

Hebden Bridge Community Association



MEDIA RELEASE

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Sarah is Town Hall's first executive director

The Hebden Bridge Town Hall project has taken a significant step forward, with the appointment by Hebden Bridge Community Association of its first Executive Director. The post, which carries the responsibility of overseeing the effective management of the Town Hall under community ownership, has been given to Sarah Lister-Blow.

Sarah is currently the Manager of The Gateway community centre in the Ravenscliffe area of Bradford, a successful community project which offers a range of facilities and services to local people. She is also working on a seconded basis for the new Inspire centre being developed by the Newlands Community Association in north-east Bradford. Inspire, like Hebden Bridge Town Hall, has received European ERDF and Community Builders funding to develop a major new building which will include both community and enterprise facilities.

Gwen Goddard, Vice Chair of the Community Association and the trustee who coordinated the recruitment process, said: "Sarah's experience and her obvious commitment to community-led initiatives like ours impressed us very much. We are sure she has the energy and the enthusiasm to make a real difference in Hebden Bridge, and to ensure that our new building, when it is finished next Spring, gets off to the best possible start."

Sarah Lister-Blow said: “I am looking forward enormously to working with the Association’s trustees and with the whole Hebden Bridge community to make the Town Hall project a real success. I’m delighted to be coming in to a project which has already demonstrated that it can transform a little-used landmark building into a real hub of community life.”

The post of Executive Director for the Hebden Bridge Community Association attracted applicants from across the country as well as from the local area and Gwen Goddard pays tribute to the high quality of the applications received. “We had some extremely well-qualified candidates from the Hebden Bridge neighbourhood, but also several strong applicants from well outside the West Yorkshire area. It’s always invidious to have to reject good people, but the selection panel agreed unanimously that Sarah was the right person for us.”

Sarah lives in the Thornton area of Bradford, but knows Hebden Bridge well and has many friends in the upper valley. She will be taking up her post in the Town Hall in January.

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Note to editors

Full details of Hebden Bridge Community Association can be accessed at www.hebdenbridgetownhall.org.uk and from Andrew Bibby, 01422 845799.