

**TODMORDEN PRIDE PARTNERSHIP BOARD**  
**Minutes of Meeting 7<sup>th</sup> September 2004**  
**The Old Hall, Todmorden**

**Attended by:**

James Gregory (Chair)  
Cllr Myra Townley  
Cllr Margareta Holmstedt  
Cllr Michael Taylor  
Cllr Clare Townley  
Francis Boocock  
Chris Edwards  
Mary Clear  
Ed Collins  
Gareth Brookes  
Linda Young  
Kelsang Tsalden  
Malcolm Birkett  
Peter Cockcroft  
Alan Darwin  
Sheila Greenwood

**In attendance:**

Hilary Brooke  
Anne Holdsworth  
Clare Madders

**Apologies:**

Cllr Ruth Goldthorpe  
David Stora  
Janet Waggot  
Wendy Brough  
Sheila Tordoff  
Chris McCafferty MP  
Cynthia Murray  
Anne Lee  
Jack Taylor  
Jennifer Jackson

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

The chair welcomed the new members of the Board, invited to join in recognition of their specialist professional skills. They are Peter Cockcroft, Kelsang Tsalden, Alan Darwin and Malcolm Birkett.

The Chair also welcomed the Calderdale Councillors nominated to the Board, being Cllr Michael Taylor, Cllr Clare Townley and Cllr Ruth Goldthorpe; and Todmorden Town Councillors nominated to the Board, being Cllr Dorothy Jordan and Cllr Margareta Holmstedt.

The chair also welcomed Cllr Myra Townley remaining on the Board, in her role as Mayor of Todmorden; to support the development of a new Todmorden Pride Partnership Board action plan.

## **2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2004**

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

## **3. Matters Arising**

No matters from previous minutes, but comments were made in regard to recent canal side vandalism. Mary Clear agreed to raise this matter at the next community safety team meeting; as that is the appropriate forum for this issue.

## **4. Meeting with Todmorden Town Council re contribution of payment for market regeneration**

The Chair informed the Board that discussion on this had now reached an end and thus not to be reviewed any further. Essentially the budget for the scheme, as advised by professionals at CMBC, was not accurate and thus some of the more attractive features had to be cut from the scheme. Looking forward Todmorden Pride and the Town Council must move forward together on future projects with right process, budget and details and commitment to partnership working for the benefit of the town.

There followed brief discussion about ring-fencing of funding from buildings sold in Todmorden to be spent on projects in Todmorden. The Council building on Hall street is up for auction in October and is expected to fetch around £250,000. Cllrs Townley and Taylor said this building was part of the MTI scheme as it was part of the original pre 31<sup>st</sup> March funding but that the situation is unclear as to future sale of buildings. They agreed that the Board should continue to influence spending in Todmorden.

## **5. West Yorkshire Investment Plan – Submission of Stage II bid**

Hilary Brooke gave apologies to the Board for the lack of progress so far in regard to the business grants programme, HERS (Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme) project, Todmorden & Walsden Action Plan and final report from the MTI scheme.

This has mainly been due to the lack of staffing in recent months. It was noted that in particular there are concerns in regard to the timescales for the business grants and HERS funding; both of which must be spent and claimed for by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2005.

Hilary informed the Board that, for the WYIP, proposals are being submitted by Calderdale MBC to Yorkshire Forward in order to release funding for future years. Hilary provided a report on the schemes to be included in the bid related to Todmorden & Walsden :

**Walsden** – **Hollins Mill** - The original proposals had been for a mostly residential use with some commercial and community facilities. Calderdale Council, in partnership with the Environment Agency, need to be able to get under the weaving sheds/Northern Lights to access the culverts. If not, the alternative could be that Rochdale Road is closed for 6 months. The intention would then be to utilise this area, in the heart of Walsden, as a gateway for the town with public realm, highway and footpath improvements and public car parking.

The main mill and the Northern Lights are in two separate ownerships.

The owner of the main mill is now keen to see a full commercial use for the building and indeed has had interest from a number of companies in the surrounding area looking for accommodation. Some community resource could still be accommodated in the mill.

The mill and Northern Lights are Listed but are within an economic use zone and, with the Environment Agency permanent flood access required, the land would be unlikely to be allowed for residential development.

There was some discussion about the fact that the Board is keen to see the area developed and made attractive. The Northern Lights are seen as an eyesore and Councillors have received complaints, especially as viewed from the canal side. It was resolved that the board support a Council led CPO of the Northern Lights, if necessary, to improve the area and bring it back into use.

**Todmorden** - Following local consultation, the MTI scheme worked very much on specific buildings within Todmorden and debate by the Board at that time was not to just cover one geographical area. The WYIP provides the opportunity to now be more strategic and go for a geographic approach. This can be seen in 3 main areas:

**Canal Corridor** – The Board have already discussed their desire to take action on 37 Rochdale Road (Sonarga Restaurant) and the District Valuer is currently in negotiations with the owners solicitor to arrange a valuation.

Todmorden News will lead the consultation on what could happen with the building/area, making use of computer generated images.

Aligned with this could be improvements to the canal towpath, linking in with the current works on the former co-op site; and working with retailers and owners on Rochdale Road and Water Street to enhance both frontage and usage facing on to the canal.

This could be linked in with opportunities arising further along the canal, particularly around the Hope Street Mill site. A site at Derdale Street has permission for residential with small scale industrial units and an application is currently in to planning for outline permission to demolish existing mill and erect a mixed development of eight shop/office units, twenty-eight apartments, twelve town houses and nine industrial units.

There followed discussion by the Board, particularly about the developments being put forward for Hope St Mill area and surroundings and the need to influence planning to ensure appropriate and desirable developments and to end piecemeal ad-hoc proposals.

This included some debate about proposals for the Abraham Ormerod site, which is within Conservation area. The Board agreed that although they

cannot have a say in final planning decision that, as regeneration partnership for Todmorden, could consult with planning as to aspirations of the Board at strategic level. Whilst the board cannot influence which actual companies come to the town, they can try to make sure there is a strategic plan for the town to influence the quality and attractiveness of buildings.

Bramsche Square – The Board were reminded about recent newspaper article regarding the £100,000 Interreg funding that has been awarded to public realm developments within the square. This also provides impetus to raise match funding from Yorkshire Forward for the development of the area. Key buildings in the Square are:

Town Hall – currently costs CMBC £96,000 a year to run, but the building is very under-used by general public and visitors to the town. Bidding to YF under the WYIP to obtain funding for a feasibility study, consultation and an independent viewpoint on future use whilst preserving too, as is a Grade I listed building.

Retail Block ('day & night' building) – The Board were shown some example sketches of ideas for the area, including demolition and opening up of the vista, as had been agreed at the last Board meeting.

Methodist Church – they are looking at two options for development, as very under-utilised at present. These are for there to be social housing on the top floor or for relocation of the arts department from Calderdale College. Part of the downstairs space would remain an area of worship for the small congregation.

Health Centre – The Chair and Hilary Brooke, along with Janet Waggott (Group Director of CMBC Regeneration & Development) recently met with the Primary Care Trust in regard to their intentions to build a new health centre within the next few years as they have reached capacity with the current building. This would be within or near the environs of the current site and would be undertaken through a private finance initiative. This development could include retail and other businesses.

It was noted that the various plans presented to the Board were just ideas to aid discussion and help stimulate the ideas and aspirations of the Board, which then need to be fed into the overall Action Plan for Todmorden & Walsden. This would then go out to full public consultation.

The Board were asked to contact Hilary or Clare with any further viewpoints on the plans that were presented.

It was also agreed that Cllr Taylor set up a meeting, as a matter of urgency, with the chief planning officer at Calderdale to advise and assist on gaining a strategic non-piecemeal approach, with planning, to all currently proposed and future developments in Todmorden.

## **6. Action Plan for Todmorden**

As mentioned at the start of minute five, little has progressed so far with the action plan due to lack of staffing resource to date.

The Board added their concerns on this lack of officer time and support, particularly when there is timeframe limited funding to be spent in Todmorden now. In particular this message was conveyed to the Calderdale Councillors present at the meeting.

In relation to the action plan, Cllr Myra Townley read out town council members ideas for consideration:

- To investigate the possibility of a tea & beer garden at Fielden Wharf area.
- Pedestrianisation of Water Street.
- Regeneration of Bramsche Square to include improving existing buildings.
- A museum in the Town Hall.
- Improvements to the bus station with regard to passenger safety.
- Relocation of the John Fielden statue to outside the Town Hall – for better visibility and less risk of vandalism.
- Facilities at Walsden and Cornholme not to be overlooked, especially improvements to Harrison Street play area in Cornholme.
- Opening up of canal corridor so that properties face the canal.

## **7. Artist in residence, Todmorden**

Anne Holdsworth reiterated, for members not present at last meeting, that an artist has been employed (with Arts Council, Awards for All and Lottery funding) to work on projects in the town to reinforce development of a brand identity. The artist selected is Alan Pergusy from Leeds and he has a lot of experience of similar work and in particular of consultation with the community. He is contracted for 40 days over a 12 month period.

A consultation exercise is to be held during first full week in October, centred around a market stall upon which people can express their ideas. A questionnaire will also be used.

Any ideas or suggestions from Board members are welcome.

## **8. Draft of review of the MTI Todmorden**

It was noted that Anne Lee had contributed a significant amount of time and effort to help get this review completed. There is a legal obligation to get this report completed asap.

## **9. Any Other Business**

9.1 It was noted that Todmorden Town Council are formulating a working party regarding use of the town hall. A letter outlining this will be sent to the Board.

9.2 Hilary advised, in light of the work Anne Holdsworth is now undertaking, that it be advisable for the constitution to be amended to include a dissolution clause. This will facilitate trust type funding. Any assets would transfer to another community organisation in the town should Todmorden Pride Partnership Board be wound up.

It was agreed that this clause be added to the constitution.

The clause will be at point 7 of the constitution and is as follows:

‘The Todmorden Pride Board may be dissolved at anytime by a resolution passed by a two-thirds majority of those present at a Special General Meeting of the Board of which at least 21 days notice have been sent to all members of the Board.

Such resolution may give instruction for the disposal of any assets held by or in the name of the Board, provided that if any property remains after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities, such property shall be given or transferred to such other institutions or institution (having objects similar the some or all of the objects of the Board) as the Board may, with such approvals, as are necessary, determine.'

9.3 Due to staff changes it is advised that signatories to the Delegated Fund and Tourism accounts be changed.

At this meeting of the Todmorden Pride Partnership Board duly convened and held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2004 it was resolved:-

1. That an account or accounts in the name of Todmorden Pride be continued with Yorkshire Bank PLC
2. That the Bank be and are hereby authorised
  - (a) to honour all cheques and other orders or instructions authorising payment signed by ANY TWO of the authorised signatories listed below whether any account is or will become in credit or debit.
  - (b) to deliver up any item held by the Bank on its behalf in safe custody or for any other purpose against the written receipt or instructions of the signatory.
3. That these resolutions be communicated to the Bank and remain in force until revoked by notice given in writing to the Bank by the chairman or secretary or other member of the said account purporting to act on its behalf and the Bank shall be entitled to act on such notice whether the said resolutions or any of them shall have been duly rescinded or not.

Authorised Signatories:

E. Anne Holdsworth  
Sheila Tordoff  
Cynthia Murray

## **10. Date of next meeting**

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2004 at 6.30pm at The Old Hall, Todmorden