

## ***Hebden Bridge Community Association***



### NEWS RELEASE

### COMMUNITY DEBATES FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF TOWN HALL SITE

Issued Feb 15 2010

A hundred and ninety people crowded into the main room of Hebden Bridge's Town Hall last Saturday morning when plans for major new community facilities for Hebden Bridge were up for consultation and discussion.

The event, called by Hebden Bridge Community Association (the charitable trust which is taking over Hebden Bridge Town Hall from Calderdale), provided an opportunity for the architects and trustees to share their ideas for the development of the land at the rear of the building. The plans include proposals for a new major public hall in a riverside setting beside the river Hebden.

Andrew Bibby, one of the Association's trustees, said: "We were overwhelmed by the response to the consultation and are enormously grateful for all the comments and suggestions which were made. We're still at a relatively early stage in terms of the consultation process, and our architects are now sifting through the ideas which Saturday generated."

The Association, who have been overseeing the details of the pioneering asset transfer of the control of the Town Hall, has also been celebrating two other landmark developments in the Town Hall project. Firstly, the Community

Builders fund has agreed to make a £75,000 grant to the project. This, the largest grant yet received by the Association, is to be used specifically for developing the final business plan and planning documents, to enable an application for £2m capital funding from the fund to be made later this Spring.

At the same time, the number of Friends of Hebden Bridge Town Hall has crossed the five hundred mark. “We started Saturday morning with 498 Friends, and enrolled another seventeen during the morning. Even if we haven’t yet managed to get a Town Hall commemorative mug in every single Hebden Bridge home, we have a depth of support within the town which we think is quite unprecedented,” Andrew Bibby says.

He stresses that Saturday’s consultation will be followed by others, as the plans take shape. “We promise that our planning application, when it finally goes in, won’t hold any nasty surprises. We will be looking for broad community support for what we’re proposing before we move forward.” He adds that more detailed consultation will be carried out on key issues for the town, including car parking provision.,

The morning’s consultation event, including two alternative suggestions for ways in which the site could be developed, were facilitated by the Association’s appointed architects, the prize-winning Yorkshire-based practice of Bauman Lyons.