



Minutes of Todmorden Business Association Meeting
Held Wednesday 12th January 2011, 6pm at The Bear Cafe

Attending Lynne Midwinter, Nicki Hewson Betts, Sarah Helliwell, John Tattersall, Rosemary Holcroft (Water Street Gallery), Hilary Watson (Business Development Manager for Yorkshire Bank), Michael Uren, Sandra Evans and Carl Warburton, Rhian Warhurst, Catherine and Debbie (The Bear)

Apologies Hazel Bregazzi, Brenda Whiting

- **Minutes of Last Meeting**

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

- **Matters Arising from Last Meeting**

All in hand, but nothing to report

- **Guest Speaker**

Hilary Watson (contact details, 07850 726980, hilary.watson@eu.nabgroup.com,) came to the meeting. She was there to discuss what Yorkshire Bank could do for new businesses to them and new (ie start-up businesses) – she is a Business Development Manager. The bank offers free banking to new businesses to Yorkshire Bank, and they promise that the relationship will be managed within the Todmorden office.

If anyone wants further information about the deals they should contact Hilary direct for more information.

JT challenged her that something should be given to existing customers, and that the current system of offering deals to new business simply encourages people to keep moving their business and that no real relationship can develop.

LM asked why does there seem to be lots of people behind the scenes in the Yorkshire Bank and only one or two on the front desk serving – even if there is a large queue. RW enforced this, by saying that this was why she moved her personal banking from there last year.

On a positive note, the TBA statements are now going to the right address and are being correctly addressed and the direct debit that was going out erroneously has been corrected. Those present agreed that it was good of a bank representative to come to a meeting. LM said that this is the first time that this has happened. Thanks were offered to Hilary for her attendance.

- **Treasurer's Report**

Have done draft accounts.

Telephone and internet banking is set up and forms need countersigning.

SH is going to send out the letter reminding people that their subscriptions are due. NHB needs to prettify the letter. Will do this and drop it into SH on Monday 17th January.

- **Administrator's Report**

Has been concentrating on Made In Tod, so hasn't been pushing membership too much. Suggestions for membership are Cassons Flower Studio, Todmorden News Centre, Curried Away and Robinwood Activity Centre.



- **Christmas and Todmas**

Feedback on Todmas

The Bear didn't know about the Christmas brochure and they definitely want to be in it next year and to have more input to try to get people as far as their end of Water Street.

It was suggested that on the late night opening, the road closure could start earlier, at about 4pm, to start the festivities earlier and maybe get people interested on their way home from the school run. No banks stayed open. It was suggested that this was because the people who can say "Yes" to things outside of the norm aren't based in Todmorden.

The wrapping of the trees looked very effective. NHB has received an email from someone who works for South Ribble council who drove through and saw the trees and wanted to know how we had done it.

The Todmas lamppost banners looked good – initially anyway. LM has had a row with the printing company who made them over them using double-sided tape on the pockets and not having stitched pockets. When these banners come down they are going to take them and stitch the pocket holes. They have also offered to produce the next set of banners for free. It was suggested that we get a set made for Made In Tod.

It was good to have logos, but because Hazel was producing posters for so many events, they all started to merge a little bit. Bigger changes were made to the posters as the process went on, so that they started to look more different.

Was twelve days too many? Some of the events might need to be amalgamated next year.

Multi-site functions didnt work

The Chicken event was brilliant, but maybe the High School was too far out for it to be a proper success.

We got quite a lot of brochures out. LM has asked Churches Together for proper feedback. But it is thought that some of the churches werent able to get the distribution that they wanted. This was due to the poor weather at the beginning of December. There was too much snow and ice for little old ladies to be hiking around with big bags of brochures.

Feedback on Christmas Party

Need more people to attend. Have done party with Rotary in the past, but TBA and Rotary want different things.

Need to think properly about it and decide what, where, when and if.

It was suggested that emails to promote things should go separately; so that their only subject is the special event.

- **Made In Tod**

Earlier in the year, signed up to a deal with Halifax Courier that we would take out an advert every week. On the basis that we have taken this out, the question was raised that would they produce the insert for the paper and not do the extra run to give out at the door. The amount of these that was wasted was obscene.

It was thought that a brochure would be nice. It was agreed that it was not a necessity for visitors to the exhibition to have a floor plan. It was thought that it could just be a simple four-side brochure with a list of exhibitors, their contact phone numbers, their website, and a back cover. NHB will



Speak with HB about producing these and posters.

LM will speak with Siddall about the drop down banners to see if they could produce them with an extra bit that could be removed with the dates on. So that they can be re-used.

It is Age Concern's turn to do the tea and coffee. LM will speak with them.

NHB to ask Margareta to do an official visit / photo-opportunity

NHB to ask Rotary if they will do the door

- **Plans for the Year**

LM would like to stand down as Chair at the next AGM and urges everyone to think about taking over the role.

NHB has handed-in her resignation from after MIT. This is to concentrate on changing career. It was asked that everyone to think if they know anyone who could take over from NHB. It was agreed that having a paid administrator works for the Association.

Photographic competition. The only issue was how to get photos in to be judged.

Logo change.

Need to have different sort of meetings – breakfast meetings, talks/events, speed networking events.

It was asked that everyone comes to the next meeting with some ideas of the sort of events they would like to see this year.

- **Any Other Business**

Supermarket. There is a meeting tomorrow at Shannon and Chesapeake. LM is going to try to attend. This is an anti-Sainsbury meeting.

The Netto/Asda plans have gone back to be redesigned. This will need to be passed again for the supermarket to go ahead.

There is still a train of thought that if Netto are allowed to come to Todmorden, then we will definitely not get a Sainsbury.

It was agreed that the TBA should oppose all supermarkets.

Calderdale did a retail survey, and it calls Morrisons an “out of town” supermarket, and calls One Stop and Lidl the central Todmorden supermarket. Based on this survey, the town of Todmorden has the footfall to support another central Todmorden supermarket.

The question which LM was going to present to Cabinet about the economic repercussions of having another supermarket in Todmorden, has been delayed and will now happen sometimes in January.

Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 9th February, 6pm at The Bear