

Email From the Hotel Action Group About the Possibility of Accessing Monies From the Welcome Back Fund

On 2022-01-25 14:38, Todmorden Hotel Action Group wrote:

Dear Mr Hill

Following the end of our campaign to protect Lever St Car Park from building development (initially proposed by the Todmorden Town Deal), you might be aware that we moved to looking at what improvements the public wanted to see at the canalside.

We met with Calderdale Council last week to highlight and discuss whether improvements to the car park could be funded out of the Welcome Back Fund (WBF) - Calderdale's fund allocation needs to be spent by 31st March 2022. I understand officials have also been in contact recently to discuss the WBF and we wanted to make the Town Council aware of our activity.

We received considerable feedback during the campaign about the value the public placed on the space, not just in accessing the canal but in relaxing and enjoying the stunning views of Stoodley Pike, etc. We always believed the space by the canal was an attraction for the town and should be enhanced, but the current car park environment is poor. I know that your draft Neighbourhood Plan recognises the value of the canal, the views, and enhancing heritage asserts of the town, including improvements to cycling/walking transport corridors.

With regards to the WBF, we presented the case that small changes to the car park could have a significant lasting benefit, and there are others that would contribute to opportunities for residents and visitors to relax by the canal.

We know that there is Development Committee on 2nd February and I am happy to attend, to highlight these opportunities and see if councillors want to pursue relevant WBF opportunities here - the proposals are based on public feedback and we can also highlight the feedback we have recently received.

This will be good timing as I am meeting the relevant Calderdale officer in early February on site, to present the detailed WBF and other longer-term opportunities to enhance the canalside at Lever St - Town Council feedback would be useful at my meeting.

For the longer term, we have produced a report into public realm improvements at Lever St. - the photo below provides an extract detailing the purpose and scope. As Calderdale is the landowner, the initial report

is currently being reviewed by them but we intend to distribute the final report in mid February to relevant stakeholders, including the Town Council, and it will be available to the public.

We appreciate there has been a desire to improve the space next to the canal (at Lever St) for some time, and considerable progress was made with the landscaping project in 2015 (delivered around the flood mitigation measures). We just wanted to use the public's feedback and a considered assessment, to present further opportunities to improve the town centre's key access to the canal and its only accessible one.

We know this is one contribution but we hope that in time, key stakeholders and landowners will actively consider further improvements and secure funding sources.

Regards

[REDACTED]
Todmorden Hotel Action Group

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Introduction

Todmorden Hotel Action Group presents an assessment of the relationship of Lever St Car Park to the adjacent Rochdale Canal in Todmorden Town Centre.

This assessment includes what public realm improvements would improve the resident and visitor experience of the town, enhancing Todmorden's distinctiveness. The assessment does not include a detailed design proposal but highlights the opportunities of the site that could be delivered through a public realm scheme, whilst retaining the car park.

Todmorden Town Council has published a draft Neighbourhood Plan that is designed to guide development of the town. Their policies are supportive of proposals to improve the canal and views along it, and local community feedback identifies that the public would like to prioritise canal improvements for walking, cycling and recreation.

The car park site is owned by Calderdale Council and is adjacent to the core shopping area. The Canal & River Trust is responsible for the adjacent towpath and they are a key partner in considering any future public realm scheme.

