

MEDIA RELEASE

HEBDEN BRIDGE TOWN HALL GROUP CHOOSE BAUMAN LYONS AS ARCHITECTS

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Hebden Bridge Community Association has announced that it has appointed Leeds-based architectural practice Bauman Lyons to work with it on plans for Hebden Bridge's landmark Town Hall building, currently the subject of an asset transfer proposal.

Bauman Lyons is a highly regarded practice established in 1992, which has undertaken a range of high profile projects in the Yorkshire area. It has an emphasis on combining creative regeneration schemes with high environmental and social sustainability. The firm's director Irena Bauman is a Commissioner of CABE (Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment) and a member of Yorkshire Forward Urban Renaissance and Market Towns panels.

"We are delighted to have Bauman Lyons working with us on the Town Hall project, and we are sure that they will bring a great deal to Hebden Bridge. Their track record suggests that they will be highly sensitive to local community views, whilst at the same time ensuring that new buildings are very high quality and built to last," says Karen Houghton, trustee of Hebden Bridge Community Association.

"We share your vision of community led developments and feel that we will be able to add value to the Town Hall project in terms of our experience and creativity. We are interested in working with you because your scheme is community led, because you are breaking new ground with ownership transfers, because the existing building is beautiful, because the existing development site

is difficult, because of your aspiration and because we are committed to working in Yorkshire,” says Irena Bauman.

Bauman Lyons was one of three architectural practices shortlisted and interviewed. Eleven architects submitted expressions of interest, from which a longlist of six firms was drawn up.

Hebden Bridge Community Association is a registered charity which has been established under plans to transfer Hebden Bridge’s grade II listed Town Hall from local authority to community trust ownership. The project has the endorsement of a very wide cross-section of the local community, and 450 individuals and groups have signed up as Friends of the Town Hall. The project team has ambitious plans both to renovate the existing building and to create new facilities, designed for small businesses in the creative sector and for community use.

Asset transfer of the Town Hall from Calderdale MBC to community ownership has been subject to detailed negotiations for more than a year, and a decision is expected shortly. Full details of Hebden Bridge Community Association’s vision for the building, and detailed plans for its proposed operation, are published on its website, www.hebdenbridgetownhall.org.uk. Bauman Lyons’ winning submission for the architectural work is also available here.