



**BEDALE AND VILLAGES COMMUNITY PLAN FORUM
MANAGEMENT GROUP**

7.30pm on Wednesday 28th January 2009

BEDALE ROOM, BEDALE HALL

MINUTES

Present

Mike Barningham (Chair); John Noone; Sue Latter; Stuart Isaac; David Brown; Ian Marr; Mark Haynes; Peter Cole; Harry Lillystone; Wanda Reynolds; Hazel Kirby; Nicky Smith; Lee Featherstone; Carl Les & Yvonne Rose.

Apologies

Bob Pocklington & Kathryn Chapman.

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting held Wednesday 12th November 2008

It was noted that Mark Haynes and Carol Clark were pursuing quotes for repairs to the harbour wall, *not* Carl Les as per the minutes. Otherwise the minutes were agreed as a true record thereof.

2. Matters Arising

Mike confirmed that £7870.97, three quarters of the annual rental income from 17 Market Place, had been paid into the Forum's account. A further £2.5k is expected in March 2009.

3. Bedale Public Realm Work

Mark provided an update on public realm works across Bedale outlined in a report circulated prior to the meeting:

- **Bedale Renaissance Park:** awaiting a response from Sir Henry Beresford-Pierse regarding possible land purchase adjacent to the Leech House for a proposed bridge.
- **Bridge Street Redevelopment:** a mixed use planning application has been submitted and funding is available to develop the site. The White Bear outhouses have been purchased by a developer who is also considering the purchase of Dovetail Interiors.
- **Empty Spaces:** work is ongoing at the Bedale Hall garage. Once completed the building will be occupied by the Bedale Children's Centre. A response has yet to be received from HDC regarding overnight parking of the Mini Bus. It was suggested that the Bedale Hall archway, with security gates at both ends, could provide a medium term solution subject to being of a sufficient width.
Action: Mike Barningham to discuss this with HDC Planning Dept.
- **Assembly Rooms:** work is being undertaken on site and it is anticipated that the project will be completed in late summer 2009.
- **Bedale Arts Trail:** phase I of the project is underway to design artwork for installation in the ground floor windows of the Assembly Rooms.

- **Fleece Cottages:** all planning approvals have now been received and work is to start shortly. Concerns were expressed over community safety issues. It is understood that following a change in Government legislation funding is available to gate off public rights of way. **Action:** The Environment Sub Group to explore options for gating the ginnel. Mike to write a letter for consideration at the next meeting of Bedale Town Council.
- **Heritage Trail:** Interpretation boards are being produced.

Mark confirmed that Yorkshire Forward funding is to end by 31st March 2009 but indicated that English Heritage funding may continue for the next 2 years. It was noted that 'geographic priorities', in particular infrastructure (eg. the need for sewers and power) may influence the outcome of future Yorkshire Forward funding bids.

4. Development Officer Update: Support for Village Projects

Nicky provided an update on progress made towards village projects including village hall refurbishments at Crakehall, Scruton and West Tanfield, X-Nihilo's funding application to Children in Need for a joint Centre Manager in partnership with the Base Project in Northallerton, and revised architects plans for the Bedale Scout & Guide hut.

5. Focus Group Updates

- **Business and Tourism**

Yvonne confirmed that work on the www.bedale.org.uk website is ongoing, the Christmas lights switch-on had proved very successful and that a decision has been taken not to have ice rink in winter 2009. The damaged street banners are to be replaced.

- **Environment**

The next meeting of the Group is to be held at 7.30pm on Monday 16th February at the TIC. **Action:** Peter to circulate details to Focus Group members.

- **Community Interests**

Hazel reported on the meeting held on Thursday 15th January at which both the future of X-Nihilo and plans for the Scout & Guide hut were discussed. It was noted that pupils from Bedale High School have been invited to the next meeting to be held on Tuesday 28th April.

- **Transport**

Mike provided an update on proposals for the Bedale Bypass, a submission for which is now with the Department of Transport. It is anticipated that once a decision has been made whether to go ahead with the scheme the outcome of the public enquiry would be made available in 2011, work would start in 2012 and the bypass completed in October 2014. It was noted that a recent meeting of the Hambleton Area Committee it was agreed that a decision on whether to install traffic lights on Bridge Street will be dependant on the outcome of the decision taken over the bypass. **Action:** Peter to circulate details of proposed timescale for completion.

The Group is working alongside Lisa Biggin, the new head teacher at the Primary School, to establish a 'Walking Bus' to create a 'Safer Route to School' incorporating land on Benkhill Drive gifted to the school by Broadacres. Both Bedale High School and NYCC Highways are involved in the project and future meetings are to be held to resolve certain issues.

- **Safety/Community Policing:**

Lee reported that at the recent Town Council meeting it was confirmed that more resources (ie. staff and equipment) are to be made available to tackle speeding 'hotspots' and to reduce the reliance on officers in Northallerton. Speed guns have been ordered that can be used by members of the public to identify such hotspots and help inform police enforcement action. Lee confirmed that projects to tackle under age drinking were ongoing and invited Forum members to attend night time operations of the 'mobile watch' initiative.

At the recent Safer Bedale meeting held on Thursday 8th January the 'Police Pledge' and police precept were considered. For details of the Police Pledge visit: <http://www.northyorkshire.police.uk/index.aspx?articleid=388>

If you have any questions about this or other community safety issues please contact Lee at: lee.featherstone@northyorkshire.pnn.police.uk

The next Safer Bedale meeting is to be held on Thursday 7th May 2009. **Action:** Peter to circulate details of the Police Pledge to Forum members.

6. Finance Update

Mike presented a copy of the accounts as at 31st December 2008 and details of the Forum's income and expenditure 2009-2010. Mike confirmed that the Forum has an approximate annual income of £10k generated by rental of 17 Market Place. It was agreed that the process by which organisations can bid for funding from this income is both robust and transparent. It was also agreed that £2.5k be kept in reserve to take advantage of immediate opportunities which may arise. It was noted that BVCPF makes an annual commitment of £500 to the Bonfire night and £250 to support the TIC.

Forum members agreed in principle to Nickys' request for funding to support the development of West Tanfield Village Hall, in particular the purchase of a double-skinned oil tank (total cost approx. £5k.) **Action:** Hazel to draft a process by which bids can be submitted for funding from BVCPF reserves for consideration at the next meeting to be held on Wednesday 18th March 2009. Nicky to submit a formal application in support of the West Tanfield Village Hall once this process is agreed.

7. Meetings and Correspondence:

▪ Area Forum Update

It was noted that there was some confusion over the date of the recent Bedale Area Forum. As a result there was a low turnout. Issues under discussion included:

- Unresolved enforcement cases in the Bedale area
- Unauthorised signs on the highway
- The use of wheeled bins and recycling
- The Sustainable Communities Act 2007

The next Forum meeting will be held at **7.00pm at Bedale Hall on Tuesday 24th March 2009.**

▪ Centre of Excellence for Youth Arts:

Peter circulated details of a proposal to develop Bedale Youth Centre into a Youth Arts Centre that will provide a space with high quality equipment for youth arts programming and development as well as providing a base for 4Youth Connecting Youth Culture. A partnership of key stakeholders is currently looking at refurbishment and an extension that will double the size of the building or a total rebuild. Based on costs of previous developments the total cost is currently at approximately £400,000 to £450,000. The additional funding that is being sought is between approx £100,000 to £150,000. **Action:** Peter to add this scheme to the Bedale & Villages Community Plan and to provide further updates at future meetings.

8. Any Other Business

- It was agreed that a review of the Community Plan be undertaken over the next 6 months to identify those projects which have either yet to be started or which have been started but have yet to be completed. **Action:** Peter to book the Ballroom at Bedale Hall for the meeting to be held on Tuesday 12th May and to circulate copies of the Bedale & Villages Community Plan to Parish Clerks for comment.

- **Great Towns Conference:** Stuart confirmed that this conference, to be held on Tuesday 10th February at the Royal York Hotel in York, will provide members with the last opportunity to influence how work undertaken as part of the Partnership Skills Programme will be carried forward.
- **'Creating a Sustainable Magazine':** Stuart provided an update on this the last Embed programme. Fifteen young people attended the first meeting at which the 'Battle of the Bands' proved a popular theme. Lawrence Monaghan and Mike Mills provide the link between the High School, young people and the Forum.
- **'Park Mark' Signs:** Peter to follow up with John Proud/Clive Thornton as to why the 'Park Mark' signs have yet to be installed (Yvonne to be consulted on as to where the signs are to be located once a date has been agreed.)

9. Dates of Future Meetings

- Wednesday 18th March
- Tuesday 12th May
- Wednesday 15th July
- Tuesday 15th September (AGM)
- Wednesday 11th November

All meetings to be held at 7.30pm at Bedale Hall