

Hebden Bridge Community Association



Media release

Issued July 23rd 2010

JANET BATTYE THANKED FOR TIRELESS ROLE IN SUCCESSFUL TOWN HALL PROJECT

Janet Battye is to stand down as a trustee of Hebden Bridge Community Association, the 550-strong membership charity which runs Hebden Bridge Town Hall, the Association announced today.

Janet, who was instrumental in establishing the original working party which first mobilised to save the landmark Town Hall building as long ago as 2005, has worked tirelessly to see the project brought to fruition. In April this year, leasehold ownership and management of the building passed from Calderdale council to the Association, in a pioneering 'asset transfer' agreement. Hebden Bridge is one of the first communities in the country to have its Town Hall under community ownership.

Janet, who is a ward councillor for Calder ward, became leader of Calderdale council after this year's May elections. She has stepped down from her position as Association trustee in recognition of her new role, but promises to continue to give the Town Hall project her full support in a private capacity.

"I've been personally very committed to ensuring a long-term sustainable future for Hebden Bridge Town Hall, and I will miss no longer having any direct involvement in the initiative. But I know that the Town Hall now has a strong body of trustees, and

a very strong groundswell of support in the wider Hebden Bridge community,” she says.

Andrew Bibby, trustee and secretary of the Association, says: “Janet Battye’s contribution to the Town Hall project has been an enormous one, though she has been very modest in accepting the credit for what has been achieved. It has been very much her vision and determination which has got us to the point we’ve reached now, and we will miss her contribution as a trustee tremendously. We know that she has now got responsibilities for the whole borough of Calderdale, and we wish her every success in her ongoing role as council leader.”

Janet’s decision to step down comes six months after the then-Conservative controlled Calderdale council Cabinet formally endorsed the asset transfer decision for the Town Hall. Hebden Bridge Community Association is about to enter a planning application for a major £3.7m capital build development at the side and rear of the existing building.