

What do we want? KERBSIDE



Stephen Jagger, Finance Director addresses the public meeting

The Kerbside, Calderdale MBC, SITA situation does not seem to get any better with no agreement on a way forward and recriminations as to who is at fault.

The change of contract for collection and disposal of household waste whereby, after years of paying little more than lip service, Calderdale MBC now considered it necessary to increase the level of recycling, has caused the problem. Calderdale MBC felt it necessary to incorporate food and plastics recycling in any new scheme, as well as increase the number of households from which collections were to be made. 25,000 households were happy with the service they received from Kerbside, although many would have liked food and plastics to form part of the collections but many other households in the Borough were without any service. Calderdale MBC did not believe that Kerbside had the capacity to increase its recycling to meet the new requirements or to increase capacity from its existing site and did not consider that the waste management contract, or part of it, could be given to Kerbside.

The 'heads of terms' for the waste contract contained a condition that, the new operator would be expected to work with 'social enterprise', but were advised that it would be illegal to specify Kerbside as the enterprise. It has been alleged that some bidders for the contract were asked to withdraw the commitment to work with social enterprise from their submission.

All the parish and town councils of the upper valley, Blackshaw, Erringden, Hebden Royd, Heptonstall, Todmorden and Wadsworth, met together to consider a way forward and began by requesting Calderdale MBC find a means of supporting Kerbside but apart from admitting that the situation has been, "a public relations disaster", it does not appear that the Borough Council has done anything to resolve the matter.

Kerbside and SITA, after months of wrangling, have failed to reach an agreement and Kerbside have now decided to, 'go it alone'.

It is not just a public relations disaster, for some it is a human disaster in the making. Many of the Kerbside employees have difficulties which have resulted in them receiving little consideration for 'mainstream employment' and in the current economic climate means, if Kerbside becomes insolvent, more long-term unemployment.

What is the way forward now? Kerbside has overwhelming public support, demonstrated at a public meeting held in Mytholmroyd in November attended by

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Wishes Granted

HEADS		Friends of Calder Holmes Park	
Hand-made Parade	3,000.00	Sand & Water Play	5,000.00
Rotary Club of Hebden Bridge		The World on your Doorstep	
Vintage Car Weekend	500.00	Festival Costs	6,000.00
Square Peg Productions		Friends of Nutclough Woods	
Database - Local Growers	350.00	Training & Equipment	4,985.00
2447 SQD ATC		Mytholmroyd Station	
Expedition Equipment	450.00	Partnership	
The Elmet Trust		Tools & Storage	750.00
Ted Hughes memorial	3,000.00	Living Well	
Calder Future		Women's Cancer Support	500.00
Invasive species treatment	1,600.00	Rhythmbridge Foundation	
Community Transport Calderdale		P.A. System	900.00
Promotional Leaflets	449.00	Mytholmroyd Playgroup	
Hebden Bridge & District		Outdoor play area	1,983.00
International Group		Hebden Bridge pre School	
Christmas Market St Pol	499.99	Toy replacement	1,000.00
Hebden Bridge Angling Society		Artsmill	
Canal restocking	500.00	Photographic Exhibition	320.00
Heptonstall Exhibitions Charity		Hebden Bridge Open Studios	
Student Support	499.99	Guide	470.00
Richard Naylor Charity		Friends of HB Station	
Student Support	499.99	Exhibition & Displays	1,550.00
Thingumajig Theatre		Calderdale Theatre School	
Big Green Weekend	200.00	International visit	800.00

Organisations supported

Ground Floor Project	Hebden Bridge Band
Hebden Bridge Arts Festival	Mytholmroyd Community Association

Disability Issues



Cllr Jade Smith on her way to the Council Chamber

The Disability Discrimination Act makes it unlawful to prevent access to services that are available to able bodied persons. Organisations must take reasonable steps to eliminate the difficulties. In the case of Hebden Royd Town Council, the main problem is that Council Meetings are held in a purpose built room, the Council Chamber, located on the first floor in the Council Office building

accessible only by stairs. Installation of a lift would be difficult in the Grade II listed building as it stands, partly because there is only one suitable location and partly because of the number of variations in floor levels throughout the building. A stair lift would require drilling into original tiles, affecting the appearance of the building, and would also restrict the width of the staircase for other users. In addition,

taking into account that in the event of an emergency, neither of these two types of facility could be used for evacuation purposes, they would not represent a 'reasonable' choice. The Council has been advised that there is a chair, battery powered, that can climb up and down stairs and one was demonstrated and trialled at the Council Office in December.

Cllr Jade Smith, who has mobility problems, acted as 'guinea pig' and was enthusiastic about the chair as it enabled her to access the Council Chamber without the pain normally associated with this activity. Cllr Smith said, "You have no idea what a difference this would make to me." Geraldine Rushton, Disability Liaison Officer Calderdale MBC, was less enthusiastic about being carried in the chair but acknowledged it as a viable solution.

The chair has the advantage that it can also be used to escape from the building in an emergency situation. A disadvantage is that although a version is available that can accommodate a standard wheelchair, the modifications required do not make this a realistic option meaning that the person with the disability must be able to transfer from one chair to another.



Geraldine Rushton tries the climber

Not a perfect solution but certainly a move in the right direction.



Cllr Oosthuysen raises an issue continued from page 1 some 200 people, at least in the upper valley where they

have operated, but cannot continue without additional funding, made worse by the fall in value of many recyclable materials. There is an issue of 'double taxation', why pay Kerbside money when SITA is

already being paid to do the work. It is the opinion of the writer that Calderdale MBC holds the key to the future of Kerbside. Councils are elected to lead and carry out the wishes of the electorate. The electorate have said in many ways that they want Kerbside to continue. It is up to electors to put pressure on the councillors to carry out their wishes if the councillors are not delivering what the public

require of them. Write to them, phone them, contact them through the Calderdale MBC website, www.calderdale.gov.uk/council/councillors/index.html and don't forget the Chief Executive, Owen Williams. Ironically decisions at Calderdale Council, whatever committees may decide, ultimately come down to the deliberations of a small minority, seven councillors, called the cabinet.

Central Street

For several years Hebden Royd Town Council has been working towards the regeneration of the area of Hilton, Central, Pitt and Fountain Streets, collectively referred to as Central Street. The concept of regeneration was initially proposed by this Council but at all stages the scheme has received support and assistance from Calderdale MBC. It was therefore with some concern that members of this Council learned that the plans, prepared by Calderdale MBC officers in conjunction with this Council, had been rejected by the Cabinet Committee. There is no denying that the

area in question is located in the Conservation Area also town centre and is in a poor, possibly dangerous state. What is difficult to understand is that almost half the funding necessary had already been secured, the Hebden Bridge Partnership and Upper Calder Valley Renaissance have the scheme listed as a priority project, Calderdale



MBC Regeneration & Development Committee, after extensive study, recommended the work but the Cabinet Committee

rejected the scheme without having any vision of its own for the area. Calderdale MBC, a forward looking Council?

Station Road – Car Park

A car park has been constructed on Station Road in a collaborative venture between Hebden Royd Town Council and Calderdale MBC. The land, owned by Hebden Royd Town Council, was originally purchased from British Gas in order to form a skateboard park but was never used for this purpose. Calderdale Council prepared the plans, organised the construction work and now manages the car park with any profit on income being shared by the two Councils.



The newly created car park on Station Road

Unlike the car park actually at the station, there is a small charge, 20p per hour or £1.00 for a day, and unlike the other car park, a space can usually be found. These two features have made the new car park

popular with some people, one of whom has asked that the existence of the new park not be publicised so that parking would remain available. Even with spaces available,

there are some motorists who prefer to park on the A646 putting their vehicles, and the safety of other road users at risk, rather than pay a small amount for off road parking.

Calderdale MBC does have plans to restrict parking on this road but there is nothing in the current work schedule to indicate when this will happen.

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES ON HEBDEN ROYD TOWN COUNCIL

Town Councillor	Address	Telephone	Council Attendance	
			Possible	Actual
James Allison White Lee Ward	The Vicarage, Brier Hey Lane Mytholmroyd HX7 5PJ	883130	28	9
Christine Bampton-Smith Caldene Ward (Luddendenfoot)*	6 Calder Grove Mytholmroyd HX7 5AG	881073	21	18
John Beacroft-Mitchell (Deputy Mayor) Cragg Vale Ward	10 Cleveley Gardens Mytholmroyd HX7 5JE	883732	21	13
Joanna Beacroft-Mitchell Cragg Vale Ward	10 Cleveley Gardens Mytholmroyd HX7 5JE	883732	19	8
Karl Boggis Caldene Ward	8 Dale View Mytholmroyd	884419	19	15
Robin Dixon West End Ward	5 Cliffe Royd Hebden Bridge HX7 8DJ	842992	26	24
Nader Fekri West End Ward (Calder)*	7 Hope Street Hebden Bridge HX7 8AG	843316	20	8
Michelle Foster Birchcliffe Ward	Carr Well, New Road Luddenden HX2 6QN		16	8
Gian Gabbi White Lee Ward	13 Hullett Drive Mytholmroyd HX7 5QR	883409	18	15
Catherine Groves White Lee Ward	5 Cliffe Royd Hebden Bridge HX7 8DJ	842992	25	20
Lesley Jones Fairfield Ward	76 Palace House Road Hebden Bridge HX7 6HW	844196	22	20
Janet Oosthuysen Birchcliffe Ward	11 Unity Street Hebden Bridge HX7 8HQ	842054	22	15
Susan Press (Town Mayor) Fairfield Ward	83 Bridge Lanes Hebden Bridge HX7 6AT	845276	28	18
Christopher Sawer West End Ward	10 Victoria Road Hebden Bridge HX7 8JX	844017	16	16
Jade Smith White Lee	10 Acacia Grove Mytholmroyd	881073	22	15
Dr Michael Smith Caldene Ward	6 Calder Grove Mytholmroyd HX7 5AG	881073	20	3
Scott Trickett Cragg Vale Ward	9 Moorland Cottages, Cragg Vale Hebden Bridge HX7 5TW	884909	22	9
Dave Young Birchcliffe Ward	14 Unity Street Hebden Bridge HX7 8HQ	846804	25	25

* Denotes Calderdale MBC Councillor

Environmental Community Warden - Jason Boom - Tel 842181 - email jason@hebdenroyd.org.uk

If you have any news or views on the Council or Councillors please do not hesitate to contact us at the address below.

Your news or views:

Name and Address (Optional):

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