

TODMORDEN PRIDE PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Minutes of Meeting 19th January 2006 The Old Hall, Todmorden

Attended by:

James Gregory (Chair)
Kath Gibson
Peter Cockcroft
Cllr Clare Townley
David Storah
Sheila Greenwood
Mary Clear
Sheila Tordoff
Simon Brearley
Anne Lee

Francis Boocock
Cllr Myra Townley
Cllr Margareta Holmstedt
Alan Darwin
Gareth Brooks
Chris Edwards
Malcolm Birkett
Linda Young
Jennifer Jackson

In Attendance:

Clare Madders
Adrian Rose

Apologies:

Cllr Michael Taylor
John Bates
Kevin Spencer
Ed Collins
Cynthia Murray

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed Kath Gibson, Principal Planning Officer (Conservation) and Simon Brearley to the meeting.

It was noted that item 4 on the agenda would have to be postponed again as Duncan Hartley would not be able to attend the meeting due to illness. It was hoped that he recovers soon.

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes from the previous meeting (8.12.05) were agreed as a correct record.

3. Matters arising

3.1 At 3.5 in the previous minutes the board had been given an update on the Original Factory Shop advertising consent application and subsequently requested that the planning officer be contacted and enforcement requested. This application is still outstanding as the planning department is awaiting an amended application, as reported at the last meeting, and this is the preferred solution.

The board queried at what point is pressure put on by development control to make the application come in - Clare to check.

The board also discussed that they could contact both the development control officer and the applicant direct, to express concern at the delays.

3.2 At the last meeting the board were informed about the proposed roadworks needed on Rochdale Road as part of the Environment Agency flood alleviation works and it was agreed to find out more detail as to CMBC's stipulations on the EA and to arrange a meeting if necessary.

The board were given additional information, provided by Colin Storton from CMBC Highways and there followed a discussion on this information. It was felt, further to the expertise of some board members, that this was still not acceptable and that a meeting should still be arranged with CMBC Highways, Tod Pride, EA & their contractors for the works. Tod Pride members to attend are the Chair, Malcolm Birkett & Cllr Michael Taylor if possible.

3.3 Mary distributed a form, currently used by the town council, that could be adapted by Todmorden Pride for use in regard to declarations of interest. This follows on from the discussion on membership & constitution at item 5 of the previous meeting.

It was *agreed* that board members would look over the form and come back with ideas and amendments at the next meeting.

5. Todmorden HERS scheme (Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme).

Kath Gibson, Principal Planning Officer (Conservation) introduced herself to the board and explained that, as part of this scheme, English Heritage require a conservation area character appraisal and development of a management plan for the conservation area.

Related to this Kath directed the board to the coursework undertaken by Anne Holdsworth, for her Urban Design course, as it identified key areas, buildings and views mainly related to the conservation area and considered opportunities for change.

Part of the aim of Kath's work is to identify positive characteristics, so that new development can build on these characteristics. The identification of negative areas also forms part of the appraisal. One aim of the resultant Management Plan is to therefore be a document used as a basis for decision making on planning applications in the conservation area.

As part of the appraisal the current boundary of the conservation area will also be reviewed. Justification as to the boundary needs to be given, but there is no specific limit as to where it should end. Therefore, for example, landscaped areas around the town could be included.

Kath outlined to the board the rough timescale for this work:

January □ Information gathering & fieldwork.

February □ informal consultation/discussion with members of Todmorden Pride and other local groups.

March/April □ major public consultation, including exhibition.

June □ Report to Council Cabinet. This is needed to get support for documents to be formally part of the Council's planning documents and officially be a tool for guidance on future developments.

A draft document will be produced for Todmorden Pride and others in the locality to comment on, and this will also form the basis of the wider public consultation. The general public consultation is likely to take the form of formal elements plus drop in sessions so that people are able to talk one to one with Kath. An example of additional publicity used in other areas of Calderdale is leaflet drops asking for views on specific issues. The Todmorden News could also be a good source to reach people, due to its high percentage of readership.

Related to this appraisal was some comment about the continued lack of movement on the Abraham Ormerod building, which is located just inside the conservation area boundary. A notice advertising it for sale again has appeared on the building this week.

As it is in the conservation area consent would be needed to demolish the building and the documents/management plan resulting from this appraisal would aid the decision process as to what could then go on the site, etc.

6. West Yorkshire Investment Plan update.

6.1 Funding Approval

The first tranche of projects have now had Yorkshire Forward approval for funding and are just awaiting contracts. Specifically related to Todmorden this includes:

Bramsche Square Project Worker □ officer to be appointed for a period of two years to concentrate on this complicated project. This will involve negotiations and discussions with a number of organisations on a number of key buildings including the Town Hall, Health Centre, Central Methodist Church, Retail Units, etc; with the overall aim of producing a strategy of feasible options for the area.

The issue of an office and meeting space for staff working on Todmorden based projects was raised. Adrian reiterated that there is currently no budget available for this. There is currently one office for the whole UCVR and this is located above the Visitor & Canal Centre in Hebden Bridge. This office is also used by other officers working in the Upper Valley and is therefore not an additional cost. Officers working on Todmorden projects need to also maintain a base/link in Halifax as many of the other Council contacts □ highways, environmental health, etc □ are all based in the same building.

It was noted with regret that despite the number of Council owned buildings in the area that there is no office or meeting base focus for activities in Todmorden.

Other Todmorden projects approved in this first phase of funding are:
37-39 Rochdale Road - demolition & landscaping.

Other UCVR projects approved are: enhancement to streetworks in Hebden Bridge, namely to the paving and street furniture; & Ted Hughes Centre in Mthymroyd □ approval has been given for the next stage of detailed design. Negotiations are still ongoing with Railtrack in regard to the station building.

Halifax Road, Todmorden (see below) and Copley-Sowerby Bridge schemes are still being pursued but separately, so as not to cause delay to these less complicated projects. The Copley-Sowerby bridge scheme is awaiting the UDP Inspectors report. The Walsden scheme, centred on Hollins Mill, is currently parked □ until the Environment Agency make a decision about their flood alleviation plans for the area. The scheme will then be revisited and funding applied for if appropriate.

6.2 Halifax Road Scheme

Currently at the Heads of Terms □ stage on purchase of former Esso garage site and Hammer Mill (Kinghorn) site. Therefore looking promising that these purchases will be completed this financial year.

Finance is still awaiting approval from the Yorkshire Forward board and the scheme is also going to Calderdale's Cabinet next Monday (23rd) for approval.

6.3 37-39 Rochdale Road scheme

Further to Councillor request that the scheme go to Committee for decision, it has been confirmed today that the applications will go to the planning committee on Tuesday 31st January.

Any member of the board, or general public, can attend the meeting but only one board member can actually make representations at the committee meeting. The board therefore needs to decide today who will be the representative.

Cllr Clare Townley added that a Ward Councillor could also speak at the meeting, in addition to a member of Todmorden Pride.

It was also noted that a representative from the Town Council would probably also be allowed to speak at the meeting in addition to these two. It was therefore *agreed* to contact the town council to ask if a representative from their development committee could attend.

It was also noted that the town council had strongly reiterated their support for the scheme after receiving the applications from development control again now that the applications are going to be heard at committee.

It was agreed that the Todmorden Pride representative at the planning committee would be the Chair, James Gregory; with additional support from Cllr Clare Townley and a representative from the town council. Any other board members welcome to come along and show support (details to be distributed by Clare).

Addendum: Town Council approached and nominated deputy of their development committee to attend, Cllr Dorothy Jordan.

7. Future developments in Todmorden

The Chair opened the discussion by reminding the board that there are a number of potential development sites known to the board, within the Todmorden area. For example Brisbane Moss at Eastwood □ a large site of which only a small proportion is currently being used.

The UCVR vision document is an overall strategy for the Upper Valley that Yorkshire Forward have bought in to □ Within this umbrella each town should look to develop its own action plan centred on specific sites and opportunities. Ideally this should be a fluid document that can be kept up to date and altered as things evolve and change. Clare, as regeneration project officer for Todmorden, can lead on this with the board, linking in with the Bramsche Square officer work and any other relevant activity in the town; including the management plan to be developed by Kath Gibson in regard to the conservation area.

Related to this there is also the potential offer of enhancement to these resources by assistance from some post-graduate students on Lindsay Smales course at Leeds Metropolitan University. In terms of developing the Action Plan the students could be asked to look at specific sites. For example, a couple could work alongside the Bramsche Square worker whilst one or two others could be looking at the Brisbane Moss site, etc.

Whilst their creativity is important, a detailed brief would need to be given to the students to lead the direction of the work to best aid Todmorden Pride and officers working in the town. Feedback would also be needed after the work to filter down to what is realistic and could actually work, etc.

Another major future issue for Todmorden will be the development of the Town Hall. The future of Todmorden Tourist Information Centre will also be a major issue over the coming months too.

8. A.O.B.

8.1 UCVR

8.1.1 Executive Nominations

As there has been a recent review of the UCVR Partnerships constitution it is requested that nominated representatives for Todmorden & Walsden be reconfirmed.

It was *agreed* that Gareth Brooks would continue to represent Todmorden and Chris Edwards would continue to represent Walsden.

8.1.2 Action Groups

There has been a specific request from the Culture & Heritage group of the UCVR to see if a Todmorden Pride board member would be willing and able to attend the action group. It was also reiterated that board members are welcome to join any of the action groups and contact information can be obtained from Clare.

The board was requested to think about other contacts in Todmorden & Walsden who may be interested in joining some of the action groups.

The board were also asked, at the request of the Getting About Group, as to their views on the Todmorden-Burnley curve rail link. The board were generally supportive of any moves to see this reinstated but added that the impetus really needs to come from the Burnley side. Cllr Townley added that local Councillors have been trying to get this moving for a long time. There is no railtrack funding for this type of work.

8.1.3 Website Information

The board were informed that access to input data on to this website (www.ucvr.org.uk) has been given to Ruth & Clare from regeneration section at Calderdale Council. This is the website to which all the Town Team and Action Group minutes are uploaded, including Todmorden Pride.

The static information on Todmorden & Walsden was taken from the UCVR Vision document and is therefore somewhat dated.

It was *agreed* that Clare would put together an update to this website information and this would be presented to the board for approval at a future meeting.

8.2 Todmorden Pride finances

There is some funding in the Tod Pride accounts left over from the MTI funding that was given direct to the board to distribute.

The board also need to officially appoint a treasurer. It was thought Malcolm Birkett may be suitable (who had left the meeting at this stage) and requested that he be asked. It was also requested that a report is given to the board on this funding and any criteria or restrictions for spend.

8.3 Todmorden Pride Open Meeting

There was a brief discussion about the format, etc of such a meeting and the possibility of focusing on a particular topic or issue as well. There was some discussion about whether this could perhaps tie-in with the public consultation event for the conservation area appraisal (see item 5) or an event being held in early April by Todmorden Conservation group.

The meeting should include a verbal and written presentation about what Todmorden Pride has done over the last year, current aspirations and its membership.

Agreed that the open meeting be discussed more fully at the next board meeting.

8.4 Todmorden TIC

Anne Lee read a paragraph from the TIC Board Trustees as printed in today's Todmorden News.

8.5 Salford Way

Simon Brearley informed the Board that he understood that Calderdale Council would be looking to sell its interest in the seven industrial units on Salford Way.