

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



### **NEWS RELEASE**

Issued Friday 17 December 2010

### **GREEN LIGHT TO TOWN HALL DEVELOPMENT**

Plans for major new facilities in Hebden Bridge's Town Hall have been given the green light. Building work is expected to commence in April 2011.

The development, which will give the town new community and enterprise facilities, was granted planning permission in October. Much of the funding needed is being provided by the Communitybuilders fund, administered by Social Enterprise Business.

"We're absolutely thrilled to be able at last to press the button for go," says Peter Hirst, chair of Hebden Bridge Community Association. "This is the culmination of months and months of detailed planning work and fund-raising. The new buildings, together with the newly created riverside courtyard, will we believe give the town fantastic new facilities for very many years to come."

The overall shape and appearance of the new buildings was the subject of several public consultation days earlier in the year and went through the planning process from July to October. Detailed work now on the interior finish – such things as the flooring and lighting – is now being undertaken by the Community Association's architects. Under the project timescale drawn up by the architects,

initial site investigation work will begin shortly, with the building tender issued in February.

“By this time next year the building should be close to completion,” Peter Hirst says. “We are aiming to have everything in place for a grand opening in the Spring of 2012.”

The Community Association will be posting regular updates during the construction phase on its website, and in a new initiative will also begin a Twitter feed in the New Year. ‘Hard hat’ tours of the building during the building period will also be arranged, subject to safety precautions.

The development includes a riverside hall, a new club room for the local light opera and youth theatre groups, meeting rooms and enterprise units. The plans also include a new public open space beside the river Hebden.

“This is the moment when the proposals we have been working on for so long begin to be translated into reality,” Peter Hirst adds.

Full details of the development are on [www.hebdenbridgetownhall.org.uk](http://www.hebdenbridgetownhall.org.uk).