



Minutes of Todmorden Business Association Meeting  
Held Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2011, 6pm at The Bear Cafe

**Attending** Lynne Midwinter, Nicki Hewson Betts, Sarah Helliwell, John & Gitta Tattersall, Rosemary Holcroft, Michael Uren, Sandra Evans and Carl Warburton, Hazel Bregazzi, Kay (The Bear), Pam Warhurst

**Apologies** Rhian Warhurst, Margaret Grant

- **Minutes of Last Meeting**

Were agreed as being an accurate representation of the meeting, by those who had attended.

- **Matters Arising from Last Minutes**

All in hand, but nothing to report

- **Guest Speaker**

Pam came to speak to talk to the Business Association about the proposed canal improvements and the Green Route. There are proposed canal improvements that have been suggested and supported by Tod Pride. The plan is to put in better access points, improve walls and surfacing and to put in more seating between the lock and the Lever Street /Oxford Mill area. (RH has asked if this would increase the chance of flooding. But it was thought that this would have been looked into by those doing it). Linking in with this is the Green Route – which is being led by IET. The background to this is that IET invited about 10 people to Tod to see how the town could be supported. A couple of ideas came up – one of them was the asset transfer of the market into a Todmorden community venture; but other groups are interested in this and there are possible issues around what is going to happen with the environment agency works. So they decided to leave this alone.

This led them to propose a green route. They took the centre of the town – but there is a road that splits it and stops visitors from going to all the parts of the town. The idea behind the green route is to give the whole town something – a route around linking all the brilliant buildings and introducing visitors to businesses around town. It is also planned that it would take in as many of the growing spaces – maybe some exhibition gardens, vertical growing sites etc. Tod already had vegetable tourists, so should cash in on this.

There is a steering group for this project which includes representatives from the market traders, Tod Council, Rotary, the Renaissance Group, artists group, Beekeeping group, Tod Pride, Station Partnership, Tod in Bloom and IET. This is going to be an inclusive project, not least because it takes in so much of the town.

The suggested route is as follows

train station>Rise Lane>Old Hall>in front of the Library>under on to the canal>along the newly developed canal bank>edible on the side of the canal to Lever Street>come out by the apothecary garden at the health centre>over to the Hippodrome>up towards Myrtle Street>Rose Street>behind the market hall>round the front of the market>Town Hall>along Water Street>back to the Library. Tod in Bloom is going to be doing wharf.

There is a funding stream and a bid for £60k has been put into the Peoples' Lottery based on bees. If this is won/awarded there will be a lot of bee things incorporated into the green route – plants that bees love to help to reintroduce bumble bees, bee education elements.

Garden Organic, who are a leader in exhibition gardening are going to support as well.



There are also plans to put an Skills Academy in along to the route. This could be a proper community resource where people could learn how to plant and grow edibles, cook, build a garden, look after chickens etc.

This is a long-term 3 year plan. The first part of this is the canal regeneration, which will be happening very soon.

All present agreed that this was a very ambitious, exciting plan that could only do good things for Todmorden.

Thanks were offered to Pam for attending and presenting to the meeting.

- **Treasurer's Report**

Have some accounts in the office.

67 letters have been sent out about membership subs. It was thought that we could target more businesses than this. LM said that Creative Graphics have some databases of local businesses. NHB agreed to approach Debra at Creative Graphics to see if they would be happy to give us a database so that we can mailshot other businesses. This needs to be completed before Made In Tod.

- **Administrator's Replacement**

LM has seen someone who is interested. NHB, SH and MU have all seen her cv and agree that the candidate would be suitable. LM is going to speak with her, to try to organise a meeting with LM and NHB. It was thought that it might be good for her to come to the next meeting.

NHB's potential candidate has decided that she would not be able to do it because of the evening commitments.

- **Made In Tod 2011**

The stalls are nearly all gone. There are quite a lot of people thinking about it. If they all say “yes” then may need to find one or two others. The Food Court has The Bear, Hanuman Thai and Emma's Cupcakes.

NHB has contacted Damion Priestley to see if can get into the Town Hall to set up on the evening before the event. Unfortunately Damion's day off is Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March so this will not be possible. It was thought that NHB should contact him again to see if there is any opportunity for access before the event otherwise it will be a nightmare on the morning.

It has been thought that, as we have not been approached for space on boards, that we should not ask to borrow the boards from the Art Group. SH does usually use a board, but is happy to accept an “upgrade” to a stall, in return for the work that she does for the Association.

LM needs to check the banners for Bird Cage Walk and the front of the Town Hall to see if anything needs changing on them. We have permission to erect the banner on Bird Cage Walk.

The drop down banners for the lamp-posts have been a nightmare again – even though this was supposed to be an apology for the ones at Christmas being done incorrectly. It is not the printers that are not doing it, but a third party. It was agreed that we should wait until we actually have had the banners delivered before trying to get them put up, so that we dont get charged more than once by Calderdale Council.

HB will sort out a design for fliers, posters and handouts (to be given out at the door). Will use Creative Graphics to produce them as the stuff that they produced for Todmas they were able to turn around very quickly, and reasonably priced.



Will need 100 A4 posters, 5000 hand fliers – for schools, markets, shops etc, and 1000 fliers to be handed out on the door.

It was discussed whether it would be a good spend to make the parking free in the market on the Saturday. It was agreed that it would as it would encourage out of town visitors to stay longer and visit other businesses. LM will approach Adrian Rose for this. Will need to do a sign for the parking meters for the Saturday as well – please HB.

IET have asked local producers to stand on the market on either/both days of Made In Tod to increase the offerings of the market.

- **Supermarkets Update**

Netto have resubmitted plans and are now planning to demolish the facade now as well. Tod Pride had a hand in the resubmitted plans and are happy to support them.

The TBA stance still is that we are against all supermarkets.

SE had a flier put through her door saying that there is a public meeting at 7pm on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February to fight supermarkets. There is no indication on this flier who has called the meeting. MU is going to go.

**Next Meeting**

This will be after Made In Tod, on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March, at 6pm at The Bear.