

**Minutes from the Airedale Partnership Board meeting held on the 7th
December 2015**

Present:

Cllr Susan Hinchcliffe, Chair
William Jowitt, Associate member
Mick Milner, Leach & Thompson

In attendance:

Paul North, Airedale Partnership
Robert Brough, Airedale Partnership
Margaret Danbury, Community Led Local Development
Howard Martin, Bingley chamber of Trade and Commerce

1.0 Welcome/Introduction:

1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were given.

2.0 Apologies: were received from Cllr Simon Cooke, Nav Chohan, David Moss, Steve Seymour, Ros Beattie

3.0 Declaration of Interest: These would be given as and if they occurred during the meeting.

4.0 Minutes of the meeting held on the 2nd November 2015

4.1 The minutes were approved and would be placed on the Partnership website www.airedalepartnership.org

5.0 Matters arising:

5.1 There were no matters arising.

6.0 Community Led Local Development (CLLD) – Margaret Danbury

6.1 Two areas in Bradford; Keighley and Manningham have been proposed for funding through this programme. The Keighley programme includes the 3 20% most deprived Keighley wards.

Funding has been requested to carry out consultation and stakeholder engagement (including businesses), to deliver training and capacity building, develop a Local Action Group (LAG) and develop an action plan and local strategy.

6.2 A decision will be made in February 2016 on which applications from the Leeds City Region will be supported.

If Keighley is successful they will have 6 months to submit their local strategy, LAG and agree the Accountable Body

6.3 If the strategy is approved they will be invited to bid for funds to implement the strategy. Any CLLD programme would not be operational until March 2017

7.0 Bingley Chamber of Trade – Howard Martin

7.1 Bingley Chamber of Trade and Commerce has been established for 80 years. They are a non profit making, voluntary run organization. Their main aim is to represent the views and concerns of local shops and businesses and to lobby the Council to make sure Bingley “gets it’s fair share” of funding and improvements and to help give an identity to Bingley.

They are able to raise funds through a membership fee which helps draw in other sponsorship for events in the Town. The main event has traditionally been the Christmas lights switch on which they funded themselves with some help from the Council.

The downturn and loss of the Bradford & Bingley Building Society had a major impact on trade in the Town the loss of the Town Centre Manager the Chamber have been working on generating more income. Following the loss of the Town Centre Manager £10k was given to the Chamber to help develop and promote the Town, since then it has used the funds and the expertise of local business members to generate a further £35k in sponsorship to run events.

The Chamber will continue to work with partner businesses to raise sponsorship and run events building on the successes of the hiring of a beer tent to use at events in the town square.

8.0 Masterplan update – Paul North

8.1 The key updates from the workplan are:

Rural funding – the new LEADER programme is now live, those businesses in the eligible area can apply for grants follow the link for details

<http://www.southpenninesleader.co.uk/index.php?cID=147> Dave Melling at the Airedale Partnership office will support any rural business that is likely to benefit from this round of funding.

8.2 Baildon Business Park – Those businesses whose units are ready will begin moving in early in the New Year. All others are in various stages of the planning process. Full occupancy of the site should be achieved in 2016.

8.3 Town Centres – Both Bingley and Shipley continue to develop their town centre partnerships, The Bingley Chamber of Trade and Commerce is leading the way there and a new fledgling partnership in Shipley is now developing.

8.4 Keighley – Proposals to establish a Business Improvement District (BID) in the Town has been given the green light following a successful ballot of eligible businesses. The BID will be run by a new company limited by guarantee called Keighleybid Ltd. It will become effective from the 4th January 2016. The Airedale team will support the new company during the transition period.

8.5 New developers are being sought for the Worth Valley shopping centre following Stainsby Grange pulling out of the development.

8.6 Promotion of Airedale – A report will be presented to the Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny committee on the 16th December

9.0 Budget implications 2016-17

9.1 The implementation of last years restructure will see the Airedale and Bradford Economic development teams merge but the presence in the Keighley office will be retained.

10.0 Update from Board members:

10.1 The Board members present raised the concern of attracting new Board members; suggestions were for representation from Leeds City College (Keighley) and the Keighleybid Ltd Company.

10.2 There were no other updates from the members present

11.0 Date of next meeting:

11.1 The next meeting will be held on 8th February 2016 at the offices of the Airedale Partnership in Keighley.