

HEBDEN BRIDGE & MYTHOLMROYD DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING

Tuesday 13th December 2022

MS Teams Meeting

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Josh Fenton-Glynn (Chair)
Councillor Sarah Courtney
Councillor Roisin Cavanagh
Councillor Dave Young
Roger Benn (Rotary)
Graham Mynott (HBCA)

Officers in Attendance:

Adrian Gill (Calderdale Council)
Darren Thomas (Calderdale Council)
Rob Shipway (Calderdale Council)
Jae Campbell (Calderdale Council)
Zakariya Ali (Calderdale Council)
Sandra Robertshaw (Calderdale Council)

Apologies:

Councillor Jane Scullion
Councillor Richard Needham
Councillor Scott Patient
Councillor Val Stevens, Royd Regen
Councillor Susan Press
Councillor Tony Hodgins
Councillor Christine Bampton-Smith
William (Bill) Ashcroft
Geoff Wood
Jo Arnold
Stephanie Harrison
Edwin Baker
Jason Boom
Sue Slater (HB Business Forum)
Alison Bartram (HB Business Forum)

1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES

Introductions made and apologies as noted above.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Cllr Courtney: British Recycle Plastic – street furniture.

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Board agreed the minutes of the meeting were a correct record, proposed by Cllr Courtney and seconded by Cllr Young.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Item 7 Forward Plan: Cultural Festival Programme, Officer now in post to lead on this, Kayleigh Boyle. The Board agreed it would be useful for her to attend the next Board Meeting. **RS to action.**

5. MASTERPLAN WALKABOUT FEEDBACK

RS confirmed that a walkabout around Hebden Bridge had been undertaken recently. This was a chance to look at any opportunities for development, identify anything we would like to see more or less of, and note any problems that may need fixing. Cllr FG confirmed this proved to be an interesting exercise, he posted on social media about it afterwards and this resulted in lively debate. Some positive ideas have been suggested such as the pedestrianisation of Crown Street, provision of more parking, increasing footfall to Market Street etc.

The Board are aware of issues, such as lack of development opportunities for housing, public realm improvement, pedestrianisation improvement, and lack of environmental and sustainable developments etc. Work is now underway to draft a masterplan, which will help us to pull together what is being planned and identify any gaps. There are a lot of project ideas, but as a Board we need to prioritise these and be clear about what is deliverable. We need to link the current plan to support new opportunities, bring in new investment and also make use of what we have, using social value through procurement of those activities. The masterplan needs to deliver and attract both public and private funding.

In terms of it's important that we get the balance right between Hebden Bridge as a Destination Centre, and the town as a District Centre. These challenges manifest themselves in issues such as parking, transport and access, housing, and retail mix. The masterplan can help us explore how opportunity sites can help us support the visitor economy while addressing the needs of residents of the town and environs.

Its important we ensure that we engage with Board Members directly to get feedback, especially those who couldn't attend the walkabout. Intention is to draft ITT for the next Board Meeting, getting this out soon before end of March. Once a pool of interested

consultants is in place before decisions are made think it's important to get the consultants out to the town and get their thoughts and map out.

Comments and Questions:

CllrSC: balance is important, would add couple of things, one around whilst we are a district centre it is important to strengthen this, also help to support the hilltop villages as well so not just trying to encourage people to come down to us. The Neighbourhood Plan covers the hilltop, but the Masterplan won't. Need to ensure resilience and community led services are there. Co-ordination is key. Interesting to have relatively fresh eyes, to look at what gaps we have. Would be useful to have some sort of matrix of need -v- ease of doing. If all projects were potentially listed with a relatively simple costing, we might find that there are somethings that may not be high priority, but if they don't need much funding would be worth identifying those things, might be some economically viable things we can do or obtain funding from smaller funding opportunities, don't just look at larger funding options. In previous meetings it had been muted that there are lots of people living in the area, either directly in Hebden Bridge or surrounding area, who have consultant skills. If we go out to tender, would it be worth looking at a local company for this?

CllrRC: relate to what Sarah said, lots of residents in Mytholmroyd don't want Hebden Bridge to be a district centre, they want to have their own identity. Mytholmroyd has its own separate identity and a different cohort of residents, they want to use Mytholmroyd for some of the things currently use Hebden Bridge for. Identity is important. Asset transfer for library has had a lot of support. Feel Mytholmroyd is using as a dormitory village (to commute to Hebden Bridge). We need to think about how its framed and the relationship between the two masterplans.

CllrSC: Cllr Scott Patient sent his apologies for today but commented that we already have a masterplan for Mytholmroyd, and that is why this one is specifically for Hebden Bridge.

CllrJFG: it was useful to have a walkabout. It's clear that parking is key, hoping for some placemaking following the flood work. Some opportunities there. Like the idea of extending the parking at Mytholmroyd Station, and where the day centre used to be.

CllrDY: On your walkabout did you go to telephone exchange? It's not very resourceful, due to size of site.

CllrJFG: Noted that BT own the site. Can't give much information on this, and it's unclear what BT use the site for.

CllrSC: there are several possible sites it would be great to use for different things, but these are not in Council ownership. It's about approaching owners of sites/land to see if we can get development working. Might be worth contacting BT about their intentions for the site and what can be done next? Is there a process for asking about land?

RS: the masterplan would include a review of land ownership and would contact landowners to see what they are considering. Try to match up what the opportunities are to what the town needs. All these key sites are something that we want the masterplanners to consider. Stage 2 would be what the reality and deliverability is. Regarding comments from Cllr Roisin, we would insist on the masterplan for Hebden Bridge that they would have to be mindful of other studies including the masterplan for Mytholmroyd. Need to look at how these two plans work together.

RBe: it depends where you are in the town whether there is a feeling of deprivation or neglect. Need to try and address what's happening on a Saturday, particularly in connection to drinking sprees going on that are putting locals off coming into town. It's wrong that residents feel they don't want to come into their own town, especially in summer due to numbers. Drunks are causing a lot of problems on a Saturday.

CllrJFG: will be difficult trying to find the right balance, especially as drinkers are part of the hospitality economy.

6. FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME UPDATE

Adrian Gill, the new Assistant Director for Strategic Infrastructure was welcome to the meeting. AG confirmed there was a lot of work happening on the ground and behind the scenes, with three schemes being progressed in the town: Main works, Erringdon Hillside, and Stubbing Hill Road. Updates as noted below:

- **HB Main Scheme:** Environment Agency are working through latter stages of design development. Hope to complete in next three months. Once completed this will allow them to complete another pricing exercise and some procurement steps needed to go through before entering into contract or go out to the market. In parallel will be drafting full business case, need approving with the new costs inserted which will help give approval to get to site. Planning Schedule 2023, full business case submission in summer 2023. Surface Water Design is slightly behind other designs due to complexity. May need to carry out further ground investigation work, may need to do trial pits in the New Year.
- **Erringdon Hillside:** progressing well, finalising the price and benefit review and pricing, due to submit in New Year for scheme delivery, works to commence in spring 2023.
- **Stubbing Holme Road:** detailed design work continuing, project team undertaking final surveys, engaging with property owners, and tenants directly impacted are being progressed, small number still to engage with. Working closely with Calderdale Council regarding animal habitats. Construction due to commence in 2023.

Comments and Questions:

CllrJFG: we are most likely to get asked by residents about when we go out to tender. The general impression is that it doesn't feel like much has happened.

AG: it's taken a long time to develop Hebden Bridge schemes for several reasons, primarily the need to progress Mytholmroyd ahead of some of the others due to complexity which has contributed to delays. Regarding Hebden Bridge, there have been works carried out which have improved the situation. Footbridge removed after the 2015 flood, and we know this has improved the situation on the Calder. We are continuing to work with Yorkshire Water on an annual trial drawing down waters.

CllrDY: a member of the Hebden Bridge Flood Alleviation Scheme Committee, and for the last 6 years it has been very frustrating regarding time delay. In view of the rising cost of materials, will this make a huge difference to what we can deliver? We had the funding two years ago for the cost of the scheme at that point, but surely the costs will go increase significantly due to the current supplier situation?

AG: construction projects across the board are feeling the impact of inflation. It's a concern and a challenge for the schemes, however work is underway to finish detailed

design to get a good grip on costs at the same time whilst also value engineering and looking at benefits. Whilst there may be increases in the pricing of the work, what EA are looking at are commensurate benefits of the scheme as well as costs, and if this will release additional funding.

7. TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ISSUES

AG confirmed there was no update regarding highway issues, although noted there have been some around traffic lights in Hebden Bridge. We have been reassured that the temporary traffic lights have been reset to mimic the permanent lights, traffic congestion was due to vehicles circling the centre and effectively clogging up the roads. However, there was some challenge about whether signals were operating as intended, but permanent traffic lights have been brought back online.

Regarding an update around the CIP works, an element of this work is around improving pedestrian and cycle access into Hebden Bridge, on Burnley Road, where there is currently on-street parking. That work was consulted on but effectively paused until improvement at train stations and car park associated with flood alleviation works was completed. Have been asked to look at this again given the amount of time that has transpired. Will report back to Cllr Scullion as Portfolio Holder on this issue.

CllrSC: there seems to be an issue with the pedestrian/pelican crossing lights outside the Picture House, they keep randomly coming on by themselves without the button being pressed. **Action:** AG noted and agreed to investigate.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Town Board Membership: CllrSC noticed that there was an item in the minutes of the last meeting where there was a discussion about membership of the Board. In our Terms of Reference, it states how long members can sit on the Board for, may need to revisit this as it should be for a maximum term of three years. **Add to agenda for next Board Meeting for further discussion.**

CllrDY noted that Anthony Rae stood down from the Board at the last meeting and asked if a letter of thanks had been sent to him for his contribution over the years? CllrSC confirmed that verbal thanks were given at the time. **Action:** RS to note agenda item

A Boards Update: AG provided a brief update confirming that this item had been to Council twice and also called in by Scrutiny. Steven Lee had been out to consultation again. Currently finalising the policy, still have a piece of work to do around supporting documentation, also preparation work to be undertaken (website, notices, preparing areas and noting definitions etc). Overall, still on track to implement the trial policy at the end of January/February 2023.

Comments and Questions:

CllrSC asked if the trial involved a complete ban in Hebden Bridge, as this was agreed at Cabinet? AG confirmed there would be a complete ban in the town centre, but outside of this in the wider area there would be a permit system.

CllrSC: asked about the definition of the central area where there is a full ban. AG stated that a lot of work has been done on the total ban area, and anywhere else outside would still need to comply with stipulations of the A Boards system.

CllrDY: a map that was previously circulated showed the area of the total ban, which was the Conservation Area which incorporated every shop in Hebden Bridge.

CllrRC: original suggestion a long time ago that A Boards could be replaced with other kinds of signage (hanging signs etc), there would need to be some financial support provided to business. With the ban, are we advocating any new signage, and is there any funding attached, or just a total ban with no replacement?

AG: the Policy doesn't advocate replacement signage, nor does it include funding. However, elsewhere where these bans have been introduced, there has been work undertaken, and we will look into this again. The policy is simply about how we define where there will be a total and partial ban and any requirements around this.

CllrSC: Good opportunity to get our Business Support Team to work with the Hebden Bridge Business Forum to look at messaging around this. Need to ensure that advice and guidelines go out with messaging. AG confirmed that letters will be sent out ahead of implementation and work will be done around adding in what support is available along with other signage ideas.

CllrJFG: what has been the level of business engagement around this discussion? Suggest this as an agenda item for the next meeting.

RBe: have circulated the various suggestions and advice that has come out and a lot of signs are already hanging from buildings. Problem is who owns the building. Everyone is now aware of what is coming but would be useful for AG to send out some detail, with a map and letter, and any means of support for businesses in respect of alternative signage.

RBe: two Light Up the Valley events held in Mytholmroyd and Hebden Bridge in conjunction with lighting up of Christmas trees. Both events were very successful. CllrSC agreed and gave her thanks to Hebden Royd Town Council and Hebden Town Hall.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Next Board Meeting due to be held on 14th February, however that due to Cabinet and Full Council Meetings being held that week agreed to move to **7th February 2023**.

Action: RS to send updated calendar appointment and reminded to check with Hebden Royd Town Council Meetings to ensure no clash with revised date.