



HEBDEN BRIDGE CREATIVE QUARTER

Enterprise units for digital and creative businesses in the heart of Hebden Bridge

APRIL 2011 NEWSLETTER

Here's an update on what's happening on the Hebden Bridge Town Hall development which – in less than a year – will make HB Creative Quarter a reality.

Building work to begin in April

We have just gone through a major tendering exercise for the main contractor for the building work. Six tenders were long-listed and three were short-listed, and we will be able to announce very shortly who has won the tender (it's a West Yorkshire company).

They will be beginning work very soon (as early as mid-April), when the hoardings will be going up. As soon as we know the likely schedule of developments, we will let you know, so you will be able to follow the building work week-by-week. We're even wondering if we can rig up a webcam, so you'll be able to see all the time what's happening on site.

Later on in the build (health and safety permitting) we hope to be able to organise some hard-hat tours for tenants and potential tenants of the Creative Quarter. Details in due course.

CQ website launched

We have now launched a special website, <http://www.hbcreativequarter.org.uk/>, which among other things includes all the detailed information about our plans which we made available at the January 20th meeting. The fact sheets are also all available as PDFs. You may want to have a look.

Units reserved

We're pleased to say that six of the Creative Quarter units have now been reserved, two on the first floor and four on the second floor. They include a design consultancy, an IT business support company, a computer games development business, and also (as you may have read in the press) the actors' agency North of Watford.

We also have a number of other businesses who we are meeting shortly to discuss possible units. This is very encouraging, and makes us feel that the Creative Quarter really will meet a real need in Hebden Bridge.

Sounding board

We have set up an informal 'sounding board', an opportunity for users and potential business users of the building to be able to influence aspects of the design. We are interested in things like the way the units will be fitted out, use of glass in corridors etc. If you are interested in being involved in these discussions, contact our project manager Karen Houghton on karenhoughton1@mac.com

Budget extends rates relief

As you may already have picked up, this year's Budget includes an extension to the current small business rates relief which was due to stop this September. This will now continue until 30 September 2012. The scheme provides eligible small business ratepayers with small business rate relief at 100 per cent on properties up to £6,000 rateable value. Although our units have not yet been valued for business rates, we strongly believe that they will be rated below that threshold. It means that anyone moving to the CQ units should be able to operate without having to pay business rates at least for the first six months.

Book now – save two months' rent

Don't forget that our offer of giving you your first three months rent for the price of one month is open only until the end of June. (It's a thank-you to those pioneering businesses who get involved in the CQ right at the start).

If you're potentially interested in becoming a tenant and want to talk through the options with us, give Andrew Bibby a ring on 01422 844026.



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