

HEBDEN BRIDGE & MYTHOLMROYD DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING

Tuesday 16th August 2022

MS Teams Meeting

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Josh Fenton-Glynn (Chair)
Councillor Sarah Courtney
Councillor Dave Young
Councillor Richard Needham
Councillor Roisin Cavanagh
Jason Boom, HRTC
Geoff Wood, Royd Regen

Officers in Attendance:

Zohrah Zancudi (Calderdale Council)
Steven Lee (Calderdale Council)
Kate McNicholas (Calderdale Council)
Rob Shipway (Calderdale Council)
Sian Rogers (Calderdale Council)
Darren Thomas (Calderdale Council)
Sandra Robertshaw (Calderdale Council – Minute Taker)

Apologies:

Councillor Jane Scullion
Councillor Scott Patient
Councillor Val Stevens, Royd Regen
Councillor Susan Press
Councillor Tony Hodgins
Councillor Christine Bampton-Smith
Sue Slater (HB Business Forum)
Alison Bartram (HB Business Forum)
Graham Mynott (HBCA)
Roger Benn (Rotary)
Jo Arnold
Anthony Rae
Stephanie Harrison
Jae Campbell (CMBC)

1. WELCOME AND CONFIRMATION OF NEW CHAIR

Noted that Chairmanship of the Board has moved to Cllr Fenton-Glynn

2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

Agreed the minutes of the last meeting were accurate reflection of the meeting.

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None to declare.

4. INTRODUCTION OF NEW TOWNS MANAGER AND UPDATE ON TOWNS WORK & MASTERPLAN FOR HEBDEN BRIDGE

Rob Shipway introduced as the new Programme Manager (Towns Regeneration & Resilience). Rob provided a brief overview of his role and the experience he brings to the Board.

Comments from Board Members:

GW: although there is and has been significant investment in Hebden Bridge & Mytholmroyd this has been primarily focused on Flood Alleviation Schemes which masks that there is relatively little capital investment available for Upper Calder Valley, when compared to Brighouse, Todmorden, Elland and Sowerby Bridge, which have their own dedicate funds with some flexibility. It will be good to work with RS in the future to hopefully change this situation.

CllrRN: I am involved with the local Town Council, which although has a Parish Council status, its unusual in terms of range of work and its precept and amount of funding. Would like RS to look at us as part of that network of partners, we have our own capacity and resources, and have just invested a lot in the local cinema, which has been quite successful. We have some capacity and plenty of enthusiasm, additionally most Town Councillors bring quite a lot of life experience and in particular I feel that the quality of HBM Town Council is quite high. It would be good to have some meetings set up where we can meet SiR and RS together to look at things. CllrFG agreed.

GW: we did commission a Master Plan for Mytholmroyd, which is still on the books and may be useful to try and integrate it with the work that is planned to be done for Hebden Bridge. RS confirmed will work with SiR on this.

CllrRC: slightly confused about how the original Master Plan for Mytholmroyd fits in with the general Master Plan. Also, how do we ensure inclusion is embedded into the Master Plan. SiR confirmed that the brief for the Master Plan has been shared with today's Board papers and would welcome any final comments. SiR and RS will go through the content and also intend to have a walkabout locally to review the Master Plan Brief before getting it out for quotes to organisations that have done good pieces of work before. Two points are well made, disabled/low income, needs to dovetail with Master Plan, also heard from others ensuring that the Master Plan speaks to what is important for people in Hebden Bridge, which includes inclusion, will make sure we review with that in mind. Would help to have a small task and finish group to help with this, whilst we go through master planning process, need a good mix of people from Cllrs and key partners and

including Hebden Royd Town Council as a key partner. **Action:** Members of Town Board to put themselves forward to be part of masterplan Task and Finish Group

5. UPDATE ON FIRE INCIDENT AT BURLEES HOUSE, HEBDEN BRIDGE

CllrFG updated on the fire that happened earlier this week, which had affected 15 businesses. A fund-raising exercise is underway, currently at £22k. Local Ward Councillors are meeting on Thursday to discuss how the funding will be allocated. The businesses affected have been re-housed, some are going through the Landlord who owns the building and who also rent out quite a lot of other premises in Hebden Bridge, so far the support appears to be in hand. Appreciated the amazing work done by West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service. CllrRN confirmed that Local Councillors are supporting the fund raising, and a letter of thanks has been sent to West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service for their work that day. It was very impressed that they were aware the building was Listed and needed saving and also their efforts to help secure and reduce damage to nearby properties.

DT asked if businesses that have been affected need to apply for the funding? CllrFG confirmed will be working out a mechanism at the meeting on Thursday with Community Foundation and Business Forum.

6. UPDATE ON FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME

Papers have been circulated, although discussed at the last Board Meeting it was felt that it was worth bringing to today's meeting to ensure no gaps or issues not being picked up in ongoing meetings that are also happening around this scheme. Noted that the Environment Agency are hosting drop-in sessions every Monday afternoon between 10am and 2pm. There is a plan to open up a Hub so that residents can ask questions, and this should be open in the Autumn.

Comments from Board Members:

CllrRC: EA colleagues are attending Ward Forums and providing detailed presentations, evidence indicates that residents will attend when they know it affects or is near to their own property and will ask detailed questions. This has worked quite effectively to help engage local residents. CllrSC confirmed that if EA are letting residents know about specific parts of the scheme, we could publish this.

SiR: agree with the site-specific meetings, either Ward Forums or elsewhere. People don't really respond unless its something local to them. Specific Q&As at Town Hall possibly, these can be quite detailed so unlikely to be covered at Ward Forums. CllrSC asked if this could be fed back to the EA, and copied Ward Cllrs in and JB.

GW: re Mytholmroyd issue, using the involvement of Environment Agency and updates that they provide as the kind of anchor for wider community discussions and consultations and using it as a means of building up a database and contact list, so better way of communicating with community because they will be individually engaged in the area that affects them but also have a means of contacting them on other issues.

Action: SiR to feedback to the EA

7. UPDATE ON A BOARDS POLICY & PILOT

SL provided a brief overview about the implementation of Policy, this has been affected by annual leave patterns and so far we have had a good reception from people we have discussed the policy with. The main question is what constitutes Hebden Bridge, so looked at how we can define that area. Also discussed what constitutes the town centre, come to an agreement around that but some finer details to finalise. In the policy document outside of the town centre we would enter into licencing agreements. In order to avoid any delays looking at town centre enforcement as soon as possible and then work out around licencing. Colleagues had a meeting last week to discuss implementation of enforcement regime and looked at potential knock-on effects would be. Good response from Business Forum, said they would help to publicise so that members are aware. Imperative that the Policy is implemented prior to SL's retirement in 7 weeks' time. Over next few weeks can expect to see a bit more information. Discussing progress with colleagues in other Directorates and Council Officers to ensure this is the case.

Comments from Board Members:

JB: all the other paraphernalia around the town centre that aren't A Boards, what qualifies and doesn't qualify. It's almost 50/50. Want to ensure Enforcement Team have been briefed by Licencing Team to confirm who is licenced and who isn't. Seem to be some bespoke arrangements, with some businesses stretching their curtilage as far as they can to squeeze more furniture in, needs a firm hand and backed up with facts. SL confirmed this was a good point, need to work hand in glove as teams. Licencing & Enforcement sits in Public Services, which ensure these conversations take place, we are also involved form concept of policy. One other thing that has come out, our All Age Disability Team working in Adult Services have said the problem with pedestrianisation areas, the area needs to be level, and the traffic area is slightly uneven and therefore mobility impaired and visually impaired residents/visitors have difficulty walking along that.

CllrSC asked about sleeves being put over bollards, are they going to be allowed? SL confirmed this is not something we have considered at this stage. SL noted that CllrFG was present at the Adult Health Scrutiny Board that called the original policy in, that discussion kind of enlarged into a lot of other things, which is part of the conversations that the Enforcement Team were having as part of what comes next.

SiR asked SL if he could send a little update for circulation around to the Board once details available. SL agreed, and in context of earlier agenda item about flood scheme, SL's successor is Adrian Gill who currently works for the Environment Agency and is intimately involved with the various schemes so will be in a good place to provide an update as these are arrived at.

Action: SL to share update with SiR so can be shared with the Town Board.

8. FORWARD PLAN

Noted the following list of potential agenda items for future meetings:

- **Community and Public Toilets**
- **Cost of Living Crisis:** agenda item for next meeting.
- **Housing:** substantive item, wider discussion about supply, need and affordability and how this links to Master Plan and Neighbourhood Plan. Together Housing are also keen to be more involved in town work so would be happy to attend. Agenda item for next meeting.

- **Culture and Tourism:** build up towards Year of Culture in 2024.
- **Upgrading/redesign of old part of Hebden Bridge Town Hall:** open evening about this last week or week before, really interesting. Possible agenda item. May be part of Master Plan, not sure if funding there yet. Small group to look at Master Plan and bring back in a couple of meetings time.

Comments from Board Members:

- CllrRN: regarding the Cost of Living Crisis, this is urgent if we need to plan our response, may have to meet before the next Board Meeting. In September it will be clear what the Government's intention is, then price rise likely on 1st October. Agreed if Master Plan includes application for funding for old Town Hall, need to think about doing this as soon as possible. CllrSC pointed out that CMBC are doing a lot already, every Directorate is doing what they can and putting ideas on the table. There is a substantial programme of things going on at the moment.
- CllrRC: noted working hard on local responses, but for community people as opposed to businesses. Might be useful to have some kind of summary. Would like to add AirBnB's to housing discussion. There is an overall lack of accommodation for weddings. Community asset transfer buildings, Town Hall and Picture Place both of which are successful, big group working on Mytholmroyd Library, not transferred yet. Luddendenfoot Community Centre have issues, interesting to look at relationship with Development Board. Looking at community benefits. Calder Ward holiday lets are 1.38% of housing stock, but across the UK its 1%, Calderdale is 1.4%.
- GW: Community Asset Transfer of Library Building, progress on community ownership funds and potential for that to supply money to progress the station building, which is in many ways related to the library building in that we are looking at that new road as being a kind of sequence of public facing buildings that we can actually start to engage with the community on in a different way in that there will be a variety of different services and activities available from Fromley Road Bridge right through to library.
- JB: cost of living crisis, don't think any formal discussion at Town Council but don't think that its not being discussed behind the scenes, will be on our agenda in future. No communication from CMBC, would assume Calder Valley would be a significant partner due to funding voluntary sector and may be the mechanism we choose to go down, would be useful to have a heads up.
- SiR: can look at community asset issue, involved in both the old ones and new ones. Would be useful to have a think about what it is that would be useful to discuss at this meeting, there will be some useful learning to share, benefit to Town Board as part of master planning process. May add to December meeting. Would like more detail that would be useful to discuss. Regarding anti-poverty work and cost of living JB, linked up with Anti-Poverty Partnership information and Todmorden Town Councillor now involved, keen to work with and involve the town and parish councils with this work. Hosting an anti-poverty strategic event, face to face on 22nd Sept will circulate information again, peer network sharing and learning event highlighting some of the specific work around food poverty, affordable warmth and fuel poverty and other things, would recommend to get involved with that. JB will check if no information received will contact SiR.
- GW: CllrRC will discuss with GW regarding asset transfer and come back to SiR about it.
- Cllr RC: would like discussions on toilets at some point, useful scheme was in operation with local businesses who go £200 pa to keep toilets open to the public, but this is now ending.

Agreed a maximum of two substantive agenda items for each Board Meeting.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

GW: noted that this was the last time Steven Lee would be attending the HBM Board Meeting, and we would like to extend our thanks to him and wish him all the best in his retirement. SL thanked the Board for their comments.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

6.00-8.00pm on Tuesday 18th October 2022