

TODMORDEN PRIDE PARTNERSHIP BOARD
Minutes of Meeting 19th October 2004
The Old Hall, Todmorden

Attended by:

Cllr Clare Townley
Cllr Michael Taylor
Cllr Ruth Goldthorpe
Cllr Myra Townley
Cllr Margareta Holmstedt
Cllr Dorothy Jordan
Francis Boocock
Chris Edwards
Mary Clear
Ed Collins
Jennifer Jackson
Linda Young
Kelsang Tsalden
Alan Darwin
David Storah
Cynthia Murray
Anne Lee
John Bates

In attendance:

Hilary Brooke
Anne Holdsworth
Clare Madders
Adrian Rose

Apologies:

James Gregory
Malcolm Birkett
Chris McCafferty MP
Gareth Brookes
Sheila Tordoff

1. Welcome and Apologies

It was noted that Cllr Clare Townley would chair the meeting, in the absence of James Gregory.

The chair asked the members to state one thing they particularly like about Todmorden and one thing they would like to see improved. This is detailed below in no particular order and some comments were made by more than one member, such as friendly people, community groups & night time safety issue.

LIKE ABOUT TODMORDEN	WOULD LIKE TO IMPROVE
Many voluntary & community groups	Safety & security at night. Police presence
Diversity of people / groups	Stop complaining – get involved
Close community / community spirit	Co – ordinated townscape
Heritage / people combination	Walsden – Hollins Mill complex
The town itself	Change image that nothing much happens in Tod
History of Todmorden	Future that Todmorden holds
Hills & views	Tipside
Unitarian Church	Integration of newcomers
Escaped 70's / 80's neglectful development	Influence development now to stop destruction of what is here
Friendly people	Something for young people to do – clubs, cinema, etc
	Local Employment opportunities

It was agreed to go straight into discussion re the Halifax Road corridor as Cllr Taylor needed to leave the meeting early.

5.3) Halifax Road -

An update was given from the meeting held on 30th September with CMBC chief planning officer and others re Halifax Road and other sites in Todmorden & Walsden. Copy of notes from that meeting distributed with these minutes.

Paul Nutton has subsequently been commissioned to prepare three example schemes for the Halifax Road corridor. These are just ideas to aid discussion as to the Boards aspirations for the future of this site. It is important for Todmorden Pride to discuss this issue over coming months so as to provide a clear guidance to all the local CMBC Councillors about the backing and support being given by Todmorden Pride.

The three example schemes are: mixed use, employment use with small units, employment use integrating bus garage. Board members viewed the plans.

It was noted that First Bus are looking for a new site asap and that there are also perceptions that other large firms in Todmorden are looking to either relocate or expand. This will aid growth of jobs in the town.

Also noted that the Town Council had been approached by companies interested in relocating to the corridor area, but have been put off so far by the current owners who wish to gain residential land value for their land and buildings.

It would not be feasible for many individual companies to try and buy small plots on this land. It may be feasible to bid to Yorkshire Forward to acquire the whole area and develop as one comprehensive scheme.

This area is designated in the UDP as employment land. At present there are two separate planning applications submitted for this area, one to be a predominately housing mixed-use site and one for a supermarket. The planning committee will

look at these in terms of whether the land is redundant for current purpose. List of interested companies can be presented, but aids case if backed by Todmorden Pride.

Places of employment also have a positive knock on effect on the local retail economy.

Discussion followed about an 'appropriate' mixed-use scheme, but the need for strict controls over industry or would cause major issues to those in the housing. This is the experience of the Town Councillors. A supermarket may not be best placed there in terms of access to the town centre, justification of need /demand and available employment sites.

It was agreed by the board that the preference is employment use; but only if a more concrete scheme can be developed soon, bearing in mind the current planning applications. It was therefore requested that Adrian Rose report back to the next Todmorden Pride board meeting as to progress, plans and firm commitment from companies to move onto the site i.e. letters, available funds and plans.

It was noted that the Board also felt that this needed to be realistic; with both quality and landscaping important factors in any such scheme.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th September 2004

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

3. Matters Arising

Following the additional meeting that was held on 30th September, it was noted that there had been a sub-discussion at that time between Alan Darwin and Wyn Jones, CMBC conservation officer about signage within the conservation area.

It was noted that if a conservation area assessment is to be undertaken in Todmorden that a formal request needs to be made by Todmorden Pride. The assessment is a longer term concern, as it would take up to 9 months to complete.

Noted that there are 18 conservation areas across Calderdale and thus there would need to be a very specific problem that needed addressing in Todmorden as the reason for undertaking this assessment.

Agreed that Adrian Rose would discuss with Alan Darwin away from this meeting, and the issue would be formally added to next agenda if appropriate.

4. Artist in Residence

Anne updated the board as to recent consultation. A market stall was hired for 3 days (7th – 9th October) where Alan Pergusy displayed examples of previous work and possible locations for public art in Todmorden. A questionnaire was also undertaken asking people what they felt was important to them in

Todmorden. Over half of all respondents stated the town hall. Other popular responses were the canal, market, general surroundings and the viaduct.

It is intended for the results of this consultation to be displayed in the TIC. A list of some of the responses was distributed.

Alan is now starting to look at specific projects, working in collaboration with local community groups, the College and Todmorden in Bloom, for example. As well as these smaller scale projects there will also be a culminating large piece of public art work.

It was noted that the town council felt the need for a screen between the bus station and the market to act as a wind break, and that this could be potentially be undertaken as a piece of art work. Anne to discuss further with Town Council.

5. West Yorkshire Sub Regional Investment Plan

5.1 Walsden –

Hilary provided an update. It was noted in the previous minutes (at point 5) that it was decision of the Board to support pursuance of CPO (compulsory purchase order) on the Northern Lights part of Hollins mill complex, if necessary; in order to realise aspirations of board and UCVR vision document.

Potential schemes currently being drawn up; further offers made but declined by owner. The owner had enquired for redevelopment along similar lines to the main mill, but other issues such as on flood plain, no parking, EA permanent requirements and local residents concerns over pedestrian safety.

5.2 Todmorden - Canal Corridor –

The District Valuer is still in negotiations with the owner's solicitor to gain access to the Sonarga for valuation purposes.

Again, potential schemes for the area are currently being drawn up and costings being put together re demolition, etc.

5.3 Todmorden – Halifax Road Corridor – detailed earlier in these minutes.

5.4 Todmorden – Bramsche Square –

A meeting has been held with some board members and Jason Jeffrey, as representative of the One Stop Shop. They are not adverse to improvements in the area and would consider moving to another premises within the square as long as they maintained a prominent position with close by parking.

More generally, all the retailers in the 'night and day' block could be relocated nearby into more attractive premises & location.

Again, potential schemes for the whole Bramsche Square area are currently being drawn up and will be discussed with all the retailers in that block. Hilary has already had initial meetings with the individual retailers. There will be full consultation on all the buildings in Bramsche Square, the streetscape, landscape and new health centre when all the developers/owners plans are available.

6. Current Funding Streams

6.1 – H E R S (Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme)

Cllr Clare Townley declared an interest regarding this item.

The MTI initiative came to a close on 31.3.04. Both the HERS and Business Grants funding are to keep momentum for development/improvement in the town until the WYIP hopefully brings in more funding in future years.

HERS is concentrated around the buildings of Fielden Square and is for creation of attractive new shop fronts, restoration of buildings and disabled access.

It would be hoped this scheme will be running for remainder of this and next financial year.

It was additionally noted that it would be beneficial to open up those buildings that back onto the canal, and follow the example set by the Bramsche Bar, which now has terrace to the rear overlooking the canal.

6.2 – Business Grants

Funded by Yorkshire Forward, there is £150,000 available, up to 50 % of the cost, for improvements to business premises along the three main roads within the town centre. However this funding to be spent before 31st March '05.

Some interest from businesses.

A copy of the grant information sheet will be distributed with the papers for the next board meeting.

There is potential to link the HERS scheme and Business Grants scheme, subject to relevant criteria for the schemes.

7. Review of MTI

Anne Lee updated the board as to progress with this final review of the MTI. The report shows all the works done in the town through the scheme and positively shows progress. It is hoped that copies can be distributed to board for the next meeting.

8. Any Other Business

8.1. It was noted that the Riverside Group had approached a board member to see if they could be represented on the Board. Noted that the board is currently at full quota in terms of membership. Membership of the Board should be in regard to professional skill and general interest in Todmorden, and not for one agenda/issue.

8.2. The EA have displayed a notice on the Rochdale Road gateway site regarding works and the need to access with plant and machinery. It was requested that this be investigated, and in particular regarding reinstatement after any works.

8.3. Ringfencing of funding. It was noted that the auction of the remaining Todmorden buildings, under CMBC property rationalisation, had been held

recently and that all the buildings had fetched a good price. It was noted that Cllr Taylor was following this question up. The Chair has also written to CMBC requesting access to funds raised to spend in Todmorden. It was requested that this be on the next meeting agenda.

8.4. Following question from some board members, it was reported that the flood lighting of town hall is planned to be done by end of October.

8.5. Agreement has been reached with British Waterways to take over maintenance of the Fielden Wharf amenity station. This will be re-opening on 1st November.

8.6. Town Hall. The Board were asked to think about ideas in regard to the future of the town hall, taking into account access (for locals & visitors), safety and the cost of running.

9. Dates of future meetings

30th November 2004
18th January 2005
1st March 2005
12th April 2005
24th May 2005
5th July 2005
16th August 2005
27th September 2005

all meetings are on a Tuesday at 6.30pm and are held at The Old Hall, Todmorden