

Bedale & Villages Community Forum

Chair: Yvonne Rose OBE

Vice Chairman: Cllr. John Noone

Treasurer: Cllr Mike Barningham

Secretary: Peter Cole

Management Group

7.30pm on Thursday 10th November 2016

The Drawing Room, Bedale Hall

Minutes

Present

Yvonne Rose (Chair); Harry Lillystone; Clare Booth; Cllr Richard Corner; Cllr Malcolm Young; Bill Tetlow; Hazel Kirby; Bob Pocklington; Cllr Steven Smith; Richard Moore; Colin Hodges; Cllr Richard Poole; Kathleen Lowrie; Janet Stevens; Andy Hallett; Cllr Carl Les; Cllr John Noone; Cllr Mike Barningham; John Gill; Val Gill; Rev. Kathleen Wood.

Apologies

Rab Hastie; Sue Latter; Daren Rosamond; Dean Bradley; Chris Hall; Sue Grimshaw; Sylvia Broadwith; Ian Watkins; Cllr Christine Mollard.

1. Welcome, Introductions & Apologies

Yvonne welcomed Colin Hodges and Cllr Richard Poole representing the Snape Playing Field Committee, Kathleen Lowrie from the Leeming Village Hall Committee and John & Val Gill and Rev. Kathleen Wood representing the Bedale Community Meals on Wheels project. Yvonne introduced Clare Booth, the District Council's Planning Policy and Conservation Officer.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting held Thursday 14th July 2016

Agreed as a true record thereof.

3. Actions & Matters Arising

- **The Future of Bedale Library:** Peter circulated an update prepared by Adele Wilson, NYCC's Hambleton Stronger Communities Delivery Manager, prior to the meeting. A Business Plan has been submitted to NYCC for consideration and the Bedale Community Library Management Committee is to apply for Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) status. The Committee has now appointed a Treasurer, Secretary and Trustees and a bank account is to be opened. A well-attended Volunteer Open day was held on the 3rd November which attracted over 80 people and 116 expression of interest forms were completed and returned. Full training for volunteers is to be made available early in 2017 and small scale local fundraising is to be undertaken by the 'Friends of Bedale Library' group.

- **The Bedale Art & Sculpture Trail:** Yvonne reported that 2 expressions of interest have been received to create the HDC-funded Art & Sculpture Trail. Both artists are to be interviewed at a meeting of the Steering Committee to be held on the 6th December 2016 and consultation on the design of the Trail is to be undertaken with the wider community once an artist has been appointed.
- **The HDC 'Making a Difference' Grant 2016/2017:** It was noted that the following organisations from across Bedale and the surrounding villages had been awarded grants from the HDC 'Making a Difference' grant:
 - Crakehall Village Hall (£4000)
 - Kirkby Fleetham Village Hall (£5000)
 - Bedale Cricket Club (£2500)
 - Bedale Hall Trust (£11000)
 - West Tanfield Memorial Hall (£2500)

- **Bedale High Street: Public Realm Improvements:** Concerns were expressed over the appearance of the High Street and the need for additional investment of resources to ensure the High Street remains vibrant and local businesses are sustainable. Yvonne reminded members that the need to increase footfall in the Market Place and on Bridge Street and the maintenance of an attractive and welcoming retail environment is a key priority in the Forum's Community Plan. It was agreed that any improvements and/or change must be carefully managed and that the HDC Hambleton Market Towns Conservation Area Design Guide¹ may help inform an Action Plan with which to co-ordinate such activity. It was suggested that a meeting to discuss the appearance and sustainability of the High Street be held before Christmas and that the recently-appointed HDC Vibrant Market Town Officer be invited to attend, along with representatives from High Street businesses.
- **Bedale & Villages Community Plan 2016-2020:** Peter presented an updated Community Plan which included further feedback received since the meeting of the Forum held in July and requested that the Plan be formally 'adopted' by the group. Richard Moore proposed that the Bedale & Villages Community Plan 2016-2020 be formally adopted by the Bedale & Villages Community Forum. Cllr Richard Corner seconded the proposal and the proposal was unanimously endorsed by those present.
- **The Future of the Bedale Youth Venue:** Bob confirmed that an 'Awards for All' grant had been secured to help fund activities and cover ongoing running costs. The facility is open on Wednesday and Friday evenings and occasional Saturdays and attracts on average 15-20 young people per evening. The Club has 75 registered members who are given the opportunity to take part in organised activities and the Duke of Edinburgh training programme. It was noted that both Yvonne and Cllr Barningham have been appointed Trustees of the Bedale Youth Venue (previously 'X-Nihilo' and 'the Edge') and that new volunteers have been found. A Secretary to attend and record the minutes of 6 meetings per year is being sought.

¹ Available at:

https://www.hambleton.gov.uk/site/custom_scripts/search/google_cse_results.php?q=design+guide&sa=search

4. Finance Update

Mike presented a financial update on transactions since the last meeting of the Group held in July 2016 and confirmed that as at the 10th November 2016 the Forum had £8945.13 in its General Account and £2227.36 in its Events Account. Commitments from the General Account include the Post Office Square project (£2000), the Bedale Youth Venue (£1000), the Snape Avenue Fund and repairs to footsteps in West Tanfield (£1000.)

5. Grant Applications for Consideration

▪ Snape Playing Field Committee

Members considered a funding application for £2000 from the Snape Playing Field Committee to re-seed the playing field and purchase and install new play equipment. Consultation on the need for improvements to the play area was undertaken with parents and children in 2014 and 'areas of risk' have been identified following the annual RoSPA inspection. A Yorventure grant application is to be submitted in June 2017 and a total of £1000 has been raised through a Parish Council contribution, donations and local fundraising activities.

Proposal: Cllr Carl Les proposed that £1000 be awarded to the Snape Playing Field Committee to match the amount raised locally. Cllr John Noone seconded the proposal and the proposal was unanimously endorsed by those present.

▪ Bedale Community Meals on Wheels

Members considered a funding application for £600 from the Bedale Community Meals on Wheels project to help purchase a dual fuel commercial cooker at St Gregory's Church in Bedale. The scheme currently supports 35 clients and the Church has agreed to provide funding to cover the costs of installation of the cooker and a new gas connection.

Proposal: Cllr John Noone proposed that £600 be awarded to the Bedale Community Meals on Wheels project. Cllr Carl Les seconded the proposal and the proposal was unanimously endorsed by those present.

6. Focus Group Updates:

- **Business & Tourism:** It was confirmed that the Christmas lights 'switch on' will take place on the 19th November.
- **Environment:** No further update was presented though it was suggested that the group be involved in discussions over plans to improve the appearance of the High Street.
- **Community Interest:** No further update was presented. It was noted that Nicky Smith will be taking maternity leave from March 2017.
- **Transport:** Mike confirmed that the planning application for the 'Gateway Car Park' has been approved by the HDC Planning Committee and that negotiations are now underway with landowners affected by the proposed scheme. It was noted that the

traffic survey to monitor traffic volume in Bedale and Aiskew following the opening of the relief road is now underway.

7. Any Other Business

- **Hambleton Parish Liaison Meeting:** Peter reminded members that the next Hambleton Parish Liaison Meeting is to be held at the Civic Centre in Northallerton on Thursday 17th November at 7pm. Items for discussion at the meeting include Community-Led Housing, the Community Infrastructure Levy, the work of the Community Safety Partnership and changes to HDC's green waste collection service.
- **The Leeming Bar Community Hub:** Richard reported that work to clad the interior of the carriage is nearing completion and that a meeting facilitated by Adele Wilson had been held to discuss how the facility is to be managed once the project is complete. A drop-in 'launch event' is to be held before Christmas and it is hoped that the carriage may have a permanent siting on the Leeming Bar main line. The carriage will have removable seating for 40-45 people and space for 20-30 wheelchairs.
- **Leeming Village Hall:** Kathleen reported that Leeming Village Hall Committee had secured £10k to help purchase and install a new gas heating system, lighting and an induction loop and to redecorate the interior of the hall.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm