebear@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:iamthebear@yahoo.co.uk)

## **8). Officer reports.**

### **HRTC.**

Jason Boom reported the following:-

The Picture House consultation has had a good response, with 1500 replies, and Calderdale are planning to asset transfer the property to HRTC in January. HRTC are confident that everything is in place.

The mayor's secretary and administrative officer Christine Jackson is retiring from HRTC after more than twenty years of service . Her replacement has been appointed and has already commenced work. HRTC wishes to thank Christine for her service.

### **CMBC.**

Katie Kinsella reported the following:-

CMBC are currently conducting a survey of businesses to assess how they might increase tourism. She added that markets and the Piece Hall in Halifax are a big draw for tourism.

The Halifax Festival and Hebden Bridge Arts Festival have been awarded funding from Calderdale for 2012.

Also, the Olympic torch will be passing through Halifax and Brighouse on Sunday 24th June on its way to the Olympic Stadium. Unfortunately, Hebden Bridge and Todmorden were unsuccessful in their bid to have the torch pass through.

## **9). Other matters.**

Nabil Abbas for the National Trust reported the following:-

The National Trust are intending to fell more trees in Hardcastle Crag as part of their sustainable woodland management programme.

The National Trust has applied for a loan to renovate Widdop Hall Barn as a residence.

## **10). Date of next meeting.**

The next Hebden Bridge Partnership meeting is on Tuesday, 3rd January at 7pm. Venue to be confirmed. A reminder with the venue details will be sent out soon.