

MEDIA RELEASE

PARISH'S BIG GESTURE FOR TOWN HALL

One of England's smallest parishes has made a big contribution towards plans for Hebden Bridge's Town Hall.

Erringden parish council, covering just 50 or so houses and about 190 inhabitants, has decided to become a 'Gold' member of Hebden Bridge Community Association, the community-run charitable trust which is leading plans to take over the running of the Town Hall from Calderdale. It joins another rural parish, Heptonstall, which has also become a Gold member. In total, over 450 organisations and individuals have demonstrated their support for the initiative by becoming members of the Association and Friends of the Town Hall.

"We may be a small parish, but we wanted to make a big gesture in support of the Town Hall plans," says Mrs Veronica Stuttard, chairman of the parish council. "The Town Hall, as well as having the offices of Hebden Royd Town Council, is also our base and we use the fine council chamber and offices for our own parish business."

"We are grateful to Erringden parish council for this vote of confidence in what we are trying to achieve," says Mr Andrew Bibby, one of the Community Association's trustees. Erringden's latest contribution, of £100, follows two earlier grants from the parish. Wadsworth, Heptonstall and Blackshaw parish councils, as well as Hebden Royd Town Council, have also offered their support and financial help to the project.

Erringden parish, although having no church or shops within its boundary, has a long history. For over a century in mediaeval times it was the site of a deer park, and evidence of the park can be traced on the ground and in local place names.

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