



**Bedale and Villages Community Forum
Management Group**

7.30pm on Thursday 21st January 2010

The Lounge, Bedale Hall

Minutes

Present

Yvonne Rose (Chair); Cllr. Carl Les; Wanda Reynolds; Beryl Pemberton; Anthea Adams; Sue Latter; Harry Lillystone; Robert Trehwitt; John Dunwell; Ian Marr; Hazel Kirby; Mike Barningham; Bob Pocklington; Mark Haynes & Peter Cole.

Apologies

Ian MacDonald; Stella Hemingway; Inspector Nigel Slater; Angus Maude & John Noone.

1. Welcome, Introductions & Apologies

Yvonne welcomed Robert Trehwitt to the meeting representing the West Tanfield Memorial Hall (see Agenda Item 8 – Meetings and Correspondence.)

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting held Wednesday 11th November 2009

Agreed as a true record thereof.

3. Matters Arising

Bedale Scouts & Guides: Mike confirmed that planning permission is not required should the playgroup elect to use the new premises and that confirmation from HDC has been received indicating that parking on the new site should not be an issue. Work is ongoing on the design for the new building and costs are being established before funding applications are submitted. Mike indicated the work may not be completed by summer 2010 as originally hoped.

The Assembly Rooms: It was noted that the dentist is not relocating to the Assembly Rooms but is moving to the Health Centre on Sussex Street.

4. The Bedale & Villages Neighbourhood Profile

John Matthews presented a draft copy of the Area Profile for Bedale and surrounding villages and explained the rationale behind its publication. John explained that the document is seeking to identify local issues and specific needs and will help with both the review of the Bedale & Villages Community Plan and with the allocation of resources to address 'hotspots'. John invited members to forward him details of any errors or omissions in the document and explained that it will evolve over time as more recent data

becomes available. It is hoped that the final version will be available by the middle of March 2010. It was suggested that statistics on youth employment be added to the document and that acronyms be removed. John agreed to add a glossary of terms. It was agreed that the document will provide a fundamental source document for funding applications. It was noted that the process by which the document will be update has yet to be agreed by the LSP.

5. Bedale Renaissance Market Town: Update

Mark presented an update on RMT projects and confirmed that:

- Whilst the pedestrian bridge and allotments remain a priority work has not been undertaken recently to progress these projects.
- A cycleway study is to be undertaken by a consultant to assess the feasibility of a cycleway link Bedale, Aiskew, Leeming Bar and other villages.
- Work on the Dales Furniture Hall, part of the Bedale Heritage Partnership Scheme, is now complete and that work has started on shop front improvements to Rowlands Pharmacy.
- Wensleydale Railway is to undertake enhancements to the signal box.
- The £50k English Heritage funding allocation for 2009/10 has almost all now been committed.
- Little progress has been made on the Samways Court lighting enhancement scheme due to an issue with NYCC lighting engineers.
- A report on the future of the visit-bedale.com website will be presented at the next meeting to be held in March.
- A generic expression of interest has been submitted to secure £30k of Yorkshire Forward Delegated Funds to undertake public realm works in Bedale. Suitable projects include harbour wall repairs, 'Town Trail' reprints, interpretation boards for the Assembly Room window panels and improvements to the route along Emgate linking Albert Row and the burial ground. The Delegated Funds must be spent by the end of March 2010. Action: Mark to firm up these proposals and develop a scheme for the Post Office site.

6. Focus Group Updates

▪ Business and Tourism

Yvonne reported that the Christmas Fayre had proved very successful and had received support from the Shop Local Scheme. It is hoped that a similar event will be held next year. Other tourism-related events are being considered and support from the local community is being sought. It was suggested that improved public transport links (and more bus shelters) between Bedale and the surrounding villages are crucial to ensure future events are well supported by local communities. It was agreed that a crossing point is needed at North End (an issue that was also raised at the recent meeting of the Community Interest Focus Group.) **Action:** Yvonne to raise this issue at the next meeting of the Environment Group. Peter to raise the issue of public transport at the next meeting of the LSP Executive.

▪ Environment

Yvonne confirmed that the public realm improvement scheme in the area outside the Post Office on the High Street remains a priority for the Group and that work is ongoing to ensure that the project is completed.

▪ Community Interests

Hazel provided details of the well-attended meeting held recently to consider issues facing older people across Bedale. Issues under consideration included learning opportunities in village halls, the promotion of the Hambleton Strollers scheme, access to the community minibus and reported incidents of anti-social behaviour in Aiskew. Other issues included pedestrian safety at North End and bogus callers/no cold calling zones. A further meeting of the Group is to be held in 12 months time, once again to consider older people's issues.

It was suggested that at the next meeting of the Group members consider the future and management of Village Halls across the Bedale area and consider how Village Hall Committees can work together to share resources, knowledge and expertise. Issues for consideration include public liability, insurance, fuels costs, training for members of Village Hall Committees, maintenance and funding opportunities.

- **Transport**

Mike confirmed that the Group has not met recently but that a meeting is to be held in February. It was agreed that the issue of a crossing at North End and the need for better public transport links between Bedale and the surrounding villages be considered at this meeting. Carl indicated that Wensleydale Railway must have level crossing safety orders in place both to manage traffic and protect those using the crossing (ie. cyclists.) It is understood that the Wensleydale Railway is under new management and that rubber inserts are being considered in order to reduce the risk of accidents to cyclists. Should these inserts prove to be an unworkable solution it may be that automated barriers are required.

- **Safety/Community Policing**

Bob reported that the Group hasn't met recently and given the low attendance at the last meeting it has been suggested that Community Safety issues be raised at future meetings of the Bedale Area Forum. Bob confirmed that a new Sergeant, Richard O'Neil, is now in post and that a new PCSO is undergoing training. It is understood that PC Mark Wood has replaced Lee Featherstone as the Community Police Officer and that the default base for response officers is Bedale.

7. Finance Update

Mike provided a Finance Update for consideration by the Group along with a summary of the accounts which indicated that as at 31st December 2009 the Forum had £11120.51 in reserves. As at 21st January 2010 the Group had £13846 in reserves with £5250 allocated (Crakehall Village Hall, St. Mary's Church at Thornton Watlass, Bedale Bonfire and the TIC.) This leaves £8596 in the Forum's bank account.

It was noted that the revenue contribution from 17 Market Place has been reduced to approximately £6k per annum following the recent rate review. Bob reported that X-Nihilo is looking to negotiate the rental on the premises with BSD Ltd. and that new premises and sources of funding are being pursued. **Action:** Mike to provide a budget which anticipates future income and expenditure for the next twelve months and which includes regular expenses such as the bonfire, the TIC and X-Nihilo. Mark to check the position regarding future rental income from 17 Market Place with HDC's Economic Development Unit.

8. Meetings and Correspondence;

- **Bedale Area Forum: Tuesday 26th January 2010**

Peter reminded members of the forthcoming Area Forum which is to be held at Bedale Hall on Tuesday 26th January. Items on the agenda for discussion include progress on Leeming Village public sewers, the future and management of Bedale Market and the 2010/2011 revenue budget proposals. The next Area Forum meeting is to be held on Tuesday 30th March 2010.

- **Application for Funding: West Tanfield Village Hall**

Members were given the opportunity to consider an application from West Tanfield Village Hall for £1800 to replace a double-skinned oil tank, to undertake boundary wall repairs and to improve existing kitchen facilities in the Hall (including the purchase of a new cooker.) It was noted that an application for £10k of 'Awards for All' funding had been submitted to support the project and that approximately £2k has been raised by the village. It is hoped that the Parish Council may also provide financial support after April 2010.

Proposal: Mike Barningham proposed that the £1800 requested be allocated from the Forum's reserves to support the project. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Carl Les and endorsed by the Group. There was one abstention.

It was agreed that the application form be reviewed to reflect funds already secured and the percentage of funds raised by local communities.

Proposal: Sue Latter proposed that £4k be allocated to X-Nihilo to help finance this year's rental of the youth centre premises. This proposal was seconded by Bob Pocklington. There was no opposition to the proposal. It was agreed that future funding for X-Nihilo be reviewed in readiness for next year.

9. Any Other Business

- **Draft Allocations Development Plan Document:** Peter circulated maps which identify land and proposed land usage in Bedale, Aiskew, Snape, Leeming Bar and West Tanfield under consideration within the LDF Allocations Development Document. This document was submitted to the Secretary of State on the 18th December 2009 for examination by a Planning Inspector. A decision is expected mid 2010.
- **Big Lottery Advice Session:** Hazel reminded members of the Big Lottery presentation and workshops being held at the Stone Cross Civic Centre on the 27th January. For further details of the Big Lottery Reaching Communities Fund please contact Nicky Smith on 01609 774633 or email nicky@ndvsa.co.uk
- **Yorkshire Forward Delegated Funding:** It was agreed that £2k of the Forum's reserves be ringfenced to match fund Yorkshire Forward Delegated Funds to support small scale capital projects in Bedale.

Date for the next meeting: Thursday 18th March 2010 at 7.30 in the Lounge at Bedale Hall