

Hebden Bridge Community Association



MEDIA RELEASE

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“We aim to be considerate,” says Town Hall contractor

The West Yorkshire contractors undertaking the construction work on Hebden Bridge’s Town Hall extension have pledged to work as closely as possible with the local community.

Brian Fletcher, the site manager for Strategic Team Group (STG) which has been awarded the contract, will be operating from an office inside the old Town Hall fire station garage. “I like to feel that I’m approachable,” he says. “Getting on well with the neighbours is very important, and I encourage people to come over to the office. If there are problems, I’d rather know about them, rather than people struggling on without telling me.”

Brian, who has a degree from the University of Salford in construction project management, has worked on a full range of construction projects, including some tricky sites in Manchester and Liverpool city centres. He is confident that this experience will stand him in good stead for the task of building right in the heart of Hebden Bridge’s town centre.

Site safety is obviously paramount. Permanent hoardings will be going up along Hangingroyd Lane shortly (though with windows to allow people to look in on progress). Noise is another concern, although Brian says that his firm has chosen to use much quieter auger drilling technology rather than hammer-driving the

foundation piles. STG has signed up for the 'considerate contractor' scheme, which includes regular independent assessment of the site. "I don't want noise and dust. As Manager, I personally monitor the site to ensure it's safe and tidy. To be fair, that's the way that you have to do it nowadays," he says.

Deliveries are going to be trickier than they would be on a green-field site with plenty of space. STG has agreed procedures which will see waggons cross St George's Bridge and turn up Hangingroyd Lane. Banksmen (people positioned at the front and rear) will then control the reversal of the vehicle alongside the site, where materials will be unloaded. "We've had a good think about the arrangements, and [Calderdale] Highways have approved the plan. We should still be able to maintain the traffic flow," Brian says.

The section of the building adjacent to the Hole in the Wall pub is to be constructed of steel frame, and Brian says that this will go up relatively quickly. "Over a few months, the shape of the new building will emerge," he says. But then the impression may be that work has slowed down. The building's exterior will be complete but inside there will still be a considerable amount of fitting-out to do.

STG has a policy of offering hard hat tours whenever possible, especially for local schools, allowing children to understand how the construction process works. Brian suggests that children may want to bury a time capsule under the building, an idea which the Town Hall trustees have already agreed to follow up with local schools.

The construction work on the new Town Hall extension has been funded partly from support from the European Union for the region's economic development, through the Yorkshire and Humber European Regional Development Fund programme 2007-13. The programme provides investment support to help regions improve their economies and help local businesses, people and communities to improve their prospects.

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Note to editors

1. Full details of the asset transfer and of Hebden Bridge Community Association can be accessed at www.hebdenbridgetownhall.org.uk.

More information: Andrew Bibby, 01422 845799

2. Yorkshire and The Humber ERDF Programme 2007-2013

The European Regional Development Fund Programme is managed by Yorkshire Forward on behalf of a regional partnership including the National Government, European Commission and local bodies. The programme has €583 million from the European Regional Development Fund to invest by 2013.

Further information about the ERDF Programme in Yorkshire and The Humber, including information about the projects that are receiving ERDF Investment, is available at www.yorkshire-forward.com/erdf

European Regional Development Fund

The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) was set up in 1975 to stimulate economic development in less prosperous regions of the European Union.

ERDF is provided to support the European Union's cohesion policy that seeks to redress imbalances in development between regions and Member States. It is used to support projects that can help local economies address the challenges of globalisation and contribute to delivering Europe's 2020 strategy of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

Information about the European Union's support for regions is available at www.ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index_en.htm



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