



## BEDALE AND VILLAGES COMMUNITY PLAN FORUM

### Community Interest Focus Group

### Minutes

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2009 at 7.30pm

The Bedale Room, Bedale Hall

### *'Older People's Issues across Bedale'*

#### **Present**

Hazel Kirby (Chair); Marian Dunn; Shelagh Marshall; Sandra Anderson; Anthea Adams; Paul Fisher; PCSO Ian MacDonald; Bob Pocklington; Beryl Robinson; Annette Googe & Beryl Pemberton.

#### **Apologies**

Ian Marr; Cllr. Heather Moorhouse; Peter Gordon & Stella Hemingway.

#### **1) Welcome & Introductions**

Hazel welcomed those present and explained that the purpose of the meeting was to identify issues faced by older residents of Bedale and the surrounding villages in order that they can be discussed at the next meeting of the Bedale & Villages Community Forum (BVCF.) Hazel explained that the issues raised would help inform the review of the Bedale & Villages Community Plan.

#### **2) Issues facing Older People across Bedale & the Surrounding Villages: Key Priorities**

The following key priorities were identified by members of the Group:

- **The Future of Learning & Leisure Activities in Village Halls:** at the recent Engage event attended by over 100 residents and 30 key organisations it was noted that activities being held in villages were proving popular. Beryl confirmed that U3A has 12 activity groups underway at present and is looking to establish an Art Group, and Book and Photography Clubs at the Station. Gentle exercise activities such as Tai Chi were particularly popular. However it was suggested that residents are not aware of these activities and that funding to secure the long term sustainability of such classes is an issue. Paul confirmed that an Engage leaflet has been produced promoting activities for Older People across Bedale.
- **Community Transport:** Sandra reported that access to community transport was a key priority for staff at the Millings and that they had experienced some difficulty booking the community minibus to allow their residents to attend local clubs and community groups. Hazel confirmed that the minibus is available for hire all day on Mondays and on most Thursdays until 5.30pm.
- **Pedestrian Safety:** It was agreed that pedestrian safety is an issue for those wishing to cross the A684 at North End. It was also suggested that more seating is required near the Chantry Hall.  
**Action:** Bob to raise the issue of additional seating at North End at the next meeting of Bedale

Town Council and the issue of pedestrian safety at the next meeting of the BVCF Transport Group.

- **Bogus Callers:** Ian confirmed that the Bedale Safer Neighbourhood Team can offer 15 minute presentations to individuals and community groups to explain how to identify and deal with bogus callers and also to describe how 'No Calling Zones' can be set up. No Calling Zones are supported both by the police and by NYCC Trading Standards. For further details please ring the Team on 0845 6060247 or email: [sntbedale@northyorkshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:sntbedale@northyorkshire.pnn.police.uk) **Action:** Ian to contact U3A with regards to giving such a presentation. Bob to raise the issue of No Calling Zones in Aiskew at a future Safer Bedale meeting.
- **Community Safety & Anti Social Behaviour:** Beryl explained that incidents of anti social behaviour have been reported on Back Lane at Aiskew. A greenhouse window has been smashed, the Parish noticeboard and other signage have been damaged and litter is proving an issue. Ian confirmed that the police were aware of some of the problems. It was noted that the road is a resurfaced bridleway, that there is little or no lighting along the road and that a gap in the hedge exist through which young people can pass through. **Action:** Ian to follow up the greenhouse window incident and Bob to raise the issue of ongoing anti social behaviour in Aiskew at the next meetings of the Aiskew Town Council and the Safer Bedale Group.

### 3) The Next Steps

It was agreed that Hazel and Peter raise the key priorities identified by the group at the next meeting of the Bedale & Villages Community Forum to be held in January 2010.

### 4) Any Other Business

- Bob explained that a fitness trail, seating and a bowls area were being considered as part of plans to develop the park in Aiskew. It was suggested that the installation of outdoor gym equipment, similar to that installed at the Hillside Rural Activities Park in Knayton, be considered. It is understood that a Lottery fund to develop and promote activities for older people will be launched in January 2010.
- Shelagh provided details of recent Older People's Roadshows which have been held monthly between 2-4pm. Key speakers are invited to attend to discuss specific older people's issues and NYCC Trading Standards have used the events to involve older people in the testing of electric blankets.
- Marian confirmed that the Bedale Strollers were looking to produce a reprint of the Stroller's Pack at a cost of approximately £2000. The Strollers meet fortnightly with groups of between 13-20 people and the Group is looking to encourage more referrals from local doctor's surgeries. It was noted that members join the group primarily for rehabilitation and once rehabilitated then join the U3A Walking Group. At present the walks start at the Leisure Centre but it was suggested that the walks could start at the Millings. **Action:** Paul to submit a funding application form to the Bedale & Villages Community Forum in an attempt to secure funding for the reprint. Paul, Marian and Anthea to liaise regarding the start points of the walks.
- It was noted that a footpath enhancement project is underway along Hollings Lane and that Bedale Town Council is seeking to create a circular walk around Bedale.
- Paul confirmed that the Over Fifties Forum is looking to raise its profile across Bedale and host an event in Aiskew in the spring, possibly in the Catholic Church Hall or at the Station complex.

### 5) Date for the next Meeting

It was agreed that a further meeting of the Group be held in twelve months time and that it be held during the day. Sandra indicated that the Millings could provide the venue for the meeting.

