

# We're building a bright future

Light streams through tall windows onto the desk of Keighley's town centre manager as he works on a strategy to guide the town he loves into the 21st century.

Philip Smith was the ideal candidate for the job which he stepped into in summer 2006 having held a similar role in Halifax, and especially because he has a love for the town coursing through his veins.

He attended Hartington Street School and Greenhead Grammar and used to play in Keighley Brass Band.

"I feel part of the Keighley community and it will be an honour to help guide developments which will have a lasting effect on the town, making it brighter and looking to the future," he says.

After years of talk about developments that may happen, things are about to take off with initial work already underway on a new college site in Dalton Lane and ASDA is set to start work on the town's third super store.

"Developments that are already underway, and are about to start, make this a very exciting time to be doing my job. There has been a lot of talk, but now it is time for us to start seeing the action."

But there is no need to wait for the future to take advantage of what Keighley has to offer.

"Too often the positive aspects of Keighley are overlooked. We have a diverse range of industries with large institutions that are recognised across the country and



around the world.

"Almost anywhere you go they have heard of Timmothy Taylor's beer and in the most modern offices and shopping centres

"Add to that a good transport system together with plenty of car parking and we have the recipe for success."

Although the foundations are in place there is still work to be done to enable Keighley to reach its potential.

"I'm concentrating on the next two years, major changes have started to happen and we will soon start to see exciting developments taking shape within the town centre and just outside it.

"We have reached a time when people will see things start to happen. The arrival of ASDA, changes to the college, together with developments at Grove Mill and Dalton Mill will bring a new prosperity to the town.

"Those developments will give the town centre – and the whole area – a dynamic, exciting atmosphere.

"These are exciting times for Keighley," he said.

*'These are exciting times'*

around the world you will find yourself travelling on escalators made in Keighley.

"We also have good niche businesses like Nilorn Calmon who make labels for major clothing design houses around the world – and for many household names."

"We have the historical splendour of Cavendish Street and the small niche businesses that every town needs if it is to thrive. We also have a tiptop shopping centre that is on one level and has many of the major retail stores.