

Todmorden Town Centre Development Board

13th January 2015

Attendees:-

Councillor J Booth (Chair)	Claire Butler (<i>Project Manager, Corporate Projects</i>)
Councillor J Battye	Joanne Gott (<i>Programme Manager, Corporate Projects</i>)
Councillor P Caffrey	Ian Gray (<i>Director, Economy & Environment</i>)
Councillor D O'Neill	Andrew Pitts (<i>Head of Neighbourhoods</i>)
Councillor S Press	Robin Tuddenham (<i>Director, Communities</i>)
Councillor S Sweeney	

Welcome & apologies:-

Apologies were received from Councillor Hatfield, Councillor Rez and Councillor Thompson.

Market Traders' Presentation

Representatives from the Todmorden Market Traders committee attended the meeting to provide an update and answer any questions from Board members. The following points were noted:

- A joint committee comprising indoor and outdoor market traders has been established, and is currently developing a formal constitution for the group. The next meeting is in February.
- The market traders want to work with Todmorden Town Council and Calderdale Council to manage Todmorden Markets, using existing funding and bringing in additional funding where possible to re-invest in the indoor and outdoor markets. It was clarified that the group is not asking for an asset transfer of the Markets.
- Funding is needed to support (for example) repairs to the market hall, and better, fit-for-purpose outdoor market stalls. The group are also looking for somewhere for market traders to park that doesn't encroach on Bramsche Square car parking (leaving this free for customers), and are reviewing opening hours.
- It was noted that once the group has been formally constituted there may be more opportunities to apply for external funding. There are also local authority small grants, and ward forum grants that can be applied for. It was acknowledged that the group has already received some funding for feasibility work.
- Weir International (a local employer) launched an initiative whereby its employees were issued with Christmas vouchers to spend in Todmorden Markets. This has been a great success, and the group is looking to see if something similar can be done in future and/or with other local companies.
- The group has already spoken to Heywood Market in Rochdale to see if there are any lessons to be learned, but Heywood is a completely different model. Calderdale Industrial Museum was suggested as a possible alternative reference scheme. The market trader representatives explained that they will need ongoing support and advice from Council officers to understand the different models available and the pros and cons of each option.

Action: Officers to explain the different options available to traders, with pros and cons

Action: Traders to send a copy of their minutes to the Board

Agreement of minutes – 25th November 2014

Agreed.

Matters Arising

Action (c/f) : Officers to invite the EA to attend a future Board meeting to discuss the detail of the FRRS programme

All other actions were covered by the main agenda items.

Todmorden Town Centre Development Board

13th January 2015

Project Updates

1. Rose Street

Officers provided a recap of the development options for the site. It was noted that officers had not been able to arrange for the developer to attend the meeting and after discussion it was agreed to defer this to the next Board meeting in conjunction with a site visit of a similar scheme.

Action: Officers to invite developer representatives to attend the February Board meeting

Officers tabled an update received from Resilienti and advice received from CAFM as to next steps, which were considered and noted. Officers were asked to keep HCA updated.

Action: Officers to produce a summary of the development options for a Board decision to be made at the February Board meeting

Action: Officers to keep HCA updated

2. Ormerod site

Following a request from CMBC planning officers, ASDA has committed to carrying out various works to improve the appearance of the site and keep the buildings secure, including cutting back overgrown landscaping, removing graffiti from the buildings and generally tidying up the site. These works should be completed by the end of February.

3. Hope Street

Planning officers have written to the site owners advising that they will be instructing Legal officers to draw up a Section 215 notice. It is expected this will include a requirement to erect site fencing / hoarding and tidy up the appearance of the site.

Board members asked if there was any update regarding the Water Street traffic survey. Officers confirmed that traffic survey works are ongoing and that a Highways officer would be attending the February Board meeting to present the final report.

Town Hall HLF Project

Officers confirmed that Daniel Jessop has been appointed as the HLF Co-ordinator. Daniel has prior experience of working in the Fusilier Museum and Touchstones, and starts w/c 12th January.

Officers provided a brief update against each of the Town Hall priorities, as follows:

(1) Maintaining the building fabric

- Lift renovation works completed
- Works underway to renovate statues and roundel windows

(2) Marketing/Promotion

- Updated marketing leaflet has been produced and distributed in conjunction with Todmorden Information Centre
- Web content has been reviewed and updated and options for using social media are being considered

(3) Opening times

- It was noted that representatives from the Development Board had attended the last Town Council General Purposes Committee meeting for this item. It was explained that having a critical mass of occupancy levels would allow the building to be opened up more, and this would involve reviewing a number of options to locate staff, services or other facilities (as appropriate) within the building.

Todmorden Town Centre Development Board

13th January 2015

- Officers are also reviewing Town Hall bookings information with a view to identifying any opportunities to increase use of the current facilities.

(4) Celebrating the heritage of the building

- A specification has been agreed for the HLF Heritage Resource area, which will be delivered by Communities and CAFM officers working in conjunction with the newly appointed HLF Co-ordinator.

Key stakeholders have been invited to attend a consultation event being facilitated by the Communities team at the Town Hall on Saturday 31st January, to give their views on the vision for the building and possible reconfiguration options.

It was noted that there has been circa £150k investment in the Town Hall overseen by the Todmorden Development Board. This has been supplemented with additional investment from Todmorden Town Council to refurbish and improve meeting facilities.

Action: Officers to produce a 1-page summary of the Todmorden Development Board's activities to date

Centre Vale Park

Officers provided the following updates:

1. Parks for People bid

Unlikely that this will be taken forward in its current format, in light of feedback from HLF. Officers are meeting with the Friends of Centre Vale Park and the Town Council to look at ideas for other smaller funding applications.

2. Skate Park

The Environment Agency has now confirmed that they are happy that proposals will not compromise the flood alleviation scheme, which means that the development of the skate park can be progressed.

3. Environment Agency flood remediation works

The Environment Agency has completed much of the remediation works, but unfortunately these were interrupted due to bad weather. It is envisaged that the remainder of the works will be completed in Spring 2015.

4. Other updates

a. Bowling pavilion

Improvement works to the bowling pavilion are being taken forward by members of the bowling clubs, who have now formed an active group and obtained insurance cover.

b. Tennis courts

Officers are looking into bringing at least one of the tennis courts back into action (hopefully in time for Wimbledon 2015!).

c. Animal house

Officers are talking to a local reptile expert to look at ways of working together to enhance this facility.

d. Bandstand

It has been confirmed that no funding would be available from HLF as the bandstand isn't the original structure, but officers are exploring future options with the Friends of Centre Vale Park.

Todmorden Town Centre Development Board

13th January 2015

A press release for the above has been published in the Todmorden News.

AOB

1. Press releases

It was noted that some Board members had been asked about a Centre Vale press release but hadn't seen a copy of this in advance (although the press release made reference to the Board).

Action: Future press releases to be circulated to Board members at point of release.

2. Tod Pride

Cllr Press and Cllr Battye advised that they had attended a recent meeting with Todmorden Pride at which various questions had been raised about the Development Board. After discussion, it was agreed that it would be helpful to invite representatives from Todmorden Pride to the next Board meeting so that each group could provide an update on their activities and to facilitate future working between the two groups.

Action: Officers to invite the Chair and representatives from Todmorden Pride to the next Board meeting

Date of next meeting:-

Tuesday 17th February 2015, 5 - 7pm Committee Room A, Todmorden Town Hall.