

**Hebden Bridge & Mytholmroyd Development Board
Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday 7th November 2023
Meeting held via Teams**

Present:

Councillor JFenton-Glynn (Chair)
Councillor Sarah Courtney
Councillor Scott Patient
Councillor Katie Kimber
Councillor Keith Butterick
Dr Carol Stow
Trudi Deakin

Others in Attendance:

Kate McNicholas
Mary Farrar
Sonya Moorhead
Karen Hornby
Rob Shipway
Darren Thomas
Jae Campbell
Zakariya Ali

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from Geoff Wood, Adrian Gill, Jason Boom, Graham Mynott, Roger Benn

2. Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

The Board confirm the minutes of the meeting held 5th September a true record.

a. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Community Rail Partnership (Karen Hornby)

Karen Hornby, from the Community Rail Partnership (CRP), presented an overview of the function of the CRP and its work in Calderdale. She then led a discussion on how the CRP and the Hebden Bridge and Mytholmroyd Development Board could work together to support regeneration of the town.

Karen stated that the primary objective of the CRP is to collaborate with partners to promote investment in the railway system to boost passenger numbers. This will

bring environmental benefits through reduced traffic, and economic benefits by opening towns such as Sowerby Bridge to more visitors. The CRP can also collaborate with local community groups to bring social benefits. She highlighted work the CRP is delivering with Calderdale Hornets to tackle antisocial behaviour.

RS had circulated copies of a new leaflet which is being distributed across the North West promoting the Calder Line. The leaflet encourages visits to the town, highlighting how accessible the town is Greater Manchester and Leeds. Potential visitors to the town are encouraged by CRP highlighting the town's attractions. She also identified joint promotional opportunities between the Board and CRP to raise awareness of events for example. Board.

Dr CS noted a lack of information regarding disabled access in the publication, reporting that the Hebden Bridge website identifies a disability access map available. KH replies that it is the next step of the booklet, and it is a case of securing funding and looking into that further. Councillor Patient suggested looking into the idea of Hebden Bridge mobility hubs, an opportunity MF or other officers might explore. RS suggests projects or funding related to the station itself and transport which can link in with the masterplan being developed for Hebden Bridge.

MF expresses to the Board that one of the aims of the Board is to attract investment to the town, including the railway. The Year of Culture provides opportunities to promote the town using its rail links to Manchester, Leeds, Bradford, and East Lancashire.

The Chair thanked Karen for her presentation.

5. Culture Dale 2024 event – Opal's Comet

Sonya Moorhead, from an organisation known as Mr Wilsons Arts Gallery¹, presented details of a cultural event, 'Opal's Comet.' The event, which will take place in Spring 2024, will see a canal barge travel to towns along the Calder valley, including Hebden Bridge. The barge uses music to promote community participation in the arts, supporting local choirs to take part in their area.

The Board welcomed the proposed visit and SM asked for details of local accessibility partners who can help provide links. Councillor Scullion agreed to do this in her role as portfolio holder.

Action: Councillor Scullion will inform SM of the accessibility partner for Calderdale.

The Chair thanked SM for her presentation.

6. Car Parking Strategy (Mary Farrar)

Mary Farrar presented to the Board plans to develop parking strategies for each of the 6 principal Calderdale towns, including one for Hebden Bridge. The Calderdale Parking Strategy aims to consider all users, prioritise bus, rail and active modes and deliver a more modern parking offer and customer experience. The Local Parking

¹ www.mrwilsons.org.uk

Area Plan will aim to contribute to reduce transport emissions; consider future development and the provision of EV infrastructure.

Surveys will be conducted of all car parks and on-street parking within the study area and begin in mid-November in Brighouse and Todmorden, then 2024 in Hebden Bridge and other towns. Various options will be considered and their potential impact. A draft strategy will be prepared and shared with the Board in due course.

MF explained the rationale for different parking strategies, noting the different challenges, strengths, and opportunities for each town. For example, peak usage in towns varied at evening times to serve a burgeoning evening economy, while for others it might be market day. At Hebden Bridge the issue was complex, with demand high and parking a longstanding issue. The challenge was to make better use of parking available, improve parking, but encourage use of alternative modes of transport.

MF's team will look at disability access, customer experience and supply and demand for parking. Further, the team want to look at other schemes such as cycling schemes and how these will change the dynamic of parking.

Councillor Scullion asked if the parking strategy will look at resident and visitor parking. She noted that issues such as the cost of annual parking passes are often raised at Ward Forums. Councillor Scullion also asks about temporary parking until everything is sorted. MF replied that the residential parking should be included and is being reported to senior officers.

Asked by Councillor Patient if the parking strategy exists in isolation, MF replied that the strategy forms part of an integrated plan for the sub-region that considers strategies such as Active Calderdale and regional strategies to promote public transport (bus and rail) use.

MF confirmed there was no exact timeline to complete the study for Hebden Bridge (the study for Calderdale will be complete Autumn 2024) but will update the Board once known.

7. Business Plan Update (Rob Shipway)

RS provided an update on the development of a vision for the town. He reported that he had met with the Hebden Royd Business Forum to outline the aims of the Board's work, and to ask for the support of Forum members in completing a survey of businesses. The survey will seek to better understand the trading conditions on the High Street in Hebden Bridge and to see how the Council, the Board, and other partners can use this information to improve support to local business. He reported that a draft survey had been completed by the Business Engagement team at Calderdale and that this would be discussed with the Forum lead, Roger Benn, shortly.

RS also reported that he had met with the Voluntary Sector Forum at the invite of Board member Graham Mynott. Again, RS explained the role of the Board and explained the rationale for a proposed survey of the sector. He stressed the importance of ensuring any work with the sector was coordinated with existing

agencies and that he was meeting Sian Rogers of Calderdale to discuss complementary support.

Asked about timescales, RS confirmed that he planned to issue surveys in January after signing off by Graham Mynott for the voluntary sector, and Roger Benn for the Business Forum, with a view to presenting results to the Board in Spring 2024. The Board can then use a meeting to discuss how the results might lead to positive action such as project development.

8. Date of next meeting

RS reported that a calendar of meetings to Spring 2024 will be circulated in December to all Board members.

The next meeting of the Board will be held via Teams on 16th January at 6 pm. Teams invites will be issued shortly.