

## **TODMORDEN PRIDE PARTNERSHIP BOARD**

### **Minutes of Meeting 27<sup>th</sup> July 2006 The Old Hall, Todmorden**

#### **Attended by:**

James Gregory (Chair}  
Malcolm Birkett  
David Storah  
Cynthia Murray  
Louise Young  
Anne Lee  
Cllr Dorothy Jordan  
Mary Clear  
Sheila Greenwood  
Allan Fiddling  
Cllr Margareta Holmstedt  
Cllr Claire Townley  
Chris Edwards  
John Bates  
Cllr John Ford  
Gareth Brooks

#### **In Attendance:**

Sue Leffman  
Tony Mullin

#### **Apologies:**

Sheila Tordoff  
Peter Cockcroft  
Lynne Midwinter  
Alan Darwin

#### **1. Welcome**

The Chair welcomed Counsellor Ford to the meeting and pointed out that regulations required a Cabinet Member to be part of the board.

Also welcomed was Louise and board approval was given for her inclusion.

A student was attending the meeting as part of his thesis, looking at the “romantic” sentiments businessmen had towards industry, in particular the care of buildings and investment strategies.

#### **2. Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting (25/5/06) were agreed as correct apart from item 6.4 Halifax Road regarding the scheme drawn up by Anne Holdsworth. The minutes state that “if such a scheme, as shown in Anne’s design, could be achieved on the site, then the Board would be very happy with this”. It was pointed out that in fact the general feeling of the board was that the scheme was not workable. The Chair agreed that there were grave reservations as to the feasibility of the scheme.

#### **3. Matters Arising**

**3.1** Halifax Road – The planning appeal has been successful and the owners would market the site with maybe three sites being jointly developed. Two developers had put forward a fully comprehensive mixed - use scheme. If the YF money cannot be used for the Hammer Mill and the Petrol Station scheme then we should ask that it is used to support a scheme providing more employment with the use of better quality materials. There is an opportunity there for YF to show they are doing something realistic and the developers need to be encouraged.

**3.2** The Chair put forward a proposal to the board that the semi detached houses by the car park of the Poly Hi Solidur site need to be flattened to improve the presentation of the Halifax Road sites. There could be a Gateway Garden constructed

in their place. One of the semis had been acquired through the PFI budget and the other one needed to be bought. It was felt that if one of them was occupied then the residents needed to be handled properly.

It was agreed that the board aspires to having the buildings removed.

**3.3 Action Plan** – the Chair had met with Claire Madders and there was still work to do before the plan could be finalised.

**3.4** The Chair reported that 3 groups of post grad students from Leeds had been doing a study in Todmorden looking at the Halifax Road site and Bramsche Square. No suggestions yet but photo - copies of their findings will be available by request.

#### **4. YF Partnership Skills Programme**

The Chair introduced Tony Mullin to the board.

Tony outlined the formation of MBED and described how the company had won a tender from Yorkshire Forward to support Town Teams by providing Facilitators to deliver the Partnership Skills Programme over a 2 year period. Two facilitators were operating under the umbrella of the UCVR and they would be attending the Town Team and UCVR Exec meetings. Tony had already had a guided tour through the town and was now looking to see how they could put their skills and time to best use. At the end of the process an agreed set of proposals would be taken to the UCVR Exec.

Tony had identified that the Action Plan needed finishing with final approval from the Council. People would need to be involved in workshops to underpin the Action Plan and to keep the programme going by developing partnership skills and thus providing evidence of a skill transfer.

The Chair commented that it would be most helpful if a handbook could be produced detailing for example how Councils and Yorkshire Forward worked, how to understand the language etc. Councillor Ford said that it would be useful also to know how Yorkshire Forwards “single pot” worked across 5 authorities as things change all the time and the demands on YF are greater as European funding reduces.

Tony requested that going forward based on what he had heard he would bring proposals back to the board for approval by the end of August.

#### **5. Local Group Presentation – Todmorden in Bloom**

The Chair wished to invite groups to the meetings who could improve the physical look of the town and it was mentioned that a presentation could be done by the Hippodrome people who were hoping to renovate the exterior and interior of their building.

Sheila gave a presentation and update on Todmorden in Bloom including the sponsorship of the barrier baskets, new railings and landscaping at Patmos garden, Bird Cage Walk and St Mary’s Garden watering and maintenance, Fielden Wharf, hanging baskets and banking at the Railway Station, the Acorn Centre, Memorial Gardens and entering for the Yorkshire in Bloom competition where the results were expected at the beginning of September. Todmorden had entered for the sixth time and had previously achieved first place in three categories.

Mary said that crime figures in vandalism were 40% down. She went on to report that there were plans to improve the Railway Station with an extension to the car park and Todmorden was to be marketed as a Cycling Gateway. There was also a campaign for disabled access.

John updated the board with progress with the environmental works on the park. Seeding was to take place in September, trees were to be added with plants and a new hedge.

## **6. UCVR – Projects Update**

**6.1 37-39 Rochdale Road** – Sue reported that the demolition work was now completed and a temporary security fence installed, to be replaced by a 2bar horizontal railing to give a clear view as drivers pass. Landscaping tender had gone out, completion of project in 12 weeks. Lighting and railings would be painted in Todmorden Green with blue lighting to light up the fish. Still to be decided as to who maintains the site with some budget left from the Town Artist for fish sculpture maintenance. Panels would be put up to separate the Golden Lion property.

**6.2 Bramsche Square** – Sue reported that a feasibility study in draft form would be available at the beginning of September. It was on target and would be on the agenda for the next meeting.

**6.3** The Chair brought up the matter of Tipside. The owner wanted to develop the site with 8 detached houses and 14 work units but there is a problem with access. The riverside area is scruffy and is not maintained. It could be made into a green car-park for the town's use but it is not known if the ground is stable so the question was asked if a landscape architect/surveyor could be funded. The Council may have done a plan but if so it had not been seen by any of the board members. A contamination report would be required to meet with new legislation. The area behind the market was also in a poor state and needed cleaning up – pressure should be put on the Council. There were some small funds left, £3500 in tourism, £4800 Delegated Fund and £5,400 Town Artist to be spent in any proper way. A feasibility study may produce a plan which could be agreeable to the owner, we need to take the initiative and not wait.

The board agreed to get some costings and begin an investigation without spending a great deal of money.

## **7. Election of Vice Chair, Treasurer & Secretary to the Board.**

The following appointments were proposed and seconded:

Chair – James Gregory, Vice Chair - Claire Townley, Treasurer – Malcolm Birkett.

The office of Secretary would be decided at a later date.

Claire would take up the problem now facing us regarding the lack of administrative support /assistance from Calderdale, with such person to be based in the town.

## **8. A.O.B.**

**8.1** Engineers had been out to look at the land next to the lock at Fielden Wharf, the idea being to extend a walkway from the Wharf up to the lock.

**8.2** The Chair asked if members could give some thought as to how the remaining monies could be spent.

**8.3** The Chair proposed to write a letter to Claire Madders on behalf of the board thanking her for her support.

**8.4** The chair of the UCVR Executive Committee was keen to join Todmorden and Walsden together as one Town Team. It was agreed by the board that representatives of both Walsden and Todmorden should continue to represent the towns on the Executive Committee.

**Date of Next Meeting: 28<sup>th</sup> September 2006**