



**Bedale and Villages Community Forum
Management Group**

7.30pm on Thursday 18th March 2010

The Lounge, Bedale Hall

Minutes

Present

Yvonne Rose (Chair); Cllr. Carl Les; Beryl Pemberton; Sue Latter; Harry Lillystone; Hazel Kirby; Mike Barningham; Bob Pocklington; Mark Haynes; Jacquie Boulton; Margaret Hartley; Sylvia Broadwith; Mike Lowe BEM; PC Mark Wood & Peter Cole.

Apologies

Inspector Nigel Slater & John Noone.

1. Welcome, Introductions & Apologies

Yvonne welcomed Margaret Hartley and Sylvia Broadwith to the meeting representing Thornton Watlass Village Hall.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting held Thursday 21st January 2010

Agreed as a true record thereof.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

4. Bedale Renaissance Market Town: Update

Mark provided members with an update on projects within the Bedale Renaissance Market Town Plan and confirmed that:

- Work on 29 Market Place and the Dales Furniture Hall is now complete
- A contribution has been received from English Heritage to complete resurfacing work on Albert Row. It is anticipated that the work should be completed by the end of March 2010.
- A further £50k has been secured from English Heritage to undertake work in 2011/2012
- The globe lights on Samwaies Court are to be replaced
- NYCC Highways has agreed to the relocation of the telephone box as part of the proposed Post Office Square enhancement project.
- A plaque is to be installed on the wall of the Assembly Rooms.

Mark confirmed that the hosting of the visit-bedale website will be renewed shortly and that private sector sponsorship may have to be sought to secure the long-term future of the site. A decision will have to be made as to how this is progressed.

Bob raised concerns over the state of repair of the building to the rear of the White Bear pub. It was suggested that HDC has environmental powers of enforcement to ensure the site does not pose a Health & Safety risk. **Action:** Carl to follow up with HDC Environmental Health and Mark to make contact with the developer to raise these concerns.

5. Focus Group Updates

▪ Business and Tourism

Yvonne confirmed that the next meeting of the Group is to be held early in April.

▪ Environment

Yvonne reported that draft designs for the Post Office Square project have been circulated and that the Environment Group is in support of the proposed design. Yvonne indicated that issues with NYCC Highways have yet to be resolved and confirmed that consultation with the wider community will be undertaken to demonstrate support for the scheme. It was noted that Bedale Town Council has expressed support for the project and that the phased development of the scheme may result in the loss of one parking space.

Concerns have been expressed regarding the roadside 'clutter' at North End. It was suggested that a shared space in the centre of the carriageway may overcome the need for a pedestrian crossing though this may not be appropriate given the speed of traffic coming from the direction of Crakehall. It was also suggested that speed matrix signs located at North End may reduce the speed of traffic.

▪ Community Interests

Hazel confirmed that at the next meeting of the Group, to be held on Tuesday 27th April at 2pm at Bedale Hall, members will consider the future and management of Village Halls across the Bedale area and 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.

Mike confirmed that a shopping scheme for elderly residents is in operation across Bedale on Thursdays and Fridays and that he is willing to take referrals for the scheme. For further information about the scheme please contact Mike c/o 12 St. Lambert's Place, Burneston, Bedale, DL8 2HW. Members unanimously supported this scheme and it was agreed that work be undertaken to raise awareness of both the shopping scheme and a 'community visiting' initiative for isolated and vulnerable residents of Bedale. **Action:** Hazel, Beryl and Mike to meet to agree how these schemes can be promoted.

▪ Transport

Mike reported that two meetings of the Group had been held since the last Forum meeting. The first meeting focussed on the proposed cycle links between Bedale, Aiskew and Leeming Village. Mike indicated that Section 106 money may be available to develop the project and that Sustrans has been invited to consider the options, determine the costs and enter into negotiations with landowners. It is anticipated that a Sustrans Report should be completed within six weeks. Sustrans is also considering plans for the bridge over Bedale Beck.

It was noted that NYCC is preparing a Service Centre Transportation Strategy and it is understood that £200k may be available for work to be undertaken across the Bedale area. The following were suggested as possible priorities for the Strategy:

- A pedestrian crossing at North End
- A cycleway between Bedale, Aiskew and Leeming Village
- A 20mph speed limit along Firby Road
- The development of 'Safe Routes' to school

Mike confirmed that the Town Council has endorsed a project to improve access between Emgate and the burial ground and that Carillion has expressed a willingness to undertake a community project in the area.

Mike indicated that a decision from the Dept. of Transport on the Bedale Relief Road is expected within the next two weeks.

Bob reported that Aiskew Parish Council is to log accidents on the Aiskew level crossing and that Wensleydale Railway has installed 2 large signs warning cyclists about the risks of cycling over the crossing.

▪ **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. PC Wood encouraged members of the community to report all incidents and confirmed that Inspector Slater is to attend the next meeting of the Bedale Area Forum to set out the local policing priorities.

6. Leisure & Recreation Priority List: Update

It was agreed that plans to improve storage facilities at Crakehall Village Hall remain on the list whilst proposals to improve play equipment at the Kingfisher Playground be added. It was also suggested that the scheme to develop a play area on the Green at Kirby Fleetham be added to the list.

7. Finance Update

Mike provided a Finance Update for consideration by the Group which indicated that as at 18th March 2010 the Forum had £8016.81 in reserves. Of this £5250 is committed (Crakehall Village Hall, Thornton Watlass Village Hall, Bedale TIC and Bedale Community Bonfire.) Mike also presented a budget forecast for 2010 which suggests that expected expenditure for 2010 will reach approximately £10,200. It was suggested that the rental income from 17 Market Place had reduced to approximately £6k per annum following the rent review on the premises.

Action: Mark to confirm with HDC EDU as to the actual income the Forum receives as a result of the rental of 17 Market Place and for an explanation as to why the rent review took place.

No decision was taken as to how much should remain in the group's reserves.

8. Meetings and Correspondence

- **Bedale Area Forum:** Peter invited members to forward any questions to Louis Davies, Committee Services at Hambleton District Council, 10 days prior to the next meeting of the Forum to be held on 30th March 2010.
- **Access to High Speed Broadband across Hambleton:** Peter reminded members about the event being held in the Council Chamber at the Civic Centre on Tuesday 13th April, the purpose of which is to consider community-led solutions to the inconsistency of broadband speeds across Hambleton. Guest speakers have been invited to attend from NYnet and Community Broadband initiatives in Robin Hoods Bay and Selby. The meeting will provide provided an insight into the work of NYnet, the current

infrastructure in place and opportunities for NYnet to work with service providers to provide broadband to communities and businesses.

9. Any Other Business

Thornton Watlass Village Hall: members considered an application from the Thornton Watlass Village Hall Committee for £2k to support the refurbishment of the village hall, which includes plans to improve the cloakroom and small meeting room and to replace the existing exterior doors. Sylvia confirmed that the Village Hall Committee has allocated £7k of its own reserves to support the refurbishment scheme. Members agreed to the request for £2k (see minutes of meeting held on 11th November 2009). **Action:** Peter to forward a funding application form to Sylvia for completion.

Wheels 2 Work: Hazel confirmed that Wheels 2 Work had been awarded a grant from the Big Lottery 'Reaching Communities' fund. The grant will support the work to be undertaken by the scheme over the next five years.

Date of the next meeting: Thursday 13th May in the Lounge at Bedale Hall at 7.30pm