

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 16th March 2017

The Drawing Room, Bedale Hall

Minutes

Present

Yvonne Rose (Chair); Hazel Kirby; Cllr Andy Hallett; Cllr Richard Corner; Sylvia Broadwith; Ian Watkins; Karl Mason; Cathy Mason; Jackie Kennedy; Felicity Cook; Cllr Margaret Curry; Simon Lewis; Natasha Jones; Dean Bradley; Rab Hastie; Bob Pocklington; Daren Rosamond; Bill Tetlow; Cllr Mike Barningham and Cllr John Noone.

Apologies

Cllr Malcolm Young; Richard Moore; John Knopp; Cllr Christine Mollard; Cllr John Kettlewell.

1. Welcome, Introductions & Apologies

Yvonne welcomed Karl and Cathy Mason, Jackie Kennedy, Felicity Cook, Simon Lewis and Natasha Jones to the meeting.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting held Thursday 19th January 2017

Agreed as a true record thereof, though it was noted that the July meeting of the Forum has been rescheduled and will now be held on the 20th July.

3. Actions & Matters Arising

- **Bedale's Iconic Artwork and Art & Sculpture Trail:** it was noted that officers from NYCC Highways, Hambleton District Council and Historic England have met to consider the options for a piece of 'iconic' artwork which is to be sited on or near the relief road roundabout. A series of workshops have been held in local schools to help inform the design of the art trail which may include planters and/or banners suspended from lamp posts (subject to weight restrictions.)
- **The Bedale Big Spring Clean:** it was reported that the event held on the 12th March was a success with over 30 volunteers taking part throughout the day and over a ton of litter and green waste collected. A second 'spring clean' is to be held on the 11th June between 7am and 3pm.
- **The Future of Bedale Library:** Andy reported that sufficient funds have been raised to ensure that the library is financially secure for the first 12 months of operation and that negotiations are underway with the Bedale Hall Management Committee with regards to rent and service costs. Over 30 volunteers have received training and the launch event held earlier in March and hosted by

the 'Friends of Bedale Library' proved a success, raising £2000 to support the work of the Library. It was noted that NYCC will continue to fund the purchase of books and IT equipment. Andy confirmed that the 'Friends of Bedale Library' group has over 100 members.

4. Grant Eligibility Criteria: Match Funding

It was suggested that an additional match-funding criteria be added to the Forum's grant application form to evidence the efforts made by the applicant to raise funds locally and to demonstrate genuine community 'buy-in' and need. It was noted that community groups have different capacities to raise funds and that as a benchmark HDC grants require a minimum 25% of match funding for applications to be considered. It was agreed that:

1. The grant application form be amended to read 'applications will be looked on more favourably if a minimum of 25% of match funding is secured'.
2. An evaluation form be completed by the applicant once the project is complete to evidence the impact and community benefit of the project.

5. Finance Update

Mike presented a financial update on transactions since the last meeting of the Group held in January 2017 and confirmed that as at the 15th March 2017 the Forum had £8599.63 in its General Account and £1192.85 in its Events Account. It was noted that a final year-end payment from HDC is expected in April 2017.

6. Grant Applications for Consideration

- **Snape Playing Field Committee:** Members considered a funding application for £1000 from the Snape Playing Field Committee to help with phase 2 of the project, the purchase of new play equipment to be installed once work to improve the surface of the playing field has been completed. If successful the grant would be used as a 10% third party contribution towards an application to the Tarmac Ltd. Landfill Communities Fund of £8181, with the remainder being used to undertake repairs to 2 pieces of existing play equipment. The application to the Tarmac Ltd. Landfill Communities Fund is to be submitted in May and it is expected that a decision on whether the application is successful will be made in June 2017. If unsuccessful the £1000 would be used to help purchase 5 pieces new play equipment. It was noted that consultation has been undertaken with the wider community, that local fundraising has been undertaken and that an annual RoSPA check has recommended that the play equipment needs to be replaced.

Proposal: Cllr Barningham proposed that £1000 be awarded to the Snape Playing Field Committee. Cllr Richard Corner seconded the proposal and the proposal was unanimously endorsed by those present.

7. Focus Group Updates:

- **Business & Tourism/Environment:** the focus of the Vibrant Market Town group is the appearance of the Market Place and work is now underway to agree the group's short and medium term priorities and to help inform the HDC Market Town Investment Plan for Bedale.
- **Community Interest:** the group has not met recently and no further update was presented.

- **Transport:** a meeting is to be held on the 10th May with officers from HDC and NYCC to discuss plans for an improved pedestrian link and cycle path between the Market Place and the Station and the results of the traffic survey undertaken by NYCC to determine the impact of the relief road on traffic volume. It was noted that although plans for a 'Gateway Car Park' remain a priority for the District Council Councillors have agreed to put the plans on hold pending further landowner negotiations and determination of project costs. It was noted that the roundabout near Macdonalds is to be sponsored by the RAF Benevolent Fund and that a working party from RAF Leeming is to undertake some landscaping enhancements on the roundabout, subject to permission from NYCC Area 2 Highways.

Action: Yvonne to forward Jayne Charlton's contact details to Natasha.

8. Any Other Business

- **Hambleton Community Action:** Hazel reported that as of the 1st April 2017 fundamental changes in funding to support the work of Hambleton Community Action (HCA) will have a significant impact on its capacity to deliver services. The Community Car scheme, Wheels 2 Work, the Community Visiting scheme and the Carer's Respite scheme will be unaffected by the changes but some volunteer support services will now be delivered by Community First Yorkshire, a partnership between Rural Action Yorkshire and the North Yorkshire & York Forum. HCA will continue to host the Hambleton & Richmondshire Rural Transport & Access Partnership and the CANNY community accountancy service and will continue to make available fundraising equipment through its loan scheme. It was noted that 2 volunteer centres in North Yorkshire have closed following the decision to award the contract for delivering support to community and voluntary organisations to Community First Yorkshire and that the changes will have an impact on staffing levels and capacity at Hambleton Community Action. It is understood that staff delivering the county-wide 'self-service' delivery model may be home-based and concerns were expressed that there will be no local presence once the changes are introduced.

For further information about Community First Yorkshire please visit <http://communityfirstyorkshire.org.uk>, contact info@communityfirstyorkshire.org.uk or telephone 01904 704177.

- **Bedale Community Minibus:** it was noted that the community minibus operates a service for passengers from the Glebe House surgery to villages around Bedale.
- **Emgate to Bedale Scout Hut and the Cemetery:** concerns were expressed over the state of repair of the road between Emgate, the Bedale Beckside Scout & Guide Hut and the cemetery. The 40m stretch of road is used by hearses accessing the cemetery and it was suggested that repairs to the road be added to the Bedale & Villages Community Plan. It is understood that ownership of the land is complex and that a planning application has been submitted for the construction of a new garage and storage facility for use by the Scouts. It was agreed that repairs to the road be added to the Bedale & Villages Community Plan.
- **Circular Footpaths at South End:** it was suggested that a circular walk be incorporated in the proposed 79-dwelling Persimmon housing development to the west of Lyngarth Farm at South End and that the Town Council be asked to liaise with Persimmon to explore the potential for such a walk between the new development and Lord's Lane.
Action: Yvonne to write a letter to the Town Council asking that as part of the consultation on the proposed development the creation of a circular walk be explored.

- **Leeming Bar Residents Association:** a charitable incorporated organisation is to be established to manage the day-to-day operation of the Leeming Bar Community Hub. The half-term drop-in sessions proved very successful and the 'Hub' is to be used as a Polling Station at the forthcoming elections.

9. Dates for meetings in 2017

- 11th May
- 20th July
- 21st September (AGM)
- 16th November