

Hebden Bridge and Mytholmroyd Meeting Minutes

23rd of April 2024

Hebden Bridge Town Hall

6pm – 8pm

Attendees

Councillor Sarah Courtney
Councillor Katie Kimber
Councillor Scott Patient
Graham Mynott
Sue Slater
Geoff Matthews
Carol Stow
Angie Mossman

Others in attendance

Adrian Gill
Darren Thomas
Rob Shipway
Zakariya Ali

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received by the following: Councillor Josh Fenton-Glynn, Councillor Nikki Harvey, Councillor Keith Butterick, Councillor Richard Needham, Councillor Bampton Smith, Jason Boom, Roger Benn, Stephen Harrison, Geoff Wood, Valerie Stevens, Alison Bartram, Jae Campbell.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared by Board members.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

The meeting minutes of the previous meeting were approved by the Board as a true record of events.

a) Matters arising

Councillor Scott Patient, highlighted events and car parking item and requested to get details on what other changes have been made since.

Duck race was fairly busy as Councillor Katie Kimber attended the event and was selling tickets. Saturday was very busy in Hebden Bridge.

4. Culturedale (Culturedale Team)

Member of the Culturedale Team presented a slideshow to the Board. Funding available for arts and activities for the community. Heritage network meeting tomorrow morning called “Caldertales” and key themes are around access and sustainability.

The Culturedale Team has been working with Sustainable Arts in Leeds to make events and festivals more sustainable. Felting workshop and other workshops also production about the man who planted trees which will be taking place in Hebden Bridge and Elland. Opals Comet will be going through on the 16th of May in Hebden Bridge. Other projects are a Short Film competition for girls and women, Hebden Bridge Arts submit art for the exhibition, Anne lister events completed across Calderdale.

The team also have a partnership with Eureka and looking for proposals with different venues have different activities. Free event at Eureka for more information contact Culturedale@gov.uk. Another event planned is in People’s Park, Halifax with a closing ceremony April 2025.

Event Enhancement Grant - groups can apply between 500- 4000 between May 2024 to April 2025 and can fund around 20 events in total.

The Culturedale team informed the Board about the Activation Fund which has 83 applications £500 to £8000 and a pot of £50,000 live in June 2024 and start before April 2025 also can be used as match. Volunteer Programme launched 23 people helped at the opening also working in partnership with volunteer alliance aiming to continue growth of volunteers 14+.

Councillor Scott asked for outreach with the Trades Club as they are celebrating 100 years. Building has reached 100 years and a good heritage space. Recently passed grant and are they connected to ward forum grants and linking up with Culturedale. Catherine Bann. Conversation about grants ongoing.

Carol Stow highlighted that the accessibility guide is not accessible. The Culturedale team responded that there was an IT issue and is currently being worked on as lots of feedback was received.

Carol Stow commented on the Opals Comet offer about advice on accessibility and that this has not been taken up is disappointing. Culturedale will get back and Hebden Bridge accessibility hub are interested.

5. Business survey (Angie Mossman, Hebden Royd Business Forum)

Angie Mossman presented the Business Survey results, which had been distributed to 140 local businesses. The survey aimed to gather insights on trading figures, business confidence for the next six months, and perceptions of support from local councils. Angie Mossman highlighted the significant impact of attending networking events for business startups in the past. Emphasis was placed on fostering transparent and positive relationships between councils and businesses for mutual benefit.

A notable number of responses were received, indicating a challenging year for businesses. Key findings included a 63% decrease in business performance, particularly evident in low summer bookings (36% occupancy in February and March) and a decline in overall business activity leading to a 46/47% decrease in employment. Confidence for the next six months was mixed, with a majority (57%) expressing moderate confidence, while a minority expressed pessimism.

The Board discussed grant applications and enhancing communication channels with local government to support business success. Suggestions included providing a platform for answering business queries and facilitating grant application processes. Darren Thomas suggested events such as grant assistance and educational sessions on grant applications.

Suggestions were made to set up market stalls and provide guidance on accessing grants and writing funding proposals, with the MCC venue identified for these activities.

Concerns were raised by the Board about the survey's reach, with Councillor Katie Kimber suggesting a broader scale survey. The discussion emphasised the importance of inclusivity, especially regarding communication and accessibility for all businesses, including market traders.

Board members highlighted communication issues between businesses and councils, particularly concerning flood alleviation measures and disability support. The need for improved communication strategies, including better parking information, was stressed.

It was decided by the Board to include discussions on modelling and A-boards in the next meeting agenda.

Suggestions were made for business-to-business collaboration and mentoring schemes, emphasising skill-sharing and support beyond financial grants.

Discussions centred on parking strategies, including the need for effective communication on available options such as park and ride services.

The importance of utilising online platforms like Google Maps for business visibility was highlighted, with a suggestion to provide training on its use. Ideas for intervention conventions and demonstrating the impact of small financial investments were discussed. Emphasis was placed by Carol Stow on the importance of inter-organisational communication and collaboration.

Action: Zak to add Modelling and A Boards to the next meeting agenda.

Action: Further discussions on wider implementation strategies and support initiatives.

Action: Evaluation of the previous business survey's success and consideration of future support programs.

6. Board action plan/ future priorities

Rob Shipway informed the Board that other Town Boards ensure pot of money was used wisely and not left. They also identified priorities. E.g. support for community centres etc. Once projects are found bids are put from an external funding consultant to work with organisations that are seeking support. Report for next Board will be bought across.

Geoff Matthews Hebden Bridge and Mytholmroyd don't have as much funding as other towns, Councillor Sarah Courtney responded this is due to masterplans and other plans that attained funding.

Geoff Matthews expressed he is not confident with the EA as ideas were given and the works completed were the complete opposite.

Councillor Katie Kimber suggested to apply pressure in lessons learned phase of a project.

Cllr Sarah Courtney highlighted the importance of neighbourhood plans and to set out in terms of placemaking. She further stated that it will not take a huge amount of work and future funding as there are ideas and projects ready also should be a priority to create a masterplan/ vision.

Geoff Matthews suggested to draw masterplan as a Board rather than hiring a consultant. Rob Shipway added and suggested to the Board a workshop for a masterplan draw up to which the Board agreed.

7. Ambitions for town application (Rob Shipway, CMBC)

Application from the Business forum admin support officer supporting growth of the forum and is growing.

Business to business support the grant seeking is 50 percent funded by ambitions for towns fund and £800 4 days support piolet shopping scheme if you go to shops and get stamps on card to get into a raffle every month. The total cost of the support is £3605 which the Board are to decide.

Carol Stow suggested that the loyalty cards are sent digitally rather than paper. She also asked what the hourly wage is for the support and if it is within the minimum wage. A Board member responded that £12 is the national living wage and the job is £15 an hour.

Graham, community events cabinet between town hall and town council to put together an events panel.

8. Any other business

Rob Shipway has invited the Environmental Agency to the attend a future Board meeting. He requested for ideas on and to either bring there to the next Board meeting or to contact via email. TOR chair is alternating between wards. Volunteered Councillor Katie Kimber.

Rob Shipway also recommended to the Board someone from health committee to be a part of the Hebden Bridge and Mytholmroyd Town Board, as Trudi Deakin has resigned. The Board expressed their thanks and best wishes to Trudi.

9. Date of next meeting

18th of June 2024