

Hebden Bridge Community Association NEWSLETTER SEP 09



Open doors on Thurs Oct 8th, 5pm – 7pm

Follow the trail and blow the cobwebs away... It's Open House at the Town Hall.

We'd love you to come and discover the secret corners of what we claim is Hebden's finest building. Wander round the rooms, see what's going on, and tell us your ideas. What would you like to see happen here? What is the role of a Town Hall in the 21st Century?

We'll be staging some impromptu events/activities in some of the rooms, so don't be surprised as you wander round if there are musicians and entertainers there as well.

Our first AGM: Thurs Oct 8th, 7pm for 7.30pm

Our 'open doors' event will be followed by the first AGM for HB Community Association. This will begin at 7.30pm in the downstairs back room of the Town Hall, with light refreshments from 7pm. We'll be able to tell you in detail what's been happening. We'll also be electing our first ongoing Board of trustees (see below). Please come if you possibly can. (Formal calling notice below).

By the way, we brought forward the AGM date from Oct 15th, so it doesn't clash with the Fred Dibnah community event at the Picture House that evening.

Asset transfer bid to Calderdale - update

We are expecting Calderdale's Cabinet to take an in principle decision on the Town Hall's future and on the proposal for asset transfer to community ownership on October 5th. This is a long awaited moment and we will of course publicise any news as soon as we get it. Our formal application to Calderdale for the Town Hall can be consulted in HB library, and on our website.

Architects chosen

We are delighted to report that the Leeds-based architectural practice Bauman Lyons has been selected to work with us on plans for the building. We had eleven expressions of interest from architectural practices, longlisted six, and shortlisted and interviewed three. We feel that Bauman Lyons have a very good track record in relation to community-led projects like ours and that they will bring some inspiring and sustainable ideas for developing the Town Hall. They will be at the AGM on October 8th. You can also read their excellent submission on our website.

Wanted: volunteers to become trustees

Can we remind you to think about putting your name forward as a trustee and management Board member for the Town Hall project? Please read carefully the enclosed information. Don't be shy of coming forward!

Voting for the new Board of trustees

We are anxious to put in place robust democratic procedures at the very start of this project, and we are therefore very pleased that David Dempsey, Town Clerk, Hebden Royd Town Council, has agreed to be the independent election officer for the election of trustees. If you are a member of HB Community Association (ie, a Friend of the Town Hall aged 18+ or an organisation) you will be getting a ballot paper at the end of September. Please vote! Ballot papers can be sent in by post or returned at the AGM.

Grants coming in

As you may have read in the press, we are delighted to have been given a £10,000 grant from the Rotary Club of Hebden Bridge, towards the building work which will be needed to bring the back of the Town Hall into community use. We've also had a pledge of £5000 from the Community Foundation for Calderdale, and a £2000 grant from a London-based charity, the Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation. This is all enormously encouraging, and will enable us to get the building as it stands properly ready relatively quickly. We estimate we need £44,000 in total to complete this initial work, so are still fund raising for the shortfall.

Two funding applications being prepared

Longer term, we are actively engaged, in conjunction with Calderdale, in a £2m application to the European Regional Development Fund. We are also preparing a £2m bid to the new CommunityBuilders fund, government funding being administered by Adventure Capital Fund. This is primarily for major building work to create new facilities on the Town Hall site, focused on the proposed small enterprise centre. More details at the AGM and on our website.

Not too late to become a Friend of the Town Hall!

We have reached 450 Friends of the Town Hall, and still want to reach our eventual target of 1000 local individuals and organisations. You can enrol at the Book Case in Market St, or at the Town Council offices in the Town Hall. It's also easy to enrol online, using either PayPal or your credit card: go to www.hebdenbridgetownhall.org.uk

Volunteers needed too

We're very grateful to Sue Fenton, who has taken on the role of coordinator for volunteers. As this project develops, we're going to need lots of volunteer help, in lots of different ways. If you want to add your name to Sue's list, please contact her on suefentontrain@yahoo.com, 01422 844906

Making contact

To make contact with the interim management Board, please ring Andrew Bibby on HB 844026, andrew@andrewbibby.com

FORMAL NOTICE

The AGM of Hebden Bridge Community Association Ltd will be held at Hebden Bridge Town Hall, St George's Street, Hebden Bridge on Thursday October 8th at 7.30pm.

AGENDA;

1. Apologies for absence
2. Reports from trustees
3. Financial report
4. Announcement of result of election of trustees
5. AOB