

TODMORDEN PRIDE PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Minutes of Meeting 25th April 2006 Town Hall, Todmorden

Attended by:

James Gregory (Chair)
Gareth Brooks
David Storah
Chris Edwards
Mary Clear
Alan Darwin
Sheila Greenwood
Cllr Clare Townley
John Bates
Anne Lee
Francis Boocock
Peter Cockcroft
Linda Young
Lynne Midwinter

Simon Brearley
Allan Fiddling
Cllr Myra Townley

In Attendance:

Sue Leffman
Clare Madders

Apologies:

Sheila Tordoff
Cynthia Murray
Malcolm Birkett
Ed Collins

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and also welcomed additional members of the public to this meeting/event.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes from the previous meeting (9.3.06) were agreed as a correct record.

3. Matters Arising

- 3.1 A brief update was given in regard to the Patmos shops area. Currently being agreed between legal departments of CMBC and Environment Agency.
Funding for the necessary works will be from EA, Highways Agency, CMBC and a charge on the properties/shop owners.
- 3.2 At 3.2 of the previous minutes it had been agreed that the Chair write to the Development Control manager at CMBC in regard to the lack of enforcement action on The Original Factory Shop signage.
A letter has been sent and now awaiting a response.
- 3.3 At 4.1 of the previous minutes it had been agreed that the Chair would write to the Chief Executive of CMBC regarding office space in Todmorden.

The Chair informed the Board that, at the request of the Director of Community Services (Rose Wheeler), he has not sent this letter yet whilst they try to resolve staff space within the Town Hall if possible.

4. West Yorkshire Investment Plan Update

A brief overview of the UCVR was given to the public attending the meeting; including the UCVR being the umbrella for funding in the Upper Valley, particularly from Yorkshire Forward (the Regional Development Agency).

- 4.1 37 - 39 Rochdale Road: Approval has now been received from the ODPM for demolition of the building.
A method statement is currently being agreed with the demolition contractor and demolition works are due to start on 15th May (provisional date).
- 4.2 Bramsche Square: Sue Leffman has been specifically employed, with funding via Yorkshire Forward/UCVR, to look at all the possibilities for the regeneration of Bramsche Square. A feasibility study will be undertaken.
- 4.3 Halifax Road: A meeting is taking place on 2nd May between CMBC, Yorkshire Forward and an independent adjudicator in regard to valuations. This is because of a disparity between the valuations for the sites off Halifax Road.
Valuations were undertaken by the District Valuer on behalf of CMBC, and by King Sturge on behalf of Yorkshire Forward.
- 4.4 Other projects in the Upper Valley: Update provided at appendix 1.
- 4.5 Walsden: The Chair also stated that currently there is no detailed project for Walsden; but that Walsden is one of the five towns of the UCVR.

5. Conservation Area Appraisal - update.

An update was given by Clare, on behalf of Kath Gibson, Principal Planning Officer (Conservation). Thanks were given to those members of the Board who had attended a focus group meeting on 23rd March - Cllr Myra Townley, David Storah, Alan Darwin & Anne Lee. David was also thanked for allowing use of his office for the meeting. The meeting had been really useful and the suggestion to extend the conservation area to include Shade and Gauxholme has been taken on Board.

Work is now well underway on the detailed appraisal but, due to proposed extensions more than doubling the potential size of the conservation area, the timetable for public consultation has not yet been finalised. If the documents needed cannot be produced for July, this consultation will slip to September.

The issues identified today as part of the Todmorden Action Plan work will also be fed in to the Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan.

It was noted that a draft map of the suggested boundary was on display, at this open meeting, with space for people to make comments on. People were also asked to name their favourite and least favourite Todmorden building.

6. Future Presentations

The Chair put to the Board that he thought it would be useful if future board meetings tried to include a short presentation (1 per meeting) from other groups in the area with a focus on physical projects/activities.

Some of the groups suggested were: Todmorden Together, Todmorden Riverside Improvement Group, Todmorden Moorland Trust, Pennine Housing and the Losang Dragpa Centre (Dobyroyd Castle).

The Board were asked to suggest other groups who could be invited to give a presentation. Groups from Walsden would be particularly welcome.

7. A.O.B.

- 7.1 Todmorden Station Community Adoption: The Board were informed that an initial meeting had taken place between Northern Rail and Pam Warhurst in regard to potential station adoption. A further meeting would take place, to which interested individuals and groups are invited.

Appendix 1 (agenda item 4.4) :

Several projects are now active, as a result of the UCVR programme, in the rest of the Upper Calder Valley.

In HEBDEN BRIDGE there has been a full traffic review that is resulting in road traffic improvements to assist in the flow of traffic, improve parking options and enhance the enjoyment of the town for pedestrians. New street furniture and improved lighting will compliment the Conservation area.

In MYTHOLMROYD plans for a Ted Hughes Centre are being pursued. This will include a visitor centre and space for academic study of the poet's works. This will be supported by the integration of a quality restaurant; and a "living museum" is under consideration at the poet's former home.

Plans are in the development stage for the provision of a Marina; the aim being to bring more people to enjoy the countryside and business opportunities of Mytholmroyd. In the coming months a development brief will be co-ordinated to consider a regeneration scheme around the church and George Street areas.

IN SOWERBY BRIDGE / COPLEY land is being assembled to provide a major industrial and business park, alongside housing and sporting facilities. New bridges, flood alleviation works and access routes will ensure that the site is prepared for investment by the business community to the benefit of the people of the town. Plans will then be developed to improve the town centre of Sowerby Bridge and its environs after the relocation of industry; building on the current success of restaurants, wine bars and excellent access to the motorway routes.