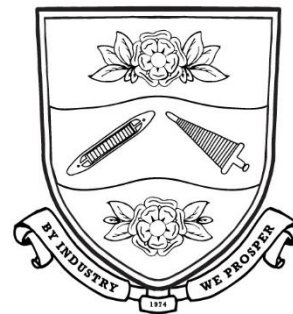


# TODMORDEN TOWN COUNCIL

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## MINUTES OF THE ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING Held in the Council Chamber, Todmorden Town Hall, Bridge Street, Todmorden, on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 7:30 pm

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<b>Councillors Present:</b>	Cllrs C Potter [Chair], R Coleman-Taylor, T Roberts, J Williams, , P Taylor, A Greenwood, K White, L Levick, A Hollis and L Needham.
<b>Absent Councillors:</b>	Cllrs The Revd G Kent was away from home and S Martin was unavailable.
<b>Observing Councillors:</b>	Cllrs D Skelton, M Carrigan, M Holmstedt and M Taylor
<b>Officers:</b>	Susan Miles – Assistant Town Clerk (Minute taker), Colin Hill - Town Clerk
<b>Members of the Public:</b>	3 members of the public attended, Ms N Stocks, Mr B Menear and Ms J Greaves

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2020(D)044	<p><b><u>Item 1 Apologies for Absence</u></b></p> <p>To receive and approve apologies for absence and reasons given to the Clerk prior to the meeting</p> <p><i>Proposed by Cllr Potter and Seconded by Cllr Levick      Unanimous</i></p> <p><b>RESOLVED:-</b> <i>That the apologies and reasons for absence be noted, namely Cllrs the Revd G Kent was away from home and S Martin was unavailable be received and accepted.</i></p>
2020(D)045	<p><b><u>Item 2 Declarations of Interest</u></b></p> <p>To receive disclosures of personal and prejudicial interests from members on matters to be considered at the meeting. Officers are required to make a formal declaration about council contracts where the employee has a financial interest.</p> <p>Note: Members must generally declare a disclosable pecuniary interest which he or she has in any item on the Agenda. A Member with a disclosable pecuniary interest may not participate in any discussion of the matter at the meeting and must not participate in any vote taken on the matter at the meeting. In addition, the Council's Standing Orders require a Member with a disclosable pecuniary interest to leave the room where the meeting is held while any discussion or voting takes place.</p> <p><i>None declared</i></p>

Signed Chair: .....

Dated: 26. 2..2020.....

2020(D)046	<p><b><u>Item 3 Public Participation</u></b></p> <p>To adjourn the meeting to allow members of the public to make representation on the business of the agenda for the meeting.</p> <p>Note: No resolutions can be under public participation.</p> <p>None received.</p>
2020(D)047	<p><b><u>Item 4 Exclusion of Press and Public – Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act 1960)</u></b></p> <p>To consider and confirm any agenda items that require the exclusion of the Press and Public in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 for matters appertaining to confidential or exempt information.</p> <p><i>Proposed by Cllr Hollis and Seconded by Cllr Coleman-Taylor Unanimous</i></p> <p><b>RESOLVED:-</b>  <i>That the agenda items for the meeting do not require the exclusion of the press and public and that they be allowed to remain for the duration of the meeting.</i></p>
2020(D)048	<p><b><u>Item 5 Consultation for A646 Works Including Pedestrianisation of Bridge St</u></b></p> <p>To receive a written update.</p> <p>The chair explained that the meeting invitation had been opened to all councillors because of the nature of the agenda. She said that members who are not part of the Development Committee may contribute to the discussion but may not vote.</p> <p>The chair welcomed Steven Lee, Assistant Director Strategic Infrastructure, Calderdale Council to the meeting.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mr Lee started his presentation/discussion by saying that copies of the consultation (two sites - the A58 and the A646) have been available on the Calderdale Council website for the last six weeks. There have been around 10,000 visits to the website and several responses. On the website, there is a facility to 'zero in' on locations of interest in the plans. The deadline for comments is Friday, 14 February 2020. Members are welcome to respond either individually or as a council body.</li> </ol> <p>The website address is <a href="http://www.yourvoice.westyorks-ca.gov.ukccip2">www.yourvoice.westyorks-ca.gov.ukccip2</a></p> <p>Mr Lee said that the additional pedestrian crossings will remove congestion at the roundabout. He said that the proposals had been based on modelling to identify the best ways to reduce travel times and to show how the connectivity with pedestrians/cyclists will work.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Mr Lee emphasised that this consultation is a step along the way to finalising the plans and that nothing will be cast in stone at this stage. As the proposal involves changes to roads, the Traffic Regulations Order requires that there be a statutory consultation exercise.</li> <li>3. Mr Lee explained that the objective of the proposals is to reduce drivers' journeys by 8% and bus journeys by 12%. The main features of the A646 proposals are some additional crossing points, including a 'tiger crossing' (which is like a zebra crossing but has a separate cycle lane). The purpose of the extra crossings is to discourage pedestrians from crossing the road except by using designated crossings. Some bus stops may be moved. A raised table (flat top speed hump) is proposed for</li> </ol>

Myrtle Street which will allow pedestrians to cross more easily. There is also proposed a new traffic regime with 'no entry' streets and a new 'puffin crossing' (push button crossing with the red/green indicators near the button pad) at the top end of the Town Hall. The existing crossing will remain in place. It is also proposed that some form of (working day) pedestrianisation could take place on Bridge Street. There will also be additional parking and bus stops around Castle Hill School.

A member said that a crossing is required by Lidl/the Health Centre. Mr Lee explained that ideas such as this can be input to the consultation.

Another member said that the shops on Bridge St have been leafleted and have been invited to respond to the consultation. Anecdotal information is that Boots have said that they may relocate to the Health Centre if the proposed pedestrianisation goes ahead.

4. A member commented that the function of the Rochdale Canal towpath appears to have changed in the consultation plans from a mixed area to one giving priority to cyclists. They went on to say that this was not acceptable as the towpath is the only flat area for walking, especially for people living with disabilities. If the area is designated primarily for cyclists they may speed. If it is designated as mixed use; cyclists will then take care. Part of the towpath (which is managed by a residents' association) is near sheltered housing which is the only route for people to walk to the market. Mr Lee said that the towpath will still be a mixed route although it already forms part of the national cycling route (this section is Route 66). Discussion took place about the speed limit for cyclists. One member said that cyclists are asked to slow down although there is no actual set speed limit.
5. A member requested that the road speed limit from Tipside to Holroyd Rd (where there is sheltered housing) be reduced.
6. Another member mentioned that the route from Holroyd Rd through Stansfield Road had become the 'Todmorden Bypass' which is problematic as Victoria Rd (with parked cars) and the railway bridge on Holroyd Rd are single track roads. The question was raised whether the proposals will displace traffic from the centre to this route? Mr Lee said that this would be included in the modelling but asked if the member could leave their details so that he could update them.
7. Another member said that they appreciated the welcome attention to the safety of pedestrians with the additional crossings, however, they are wondering whether this would reduce the flow of traffic rather than increase it. At the most, journey times would reduce only by around 3 minutes. Mr Lee confirmed that modelling is used to calculate the impact of the additional crossings.
8. Another member said that the removal of the traffic lights near the Duke of York pub could impact seriously on the sight line for the small shops/businesses on Halifax Rd. This is currently the only sight line between the market and that part of Halifax Rd. Many visitors coming to Todmorden for the market might not see the shops on Halifax Rd and they could end up closing.
9. Another member said that there appeared to be no traffic lights outside the B&M shop. Mr Lee said that he would check that the existing traffic lights are included in the proposal.
10. A member raised the issue of the timing of this proposal for the pedestrianisation of Bridge St as there is another plan looking at shopping and the options for Bramsche Square and it would be better not to spend twice pedestrianizing this area. Mr Lee clarified the position regarding the '£25m funds' available to Todmorden. He said that prior to the General Election an announcement was made that the money from the Towns Fund would be available for two towns in Calderdale to bid for (Todmorden and

Brighouse).

He said that the information about this money is scant and is being drip fed. There will be stringent requirements for bodies administering the fund. The money for the A646 proposals is **not** part of the £25m but is part of a £1.2m West Yorkshire fund. Calderdale has approximately £6m to draw down for the A646 and A58 work. He mentioned that there is a cost benefit analysis approach used (such as a reduction in accidents or saving travelling time (which earns credits which can be added towards the cost benefit analysis). For every £1 spent, £2 must be saved to justify the spend. When the comments have been received from the consultation, the proposals will be refined and the cost benefit analysis will be applied again. If the savings cannot be achieved the proposal will be engineered down.

A member mentioned that three councillors are on the **Todmorden Civic Pride board** and there are proposals create a one-way system in Todmorden, to remodel key parts of the area in question. Concern was expressed that any proposals for pedestrianisation might be premature.

11. Several members emphasised the health and safety issues caused by the poor state of many of the pavements in the town centre, including Bridge St. It would be great if some of the money for the A646 development could be spent improving these.

12. A member asked if there were plans for the A6033? Mr Lee said that this scheme will be quite different to that for the A646. It will be a safety scheme, which will rationalise signage, starting from Todmorden and going through to Littleborough. The other part goes to Hebden Bridge.

13. Mr Lee emphasised that the important consideration with the proposals is not to fetter the possibility of further plans.

14. Another member, with experience of working for First Group bus services, said that the journey time between Todmorden and Halifax, which includes 92 bus stops, had increased since the introduction of the 20 mile an hour speed restriction. He was in favour of some of the proposals but not the pedestrianisation of Bridge St which he believes will impede business viability/jobs.

15. The member said that one road where pedestrianisation is badly needed is on Water St where there are several vacant business units. He was in favour of some of the bus stops being moved as currently, for example, the 2 bus stops opposite Wellington Rd sometimes causes a road blockage where two buses stop at the same time on either side of the road. Mr Lee said that Calderdale Council need to understand members' ideas. He said that he would note the suggestion for the pedestrianisation of Water St and the route to Market St.

A member said that the Development Board had commissioned a survey of the suitability of pedestrianisation in Water St in 2016. This was submitted to Calderdale Council and it was recognised that pedestrianisation would be possible, but it would not be a high priority for attention. Another member said that the Full Council had written to the Calderdale Council to invite proposals for the pedestrianisation of Water St.

16. The Town Clerk suggested that the minutes to this meeting be circulated for members to check they are happy with the comments there. The minutes which would then be submitted to the A646 consultation via Mr Lee. Mr Lee agreed that he would put any comments (including from the minutes), he receives by 14 February 2020 into the consultation. He emphasised that this is the first consultation and it will be followed by a statutory consultation.

Cllr Potter proposed

Cllr Coleman-Taylor seconded

Unanimous

**RESOLVED:-**

*That the minutes from this meeting (including comments about the consultation) would be circulated to members for comment before being sent to Mr Lee, on 13 February 2020, for inclusion in the A646 consultation.*

Mr Lee continued his presentation/discussion to introduce a very early draft of a concept to improve the attractiveness of the area outside the market (a possible event area) and then the public area to the North West of this. He issued the visual document to members (which he collected later).

17. Mr Lee outlined the document, starting with:

- a. The existing buildings and the potential locations for (potentially 2) additional buildings.
- b. It is suggested that there be a large building adjacent to the Methodist Church, but it would need to be considered whether this would be appropriate there.
- c. He then went on to the next images relating to the 'stepped mass' where the scale and height of the two buildings is shown, with the taller building at the back and the lower one in front.
- d. He then described the 'development area' where there could be shops and a forecourt to the buildings.
- e. The next image was the 'introduction to the 5<sup>th</sup> façade' which showed the pitched roof of the buildings.
- f. The building is in two parts to allow a route between to enable connectivity.
- g. There was then an artist's impression of what the site would look like, potentially with a restaurant, a hotel, retail units, café, residential units and a car park. They would make sure there would be enough car parking for existing use and the new development. There are currently 111 parking spaces currently in the area.

18. Mr Lee explained that there was synergy between this concept, the A646 proposals And other ideas being discussed at the Development Board but that the costs would be met from different funding streams and working to different timescales.

19. Mr Lee then ran through the early ideas for Bramsche Square and the Rose St site.

- a. The first images related to the existing site and how it is currently being used.
- b. The next was to outline the public realm and landscape precedents with ideas and photos of similar sites that have been developed elsewhere. A pedestrian route is included in the plan.
- c. The extent of Bramsche Square was then described, with lines of development between the Town Hall and the market, the Town hall to the Methodist Church and the Methodist Church to the market. This triangle includes the important buildings to be retained.
- d. The next images showed how people may perceive the site and the way sunlight enters the site.
- e. The next image was a grid showing the visual connectivity between the linear routes as far as the canal.

20. The Town Clerk said that that the presentation had been helpful as it shows the bigger picture including:

- The interconnectivity, including pedestrianisation.
- The design of the public realm.
- If a hotel/residential accommodation is included this will stimulate local businesses.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The creation of a public space/entertainment and leisure area are key factors in increasing the amount of time people spend in the town centre ('dwell time').</li> <li>• Parking – there are different arguments to support short as opposed to long stay parking.</li> <li>• If the current A646 pedestrianisation proposal is not supported, the funding for it with this consultation may be lost as an opportunity.</li> <li>• That all the plans and consultations need to be joined up.</li> </ul> <p>The chair thanked Mr Lee for his helpful presentation.</p> <p>Mr Lee confirmed that in future Town Clerks will be informed about all consultations.</p> <p>This part of the meeting was closed at 8.45pm. Mr Lee, Cllrs Carrigan and Skelton left at this point.</p>
2020(D)049	<p><b><u>Item 6 Consultation on Calderdale Local Plan</u></b></p> <p>To receive a written update.</p> <p>Members thought that house building, within a mixed site at Rose St would be more acceptable than building on some of the other sites, for example Stoney Royd Lane, proposed in the draft local plan. It was noted that a report on this and other identified sites had been submitted as part of that consultation.</p> <p>The Town Clerk said that all of this would be informed by the Housing Needs Assessment that is about to start and that this would be sent to Calderdale Council in due course. He confirmed that the local plan covers up to 2034.</p> <p>Action: The Town Clerk will submit a response to this consultation to support the additional site allocation and advise CMBC of the imminent production of a Housing Needs Assessment. This will be copied to members.</p> <p>Concern was expressed by one member about the height of the proposed building in the draft concept for Rose St. It was confirmed that this was a very early draft of the concept and not a final plan. It will be developed and go through stages of consultation.</p> <p>Cllr Greenwood proposed      Cllr Williams seconded      Unanimous</p> <p><b><i>RESOLVED:-</i></b>  <i>That the written update be received by the Committee</i></p>
2020(D)50	<p><b><u>Item 7 Any Items for Discussion for a Future Agenda</u></b></p> <p>To notify the clerk of any matters for inclusion on the agenda of the next meeting.</p>
2020(D)51	<p><b><u>Item 8 Date of the Next Committee Meeting</u></b></p> <p>The date of the next committee meeting was noted – Wednesday February 26th, 2020 at 7.30pm, Todmorden Town Hall.</p> <p><i>There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 9.05pm.</i></p>