

Hebden Bridge & Mytholmroyd Town Development Board 16.02.21

1. Welcome & Introductions

In Attendance:

Councillor Courtney (Chair) - Calder Ward, Councillor Patient – Luddendenfoot Ward, Councillor Cavanagh – Luddendenfoot Ward, Councillor Young – Calder Ward, Councillor Hodgins – HRTC, Councillor Stow – HRTC, Councillor Needham – HRTC, Geoff Wood (Vice Chair) Royd Regeneration, Sue Slater – Mytholmroyd Business Association, Anthony Rae – Hebden Bridge Partnership, Roger Benn – Hebden Bridge Rotary, Alison Bartram – Hebden Bridge Business Forum, Graham Mynott – Hebden Bridge Community Association, Jason Boom – HRTC.

Support Officers:

Zohrah Zancudi (Director of Public Services CMBC), Sian Rogers (Policy & Projects Manager CMBC), Steven Lee (Asst. Director Strategic Infrastructure CMBC), Jae Campbell (Neighbourhood Coordinator CMBC),

Invited guest: Cllr Freeth

Apologies: Cllr Scullion, Cllr Press, Karen Houghton

2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

Matters arising – None, agreed as a correct record.

3. Hebden Royd Resilience and Recovery

- Covid 19 ongoing impact and Calderdale Recovery Plan – Sian Rogers

Sian and her team have been working on a strategic economic recovery plan for Calderdale, still feeling the impact of Covid ongoing including partners focused on their response for longer than had anticipated. Completed initial impact assessment which looks at economic, health and wellbeing, wider community impact of Covid up until the end of January which we are taking with highlights and priority actions to scrutiny panel. Don't want to pre-empt that as working on final document to go to CMBC Cabinet on the 29th March. Based on impact broad ranging on the economy, in terms of job losses as well as particular sectors which have been impacted the most – retail, hospitality, tourism, cultural services and venues, but also more widely – manufacturing, as well as job losses, effect of furlough across the whole of Calderdale (significant increase in every ward on the number of people claiming benefits) places that already had high levels of people claiming benefits are seeing a bigger increase as a result of lockdown.

Has increased levels of poverty and inequality amongst people already struggling and seen a significant increase in number of young people in particular claiming benefits across the borough and bigger increase in Calderdale than in other areas making that a priority. Alongside that we've seen a big impact on skills especially on young people, some complex issues.

Also looking at impact across wider health and wellbeing, looking at food poverty, mental health impact, impact on physical activity (did snapshot survey last year – nationally there has been an increase in activity generally, difficult to do that locally but did a snapshot survey end of last year which showed that people that were more active before Covid have continued to be more active but people who were less active have become less active and usually latter likely to be in poverty or with particular health conditions it is widening health inequality. The data is just emerging, trying to do is look at what is happening nationally and looking to evidence locally.

Looking at economy and any evidence around climate, a key challenge for us and has there been an impact on the way people use transport, has impacted on pollution levels and the way we use energy levels. Have some data around that. There was a massive shift away from car use during the first lockdown but its gradually increased again – one of the big challenges will be how do we encourage people back into public transport post-Covid and not use cars again. Will be in public domain after scrutiny panel next week.

Careful about using nationally available data that people can look at and interrogate so we can monitor it over time.

Doing what engagement we can over the last three months, really difficult as we do not have that many staff able to do engagement work, have been working with other groups talking about the impact of Covid on their lives and attending all of the Ward Forums and talking to a range of people including a focus group at Calderdale College talking to young people about the impact of Covid on their lives and there has been lots of focus groups being run by Cllrs about the impact of Covid on them, especially economically and equality. Really keen to use some of the evidence from that work to inform recovery going forward.

Engagement work has revealed emerging priorities about building back Karen Houghton he business base of our economy looking at sectors that have been particularly impacted so we can develop support for those businesses and look at supporting people to gain new skills to get people back into work so working closely with Adult Education skills team and others who support people into work.

Big bit on the economy and making sure the economy is in a better place in the next year and then focusing on three key areas that reflect our priorities: reducing health inequalities and how that affects the economy, how we focus on supporting towns to recover and leverage in additional funds and resources and leverage in with partners additional money to do that. Final priority is climate action not just about sustainable transport and such but also green jobs and skills.

Work was done very much in Covid – mentioned tourism and having conversations with that team about what the next year will be like. 1st year is about how to work and live safely with Covid and don't know how much we can open up the economy and there is probably a bit of pent up demand which may bring some growth back in but don't know what that will look like but want to work with partners. Done initial strategic plan publishing March and setting up a new recovery board focused on economic recovery and looking at widening the membership – this will be one of the recommendations of the Cabinet report that this will be the beginning of the recovery plan not the finished article. It's a plan we want to develop further with partners going forward and that includes the Town Boards.

Cllr Courtney – HRTC has elected to employ a worker to help young people around employment and training as well as a CAB worker to work part-time out of Mytholmroyd.

Cllr Cavanagh – In the process of finalising the report, we ran 17 focus groups focusing on five particular groups facing disproportionate impact from Covid in terms of the economic situation young people, women, disabled people, BAME and people unable to secure work or on low income.

There are some overlaps between these groups such as such as the digital divide which impacted all of those groups and some that were very specific to one of the groups. Report being finalised now and can come back to report on that later. **To be included as an agenda item next time.**

Cllr Stevens – This report relates to the impact of Covid but can it also unravel the impact on the economy of Brexit? I remember reports of SMEs which in Calderdale economy are the largest group would potentially be hit hardest as a result of that. Will probably last longer than Covid in terms of impact.

Sian Rogers – Our Data is really difficult to drill down to that level as we don't have that level of intelligence of data but our business team works closely with WYCA who also provide a lot of advice to all of our businesses about leaving the EU and making sure they are accessing the support that is available. The chamber of Commerce is working hard to ensure people get the right advice that they need to understand the new systems and paperwork etc. From their records they have a good understanding on what sectors are being impacted by this but its hard to disentangle data according to what is impacting who is affected by which. We are working on it as issues are identified and on a regional level have commissioned extra support for businesses – which is very sector-specific.

Where seeing a lot of demand and in response to some of the issues being identified in particular, some are the same but not all, adapting and diversifying what you do, moving onto digital systems etc and some of the recovery work will be about both the impact of leaving the EU and Covid.

One specific need in particular is for the rural economy esp. farmers about the length of time required to diversify what they do. That will be a longer term issue for our recovery plan.

The National Farmers Union representative gave a helpful description of the challenges they face and the need for support and a lot of their exports would have been to the EU and to change what they do, to develop different markets takes time. Impossible to give a figure at this point in time. Should say we are also including flood recovery in our recovery plan. We are really clear that all things impacting the economy at the moment and that includes flooding.

- Flood response – learning from flood response

To see if there is any feedback on the recent near miss, to capture from the Board their thoughts.

Cllr Patient - Echo what said, like to know what thinks forum thinks rather than my own opinion.

Thinking about how teams and zoom meetings might help streamline the response throughout, good to hear about what works mindful that we got away with it this time and not tested as hard as we might have been.

Jason Boom – I was quite surprised at how twitchy everyone still was following the initial flood alert, thought we would be battle hardened by now. Everyone was worried and looking over their shoulders. People in Hebden Bridge was very twitchy and feel we dodged the bullet but then a few days later another alert and people were twitchy again. We are dependent on the warning systems provided by the EA but does it need to be so sensitive? Everyone who had gates put them up and were organised, Flood wardens worked well and contacts as to who we needed to communicate with were identified. We're in as good a position as we can be, just waiting for the Hebden Bridge flood alleviation scheme to start.

Cllr Needham – It went well and smoothly and we were fortunate, but I also had that sense of what a disaster if we flooded twice in one year and we need to redouble our efforts both to address issues as promptly as possible but also to plan for the long term and working with long term issues with our partners (such as Treesponsibility or Slow the Flow) to try and solve some of these issues, that's what we have to focus on.

Cllr Cavanagh – just to say we have got these virtual hubs now if it floods again they will kick in but I'm concerned about the natural progression of events, the first thing is that everyone try to keep everyone safe, the second is to rip everything affected out of their houses then volunteers needed and everyone helps each other – Got the bit sorted out where the virtual hubs give out information and guidance but we need to know what will replace this volunteer support during Covid, can't happen but haven't said what will replace that volunteer help. Need information to communities that are flood affected this is what will replace that normal process of volunteer help. Still not clear what replaces volunteers. We're amazing in this Valley, people help each other and businesses but that clearly can't happen during Covid but don't think we've told what will replace that.

Cllr Patient – good valid point. Want to reflect on meeting and a Flood Warden with Cheshire East the other day about what we did right as Flood Wardens after their own issues with flooding, broadly asking questions about personal resilience, how long did it take people to understand about property protection and understand what natural protection was. The answer is they have still not quite got it, it's an ongoing battle really in terms of communication and education and trying to dispel some of the misunderstandings, need to be realistic that for some people it will happen and then be yesterday news and its back to normal.

There needs to be an ongoing dialogue about the changes and Cllr Cavanagh is right that perhaps communities don't understand the difference between what the virtual hub will be doing during a flood but also more work needed about people understanding what is expected of them if they live in a flood-risk area. Ongoing conversation. Interesting that Mytholmroyd is now seen by some as invincible as you wouldn't know that talking to local people who are still feeling anxiety when the rains come.

Always back in mind what happen if rain continues how long before that anxiety goes away? That needs continued investment and work on. Flip side doesn't help anxiety levels, period of flood warnings wanted to check river levels.

Community on tenterhooks and that's normal, not sure how long it would take of not having a flood for that worry to go away.

Wat was different this time was that people are finally turning to trusted sources for information and updates – such as EyeonCalderdale or flood wardens for accurate information unlike previously when people relied on word of mouth or unreliable sources which caused significant problems in the past heightening anxiety, feel comms cracked it this time.

Sian Rogers – want to do more work around local resilience in Hebden Bridge and thinking about how we can do that - as lead for Hebden flood hub if it became non-virtual and working with Graham Mynott and we wanted to run some sessions in the town at to what flooding would be like doing our own tests internally on sour systems but what would be really good would be working with people to get flood gates up and guidance on what to do and what the town could so while flooded and help build that community and personal resilience, similar to disaster drills in Tokyo etc where they do earthquake drills. They really work it through including schools etc. so the whole community knows what to do. Room to do some work around that from a community point of view both in Hebden Bridge and in the wider community working with the flood wardens and other volunteers.

Graham Mynott – Agree that is really important – I'm curious about how shops prepared in town especially as there are always new shops moving in since the last flood who doesn't know what to do, doesn't know the drill or the flood wardens or who to talk to. Following previous conversations

with Andrew Entwistle (Chief Flood Warden) about what to do he's always wanting to go knock on doors and talk about how they should prepare themselves in the event of a flood. Its something we would really benefit from. Just the simple stuff, I was in the building on the day in question and we had despite doors being closed plenty of people phoning asking where they could get sandbags or other things. All the usual requests. Comms is really important.

Alison Bartram – I agree a run through would be a good idea, In the normal circumstances Andrew does go round the businesses when the alert is due and lets everyone know but this time couldn't because we were closed. My gates are still on and thought might as well leave them up and keep things on the shelves high up, no point getting things down and having to go through it all again.

Think a lot of businesses have left gates and sandbags up, stock still on shelves and up high to keep safe until they are able to reopen or in the shop windows. Some businesses have stated that if they have one more flood they will close forever. Agree everyone is still twitchy and nervous about possible flooding. Appreciated trusted updates on river levels, as well as checking the official sources which people seem to be doing now. A lot of businesses now thinking one more flood and will not reopen unfortunately.

- Hebden Royd Recovery Plan – Cllr Rob Freeth

Previously felt there were immediate problems that needed addressing arising out of lockdown that needed to be addressed with urgency and as a result of that with other Councillors instigated a sustainability and recovery plan for Hebden Royd including Cragg Vale, Mytholmroyd and Hebden Bridge. The aim of the group is to sustain Hebden Royd through the current crisis and then return it to its position as a regional centre that is vibrant and active with a strong economy and an engaged and confident community.

With that aim in mind, with unanimous support of HRTC it was agreed to proceed and set up a group to represent all aspects of our community, geographical areas and bodies and organisations that deliver so much across our community. Through them reached out to others and on the 14th Jan held a meeting which helped draw in people from a number of other groups.

It was a very positive meeting and they agreed to set up working group to develop a plan to take back to larger group. From the start that this was to be self-sustaining and whoever was a member had to be involved in the delivery of what we wanted to do. Had support from the Town Clerk and deputy in relation to minuting and delivery. So far, we've had two more working group meetings, decided on a proposed marketing strategy, chosen a working name and logo, developing a website and promoting the work they are also conducting an audit of all groups and organisations operating in Hebden Royd. They have identified a wide range of group delivering services both in the past and present. Looking at what is already proposed to go ahead and can be promoted. The Virtual Duck Race will be going ahead on Easter Monday for example. Various other things also happening but still trying to get in touch with all of the other events that might be happening i.e. still to get in touch with Dock Pudding festival, pumpkin festival, Handmade Parade etc. to find out if they are still in existence and planning to run in some form. We are looking at how we can audit all of the events happening in the year ahead, all the creative ways people are trying to continue with the delivery of their events during lockdown and then what will be happening in the year to come. Started calling it a festival but now want to refer to it as a year-long celebration of events and happening across the valley which will aim to energise the community and draw in locals so they can feel more positive about the area they live in and draw in visitors to the area so important to our economy. Looking at ways to promote our community beyond our boundary.

This is still in the very early stages – still auditing and looking at what the opportunities are. Lot of energy and creativity has been put into this despite problems. This is a self-sustaining group now with logistical support from HRTC. Report back progress to the Town Council and this board.

Feel very positive about it and hope it will make a positive contribution to the future of Hebden Royd.

Cllr Courtney – This will dovetail nicely with other work and organisations going forward. “A quacking idea..”

Anthony Rae – talking to Graham Mynott about tourism promotion and been looking at the Hebden Bridge visitors guide produced last year as a paper version as well as a PDF and noticed that with a couple of artwork changes it could be made relevant to 2021 – that is just one example of ways to promoting the visitor market through products like that. There are other promotional tools available (such as hebdenbridge.org). Recommendation to make sure to connect with them and they will make sure they are up to date and ready for you.

Sian Rogers – Useful to say I’ve seen the report sent through and had a chat with Jason last week about tourism generally and how to make sure we tie in what you’re doing and what CMBC is doing compliments what the tourism team are planning in the way of promotion and advice.

Need to make sure we cascade advice around the safe management of events over the next 3 – 6 months and what that might mean for events as none of know exactly what is happening about safe reopening of the economy and what that might mean for running events. Clearly we want to try and build on past successes. There were some brilliant figures for the whole of Calderdale that came out for 2019 before lockdown, showing the best visitor figures. This will be a priority for the strategic recovery plan for Calderdale but need to work with other events and festivals to see how we can support them but in a way that is Covid-safe. Clearly need to make sure you and the Town Council are advised on how to do that in a safe way, given none of us know what is going to happen in terms of opening up the economy.

Cllr Freeth - Really want to coordinate all aspects of support that we can draw upon for events and advice we can draw upon, including advice and support we can get through the tourist office. Coordination will be the key to our success.

- Working Party Update – Cllr Courtney

Sent draft document out with minutes, Anthony put together the skeleton consultancy brief.

Jason Boom invited to comment on rallying call for Neighbourhood Plan. What want is to reinforce the parallel nature of the working party and the Neighbourhood Plan. From tomorrow you will be able to view the consultation document of the plan, six or seven years’ work in the making and would encourage you to go visit the site and encourage others living in Hebden Royd to do the same and contribute to that. Taken some guidance from comments made by our members and now have a quick questionnaire as well as a full more detailed one if people want to provide a shorter response.

There will be a lot of signposting in the next couple of weeks, consultation will all be virtual but if you come across someone that wants a physical copy and wants to engage but has no access to a computer or the internet we can find a way to do so. Want to engage with everyone in every way we can. All the documents are online at www.Hebdenwhilltopplan.co.uk . Please share it where you can.

This will be working in parallel with the work of this Board so please encourage people to take a look. Headline flyer distributed earlier.

Cllr Courtney – met as a working party and I was fortunate to go to Todmorden Town Board as a sub and it was interesting to see where they were at as they are currently applying for funding or have money promised to them and they were running round trying to get a plan together. That is not intended as a criticism – we’re a bit behind them, haven’t got a promise of any money but we can be at a state where we have these things ready to go then it would put us in a much stronger position and working closely and in parallel with the Neighbourhood Plan would be a positive place to be.

Last time we were at the point of putting together a brief for a consultant, we now have a skeleton brief that Anthony has put together (sent out with minutes). If you have things you would like to add to that document, that are missing, let us know – its broken down into 11 paragraphs including timescales and outcomes. Have a look and let us know what your thoughts are.

Anthony Rae – This is a skeleton brief speaks for itself and if there are any aspects missing please let us know. Wanted to refer to a couple of paragraphs –

“This process, and the parallel one for the draft neighbourhood plan, will be taking place as the Upper Calder Valley communities and beyond will be trying to recover from the serious economic damage caused by the Covid 19 lockdown. They should therefore both be seen as positive contributions to that attempted and urgent recovery.”

Hope there is a positive spin to both this and the Neighbourhood Plan. We are trying to inspire economic recovery.

“11. **Timescales:** It’s likely that there will be a developing consensus around the draft NP, possibly allowing the procurement process for this brief to begin - May/June 2021. Once the NP has received its regulation 16 consultation and passed independent examination, it should be possible for the appointed consultancy to identify an initial formal list of projects for subsequent development- September? 2021. The work could be completed by - autumn/winter 2021, which would coincide with the possible adoption date for the NP.”

It is trying to identify where this consultancy process might be up to at by the end of the year which is the same timeframe as the Neighbourhood Plan will be adopted. The two timelines can come together in a way that will be reinforcing.

Cllr Courtney - Next action can we get a brief drawn up for the next stage so we could then look at how we can employ and have we sufficient funds to employ and how long for in order to create this piece of work in conjunction with Calderdale Council, done in a way that it can be used then by us and Calderdale to bid for potential funding as it becomes available. As we know somethings these pots are announced with by the Government with extremely short timescales. It would allow us to have a document that can be used for that working closely with Calderdale to make this at the right stage to draw down the funding.

The next step is turning the skeleton brief, fleshing it out to something more like a detailed full brief and think we need to look at Calderdale’s procurement process to see how we do that, how do Calderdale engage consultants in the correct manner?

Cllr Stow – Have a jaundiced view towards engaging consultants to draw up prospective briefs for things that there aren’t any established pots of money for. I’m very wary of the process especially remember the money spent 20 years ago on drawing up briefs for Mytholmroyd so would like a reassurance that that if we do it these projects are time limited, you can draw up a brief and after five years you have to rewrite them. So if we do use the Board’s money to pay for a consultant will we have some assurance that Calderdale officers will have the time available to look proactively to take this forward and look for funding for it and not waste money and leave it on the shelf?

Cllr Courtney – Valid point but one of the ideas is that some of the identified projects might not require a lot of funding and may be able to be developed and rolled out quickly without large sums of money.

Cllr Cavanagh – wondering is the role of the consultants to work with other groups to see what they actually want? In terms of Todmorden Development Board one of the issues that came up is that they are now consulting young people around what they would like to see in Todmorden but they have done that quite late after a lot of the plans were already drawn up. Need to be really mindful that there are lots of different stakeholders in the community and whoever it is needs the skills to facilitate processes whereby people feel able to participate. Is the consultant playing the role of a wider stakeholder consultation?

Cllr Courtney – The idea is for the consultant to help facilitate that but not alone, the idea would be to make sure they capture as wide a voice as possible from as many sections of our varied community as make up the area as possible. We've talked about that in past meetings. To make sure to capture the wider aspirations of all the different communities locally. Its about people, not just place, its about people and there would have to be a element of dynamism in it as things change and as times change.

Cllr Cavanagh – trying to understand what a consultant would do, want them to bring technical expertise as this group could run community consultations very effectively so it's being clear what additional value that a consultant would bring that is not available amongst the board at present.

Cllr Courtney – quoted "10. The **outputs** required from this brief are a matrix of projects assessed against criteria; narrative and visual description of individual projects to promote their potential implementation; a statement about prioritisation and nearer term funding opportunities."
It's about creating that overall document that can be used to attract funding.

Cllr Stow – much as I want pots of Government money allocated to it, how likely is that to happen? There are other areas that realistically are much more depressed or worthy areas in Calderdale than Hebden? I clearly want the funding to come to Hebden but realistically if we work this up are there going to be pots of money available?

Sian Rogers – what we do know is that there is currently discussions about a number of big bits of money that will be devolved to the region – there will be a devolution deal of some description, there will be a levelling up fund which is being broadcast by the Government and there is going to be a shared prosperity fund. Just beginning to share what the thinking might be around those in terms of the criteria for that funding. Clearly our objective is try and identify how we can access as much as we can of that funding for Calderdale based on what we know about the Borough and what people have identified as priorities and have evidence and data to support. This is one of those forums where we can identify those priorities. That's all we know at the moment, we can't say much more about the fund or other funds at the moment. It is being developed and that potentially are good opportunities for the Towns and we know that is a priority for Government.

This is going to be Karen's primary work, she's had to prioritise the bids for the existing funds for Halifax, Elland, Brighouse, Todmorden and Sowerby Bridge at present. Still in the process of developing those, they've identified and allocated the money but certainly Hebden Bridge will also be part of her responsibility going forward in terms of wider regeneration of our towns so her and her team (still recruiting) will be looking at and working with Town Boards going forward to help identify funding that you might be able to access as much as Calderdale Council.
Regarding procurement and firming up the brief get an early meeting with Karen to talk about that brief and her existing programme and getting in the right consultant to do the right pieces of work would be key. That would be my recommendation.

Steven Lee – add in, this is the route that a number of other town boards have taken. Sowerby Bridge for example put together a masterplan as have Brighouse simply so they had series of projects and a direction of travel that they could then follow. In terms of the Sowerby Bridge masterplan that was ultimately used to attract funding and the Brighouse masterplan fed into the Town's Fund Bid that we submitted last week. It's clear to us that the Government is still wedded to competitive funding whereby the priority will be given to those areas that have got what they call 'shovel-ready schemes'. That's the direction of travel at the moment, if you haven't got projects on shelf ready to go you will not have priority when funding is available.

Cllr Courtney to talk to Karen and have another meeting of the working party with her we can then move the brief on.

Cllr Stevens – just to add that there are possible pots of money around the green agenda which we would fit into re deprivation which we might not qualify for. There might be smaller pots but the bigger pots may not qualify but there are certainly schemes around the green agenda not just investment but heard about what is happening in the farming communities which we have not yet engaged with but might be in a position to. There are some positives from the green economy, I'm sure there will be some funding we fit into and if we don't we'll make us fit. That's the point of a good bid to make us fit.

4. Infrastructure Update - Steven Lee

- Highways issues – Crown Street

Due to Covid the measures put in received a mixed reaction some liked some disliked, subsequently removed as taking damage, some of which may have been more than just accidental. Mixed reaction to this but looking at Crown Street long term with a bit more detail we're looking for additional funding and considering more permanent solutions but need to take people and businesses with us as opposed to reacting to things.

Cllr Stow – I would like to flag up the Disability Access Forum have real concerns about not feeling safe now the barriers are gone, they are very keen to push the case that CMBC look at extending the pavement, because of Covid some form of social distancing will need to be in place for long time.

They would also like to know about Calderdale policy towards A Boards, they are very keen to know whether Calderdale will do something about A Boards in Hebden Bridge because they are not there now because everywhere is shut but they are feeling particularly vulnerable around social distancing and A Boards stop the ability for people to socially distance easily.

Steven Lee – Been asked to put a suite of highway policies together and 18 months ago took a potential policy on A Boards here for consultation, that has now happened and now may be a good time to actually embed that into the Council's overall policy framework. Yes, we can progress that and timely to do so.

Does illustrate what I was saying about the mixed reaction on Crown Street whereas you may have read that while some were against it there were a lot of people in favour of it. Its something we are seriously looking at. And going back to last agenda item we have actually bid into a pot of money that is yet to be determined to fund some potential measures on Crown Street that we have yet to determine. Does illustrate how having schemes ready will allow us to do things and what I mean is improved pedestrian and cycling measures that we can potentially introduce in the future because they want to have a set of off the peg measures that can be introduced quickly when the need arises.

Anthony Rae – On the subject of Crown St if colleagues look at the Neighbourhood Plan it talks about longer term aspirations to extend pedestrianisation and one of the areas it talks about is Crown Street, appreciate its much more complicated than that. But it is identified as a potential area for future exploration.

Geoff Wood – Returning to the potential issues of pedestrianisation, and walking and cycling and I'm in favour of introducing hanging signs and removing clutter for people with movement issues, need to approach these as a suite of measures not dealing with them in isolation, hanging signs are yet another reason to encourage people to visit the town, feature the creativity we have within the town and allow easy access to get around and just enjoy a more imaginative town centre.

- CIP plans

Consultation for that finished and the intention was to submit a business case by December, in the event that didn't prove possible and a new submission date is the 1st of May, we expect to see measures starting to be implemented in summer 2024.

Consultation events around things like Crown Street how will that look like and when would it be happening?

Asking people as normal, with events if under normal circumstances but if still under lockdown it would be through Zoom and Teams.

Cllr Courtney - Making positives out of it, branding Hebden Bridge as a town that welcomes cyclists, walkers and people with disabilities would be a good bonus.

- Flood alleviation timeline

Circulated February's newsheet and rebuilding wall – Environment Agency are considering progressing the planning application, mechanism brought too many risks by treasury eyes, similar was considered for Hebden Bridge but now discussing single application so all planning work done before hand or do smaller or detailed. We're expecting work to begin towards end of the year.

Someone to come to next meeting from Environment Agency.

5. Forward Plan

Anything you would like to see on the agenda – Covid update, look at potentially town Centre including Crown Street.

Alison Bartram – need for consultation with local businesses and to get a feel for how they think it should be implemented particularly after last twelve months.

Anthony Rae – The next meeting will take place the week after the Neighbourhood Plan consultation and will have sense what they have to say.

Cllr Patient – broader discussion about flood resilience and recovery.

Cllr Stevens – agricultural sector and its impact on the local economy. A dialogue is needed with the hilltop communities – though parish councils might have the best opportunity to start that discussion.

6. Any Other Business

Neighbourhood Plan Headline Flyer circulated

7. Date of next meeting – Tuesday 20th April 2021

There being no further business members were thanked for their attendance and the meeting finished at 8.00 pm.