



**BEDALE AND VILLAGES COMMUNITY FORUM
MANAGEMENT GROUP**

7.30pm on Wednesday 11th November 2009

BEDALE ROOM, BEDALE HALL

Minutes

Present

Yvonne Rose (Chair); Stuart Isaac; Mark Haynes; Hazel Kirby; David Brown; Nicky Smith; Sylvia Broadwith; Mike Lowe BEM; Carol Roberts; Sue Latter; Bob Pocklington; John Dunwell; Mike Barningham; Peter Cole; John Noone & Ian Marr.

Apologies

Cllr. Carl Les; Chris Hall; Ian Watkins & Rev. Andrew Woodhouse.

1. Welcome, Introductions & Apologies

Yvonne welcomed Sylvia Broadwith, representing Thornton Watlass Village Hall, to the meeting

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting held Wednesday 15th July 2009

Agreed as a true record thereof.

3. Matters Arising

- **Bedale Scouts & Guides:** Mike confirmed that an engineer has been appointed and that a series of meetings have been held with the architects. It is hoped that the costings for the project will be agreed with the Quantity Surveyor by December. It was noted that Unit 1 on the Craft Yard Station site is soon to be occupied and will not provide an interim venue for the Scouts & Guides during construction of the new facility. **Action:** Mike to check with HDC regarding the possible use of the new venue by playgroups during the day and to check with Thirsk Town Council and the HDC Planning team regarding possible parking restrictions/enhancements.

4. Bedale Renaissance Market Town: Update

Mark provided an update on projects within the Bedale Renaissance Masterplan and confirmed that:

- Work to progress the Renaissance Park is being led by the Transport Group and that the plan includes a cycle network and proposals to improve footpath links between Bedale, Aiskew and Leeming. Some Section 106 money to develop the park is available.

- The new development at Bedale Hall (previously the garage) should be occupied by the Bedale Children's Centre early in the New Year.
- An NHS dentist has expressed an interest in occupying space within the Assembly Rooms complex.
- Yorkshire Forward funding is being sought to complete the Wycar lighting enhancement project.

Action: Mark to provide an update on the High Street public realm project at the next meeting along with a report prepared by Beth Carss describing measures being taken to ensure the visit Bedale website is sustainable.

5. Focus Group Updates

▪ Chamber of Trade & Tourism

Yvonne provided an update on the Christmas Extravaganza to be held on Saturday 5th December in Bedale Hall. The Christmas lights will be switched on at 6pm and an entry fee of £1 will be charged. In response to a request from Yvonne on behalf of the Chamber of Trade & Tourism group Mike proposed that the Group give £200 to purchase small Christmas trees to be installed above shop doorways in Bedale. This proposal was seconded by Sue Latter and endorsed by the rest of the Group. **Action:** Yvonne to complete a Funding Application form on behalf of the Chamber of Trade & Tourism Group.

▪ Environment

Yvonne reported that a meeting had been held with NYCC Highways to discuss proposals to enhance the area adjacent to the Post Office on the High Street. According to Highways legislation nothing can be done to the area within 4.5 metres of the highway and that the site cannot be levelled to incorporate improved seating or planting. The site however can be decluttered ie. the phone box, post box and litter bins can be moved. Yvonne is to discuss the situation with the architect before further work is undertaken. It was noted that Yorkshire Forward match funding could be unlocked if proposals for the site include plans to improved disabled access. The next meeting of the Environment Group is to be held on Monday 7th December at 7pm at the TIC.

▪ Community Interests

Hazel confirmed that the next meeting of the Group is to be held on Tuesday 1st December at 7.30pm at Bedale Hall. The focus of the meeting will be to consider issues facing older people across Bedale and the surrounding villages.

▪ Transport

Mike reported that the Transport group has met twice to consider the feasibility of a cycle link between Bedale/Aiskew/Leeming Bar/Leeming Village and also links to Crakehall and Newton le Willows. A project brief has been produced and tenders are out for a survey to be commissioned. It was suggested that the re-instatement of a bridleway under the A1 could include a cycle link and that Sustrans could provide up to 50% of the total project cost. The deadline for tenders is the end of November and the next meeting of the Transport Group is to be held on Wednesday 6th January at 2pm. The group is also looking at developing 'safe routes to schools' and the identification of circular walks around Bedale.

Bob reported that Wensleydale Railway is looking at inserting rubber sleeves along the track to reduce the risk to cyclists at the Aiskew level crossing.

It was noted that a decision has yet to be made on the relief road or the gateway car park. It is understood that although the relief road has been programmed for 2012 funding for the scheme has yet to be secured. Mike reported that NYCC is

to produce a model to generate feasibility reports on proposals to make Emgate a one-way street with a speed limit of 20mph.

▪ **Safety/Community Policing**

Bob reported that given the low turnout at recent Safer Bedale meetings it has been suggested that Community Safety issues be raised at future Area Forum meetings. Bob also confirmed that a meeting is to be held with the police, the Community Safety Partnership and Bedale Town Council to discuss the gating of the Fleece Cottage ginnel. Both the Town Council and the Environment Sub Group oppose plans to gate off the ginnel, a view shared by members of the Forum. It was agreed that the issue of poor lighting on Bridge Street be raised at the next meeting of the Environment Group. **Action:** Bob to represent the Forum at the meeting to discuss gating of the Fleece Cottage ginnel.

It was noted that Sgnt. Stuart Grainger is to leave in January on condition that a replacement can be found. Concerns were expressed over the level of police cover across Bedale and that although the number of PCSO's had increased they do not have powers of arrest. **Action:** Peter to invite Inspector Slater to the next meeting of the Forum to discuss future plans for the policing of Bedale and surrounding villages.

6. Finance Update

Mike presented an update on the Forum's finances and confirmed that the Group has approximately £10,850 in reserves. Nicky indicated that the Crakehall Village Hall Management Committee is still looking for funding and that the £2500 earmarked for the project is still required.

7. Meetings and Correspondence:

- **Kirkby Fleetham Green:** Peter circulated details of a project which seeks to develop a playground for 2-10 year olds on the Green or near the Village Hall in Kirkby Fleetham. The project is in the very early stages of development and it is understood that there a few issues to address before further progress can be made. However, members agreed in principal to include the project in the Community Plan.
- **Thornton Watlass Village Hall Refurbishment Project:** Sylvia presented details of a project to refurbish the existing Village Hall in Thornton Watlass. Planning permission has been approved and costings for the project are being sought. The total project cost is estimated to be £38,000. Sylvia confirmed that a funding package is being drawn up and that the village has raised approximately £7,000 to date. Members agreed to include the village hall refurbishment project in the Community Plan with a commitment to provide financial support for the project in the future.
- **Thornton Watlass Churchyard Enhancement Project:** Peter circulated a copy of a Funding Application Form from the Thornton Watlass Parochial Church Council which is seeking to increase the size of the existing churchyard and to plant trees along the new boundary. The project also includes the repair of existing footpaths and the installation of a new gated entrance to the Glebe field. The total project cost is estimated at £6500, of which £2000 is being requested from the Forum's reserves. John Noone proposed that £2000 be allocated to the project. This proposal was seconded by Mike Lowe and endorsed by a majority of those present.

It was agreed that plans for the Kirkby Fleetham playground and the Thornton Watlass Village Hall refurbishment project be considered and supported by the Community

Interest Focus Group whilst the Thornton Watlass Churchyard Enhancement Project is to be considered by the Environment Group.

8. Any Other Business

- **Bedale.org website:** members agreed to Yvonne's proposal that £200 be given to Bedale High School to create a 'photo gallery' on the site and to complete the site map on the village pages. It was noted that the school now has a new computer purchased with financial support from the Forum.
- **The Battle of the Bands:** Stuart indicated that work was underway in partnership with Yorkshire Forward and the police to re-instate the Battle of the Bands competition. It was agreed that this work be considered and supported by the Community Interest Focus Group in the first instance.
- **Parish Plans:** members agreed with Nicky's proposal that the group consider being the lead administrative organisation/funding body for Parishes seeking to write Parish Plans. It was agreed that this role would help strengthen links between the Forum and surrounding villages. Nicky confirmed that a Rural Network Co-ordinator is to be appointed to further enhance links with rural communities. This post is to be hosted by the Northallerton & District Voluntary Services Association.
- **Community Cherry Picker:** members endorsed the proposal that a District-wide 'community cherry picker' be purchased by HDC to support community led projects/events including the installation of Christmas lights/banners etc.
- **Conservation Area Consultation:** Yvonne encouraged members to contact HDC at planning.policy@hambleton.gov.uk with regards to the Conservation Area consultation being undertaken, the deadline for which is Friday 20th November. Yvonne confirmed that an objection to decision regarding the style and suitability of the canopy outside Aunt Sally's had been submitted on behalf of the Chamber of Trade & Tourism.
- **Dates of Future Meetings in 2010.** It was agreed that future meetings be held on Thursdays in the Lounge at Bedale Hall. **Action:** Peter to circulate dates for future meetings once they are confirmed.