

Todmorden Pride Partnership Board

28th July, The Old Hall, Todmorden

Present:

Anne Lee (Acting Chair)
Christine Holley
Chris Edwards
Cllr Myra Townley
Gareth Brooks
John Bates
Malcolm Birkett
David Storah
Cllr Margareta Holmstedt
Cllr Michael Taylor
Sheila Tordoff
Mary Clear
Alan Pergussey

In Attendance:

Clare Madders
Anne Holdsworth

Apologies:

James Gregory
Jack Taylor
Ed Collins
Kelsang Tsalden
Cllr Clare Townley
Peter Cockcroft
Alan Darwin
Cynthia Murray
Cllr Ruth Goldthorpe
Kevin Spencer (new MD at Weir Warman)

1. Welcome & Apologies

Anne Lee (Acting Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting (7th June)

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

3. Matters Arising

3.1 At item 5.4 of the previous minutes it was requested that Clare investigate the possibility of grant funding towards the restoration of a clock tower (namely the one on the Old Fire Station on Rochdale Road).

It was noted that quite recently a similar issue has arisen in regard to a mill building elsewhere in the borough and unfortunately there was no grant funding available for this. Private sponsorship would be the only way to achieve such restoration.

3.2 Cllr Taylor informed the board that he understood that the Abraham Ormerod building had now been withdrawn from sale by the Primary Care Trust (PCT). It was also noted that it is believed that the detail of the Abraham Ormerod Trust means that the building can only ever be used for health purposes.

There was brief discussion about the facade of the building, along with that of the Netto (formerly Kwik Save) building, and that both are good quality examples of 1920's buildings. It was requested that Clare enquire if there is any potential to have the facades Listed. It was also requested that Clare enquire as to the owner of the adjacent police flats, with a view to asking that they maintain the grassed area that faces onto Burnley Road.

4. 37-39 Rochdale Road (former Sonarga)

Detailed plans (*the same as those on display in the window of 37-39 Rochdale Road*) of the proposed landscaping designs were shown to the board.

The designs have tried to incorporate ideas provided by the board, such as entrance steps and lighting. The planting on the frontage will be such that it does not inhibit views to the wharf from the main road. The steps will be similar in style and material to those at White Hart Fold.

Lighting is a key element in the design, and takes account of the board's view that, as well as an amenity feature, this is also of great importance to limit anti-social behaviour and to encourage users of the site to feel safe.

It was noted that the plans have also been briefly discussed by the Town Council, who have a general consensus of support for the building to be pulled down and landscaped. This will be discussed more formally at the next Town Council meeting and a formal letter of support submitted in due course.

British Waterways have also stated that they are in support of the plans to landscape the site.

Cllr Taylor added that it was important to note that the building had failed in every use it had been put too for at least the past 30 years. Such factors are important to state in the justification statement that needs to be submitted with the Conservation Area Consent application.

The Board agreed that they were happy with the designs for the landscaping scheme. The Board agreed for the planning application and conservation area consent application to be submitted in Todmorden Pride's name.

5. Town Artist Update

5.1 Postcards depicting some of the work that was shown in the light projection display last year were handed out to members of the board. The postcards are available, free of charge, from the library, tourist information centre and some local retailers.

5.2 The plaques for the plaque trail have now all been cast. These are made of solid bronze and the outer frames are made of stainless steel. The outer frames have been produced as a gift in kind by Weir Warmans. The plaques should be going up very soon on a number of walls and buildings around the town and an accompanying leaflet will be available. The official launch will be in September.

The bronze Todmorden Pride plaque was passed around for board members to see.

5.3 The steel planters are all now in place on the gabion wall at Fielden Wharf and the first batch of fish should be going up soon.

5.4 Alan Pergussey (the town artist) has now also been commissioned by the Environment Agency to create panels containing artwork for two footbridges over the river. The panels are to represent various groups within the town, including Todmorden Pride. On one bridge the panels will be 2m x 1m and on the other 1m x 60cm in size. The panels will be made from laser cut steel on one side and gun metal on the other side.

Alan showed the Board two example ideas for the Todmorden Pride panel - one depicting a number of landmark buildings in the town, with the sun rising behind them; and the other one showing some of the detail at the top of the town hall frontage.

The Board were asked for their views on these two ideas and to also state any additional ideas or suggestions for the Todmorden Pride panel.

The Board agreed to choose the panel with the buildings and the sunrise behind (agreed by a vote of 8 for and 3 against).

5.5 Anne informed the Board that the Arts Council grant needs to be spent & claimed back by the end of August. An evaluation is therefore currently being put together for the Arts Council. As previously reported, the Arts Council are keen to see this project extended and as such funding bids have been submitted to a number of organisations to see if the project can be extended to the rest of the Upper Calder Valley. These funding bids also seek to employ a strategic artist who could then work with architects, planners, etc at the initial design stage of projects in the Upper Valley.

6. A.O.B.

6.1 Ashenhurst Doorstep Green. Anne informed the board that, after 2 years of discussions, the land transfer finally went through yesterday. This is a project, funded by the Countryside Agency, to create amenity spaces for local areas.

The community group in Ashenhurst are therefore now reforming to work on the scheme, once the contractor side of the work is complete.

6.2 At previous board meetings it has been mentioned about the number of banners appearing on the railings outside St Mary's church. It has been ascertained that there is a form that needs to be completed to obtain a permit for having a banner here and so if any board member wants to check if a banner has permission they can ring 01422 392930, which is within Calderdale's highways department.

It was requested that Clare see if the permit forms can be available for people to get from Customer First.

6.3 Planning update. Planners have refused the application for new signage at The Original Factory Shop (the site of the former antique centre on Halifax Road). They are currently awaiting further detail and an amended application.

6.4 David Storah informed the board about an article that had appeared in the 'Rossendale Free Press' seeking a new home for some grindstones. It appears the stones had originally been within the Todmorden boundary but were then taken to Bacup, and are now looking for a new home. It was noted these would be ideal for use within a fountain, which would tie in with the Town Council's aspiration to see a water feature within the town centre – something that there may be potential for with the Bramsche Square transformational project (which is currently awaiting Yorkshire Forward approval).

It was agreed that the Town Council would investigate this issue and that Todmorden Pride would support the return of the stones to Todmorden.

6.5 Clare informed the Board that she had today attended an event to launch the 'Common Purpose Local Links Project'. Copies of a document summarising the project were distributed (further copies can be obtained from Clare). A member of Todmorden Pride would be welcome to participate in the course/project.

6.6 Mary informed the Board that the market lights (underneath the stalls) are to be kept on until 4am on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights to see if they act as a deterrent to anti-social and criminal behaviour. Crime figures will be monitored to assess their effect.

6.7 Mary also informed the board that she has a number of disposable cameras (with pre-paid processing) that she is handing out to people to take photo's of issues of concern and elements they do and don't like in the town. It is hoped that an exhibition of these photographs can then be shown at the end of the year. If any board member would like a camera, please contact Mary.

Date of next meeting – Thursday 8th September, 6.30pm at The Old Hall, Todmorden.