

# STOKESLEY & VILLAGES COMMUNITY REGENERATION GROUP

Chairman: Mike Richardson

Vice Chairman: John Fletcher

Treasurer: Caroline Seymour

Hambleton District Council Community Link Officer: Peter Cole

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**Wednesday 8th April 2009**

**7.30pm at Stokesley Town Hall**

## Minutes

### Present

Mike Richardson (Chair)	Stokesley Parish Council and HDC
Frances Greenwell	Gt. Ayton Parish Council and HDC
Peter Cole	HDC Community Link Officer
Caroline Seymour	Stokesley Parish Council and NYCC
Helen Murfin	Stokesley Community Care Association
Bridget Fortune	HDC representing Rudby Ward
Mary Frew	Kirkby Parish Council
Vicky Tucker	Battersby Junction Resident's Association
Bernie Bowes	Battersby Jn Residents/Ingleby Greenhow PC
Margaret Skilbeck	Gt. Broughton PC and HDC
David Hugill	Swainby Resident
Clare Yates	North Yorkshire Youth
Jackie Griffiths	Stokesley Parish Council and HDC
Ron Kirk	Roseberry School, Great Ayton and HDC

### Apologies

Eddie Dryden	Stokesley and Gt. Ayton Extended Schools
Tanja Braun	Stokesley Play Areas Action Group
John Fletcher	Gt. Ayton Parish Council and HDC/NYCC
Michelle McFarlane	North Yorkshire Police
Geoff Belbin	Faceby Parish Meeting

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A minutes silence was observed in memory of the late Cllr. John Morley who had been Secretary of the Group since its inception in July 2001.

### **1. Welcome & Introductions**

Mike welcomed Clare Yates and David Hugill to the meeting.

### **2. Minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 11th February 2009**

Agreed as a true record thereof.

### **3. Matters Arising**

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

### **4. Neighbourhood Profiles: Stokesley & Surrounding Villages**

Peter presented the narrative from the Neighbourhood Profile of Bedale and surrounding villages, a project undertaken by NYCC in partnership with HDC, the Police, the PCT and other members of the LSP. The countywide Neighbourhood Profile is a database which uses data sets (obesity levels, income, age, deprivation indices etc.) to compare performance within the four wards in Bedale and

also across other areas within the District, the County and the UK. Whilst it was agreed that such a profile could provide a useful planning tool to help identify 'hotspots' and allocate resources serious concerns were expressed over the reliance on 'synthetic estimates' and the use of out-of-date statistics. It was noted that more reliable data has been presented at a recent members training workshop on equality and diversity. **Action:** Peter to ask Jane Hindaugh (HDC Committee Services) for this data prior to the next meeting.

## 5. The Stokesley Fire Station Youth Club

Clare Yates presented an update on the Fire Station Youth Project which opens on Thursday evenings between 7-9pm and which is a partnership between the Police, Broadacres, the Community Safety Partnership and NYCC. The project, staffed by qualified youth workers and volunteers from the Volunteer Centre and key partners, is based in the Community Centre adjacent to the Fire Station and offers a drop-in facility for 11-16 yr olds.

## 6. Project Updates

**Website:** Peter confirmed that negotiations were ongoing between ID24 and HDC regarding the hosting of the visit-Stokesley.com website. It is anticipated that the issue over the annual cost of maintaining the site will be resolved prior to the next meeting.

### Play Areas:

- **Chopgate:** It was noted that an update on progress has not been received for over 12 months: **Action:** Caroline to contact Carol McGhie requesting an update.
- **Middleton on Leven:** Bridget confirmed that the deeds have been transferred and the land purchase is complete. Work has yet to start on clearing the site.
- **Picton:** Bridget reported that the project is well advanced and that funding has been secured to develop the Picton Community Recreation Area.
- **North Road:** Caroline confirmed that approx. £18k has been raised by the Parents Action Group and that funding from the Play Strategy has been secured. Grass Roots funding has also been secured to finance the initial planning in partnership with Groundworks. The architect's plans for the site will be available for comment at the end of April and it is hoped that the first phase of the project will start in the summer of 2009.

**Hutton Rudby BMX Park:** it was reported that an initial feasibility/cost assessment of the site is to be undertaken. It was suggested that the high costs of establishing such a facility may be prohibitive.

**Battersby Junction:** Bernie confirmed that legal issues preventing the transfer of the land have yet to be resolved and that discussions with solicitors are ongoing. A contamination survey of the site is to be undertaken and the North York Moors National Park Authority has erected a fence around the site. Bernie indicated that plans are being developed to design a 'Welcome to Battersby Junction' pack for new and existing residents.

**Hutton Rudby Hydro Electric Project:** It was reported that there has been little progress made since the last meeting. It is understood that peak flow studies of the river will be undertaken throughout the year.

**Cemetery Access:** Mike confirmed that this project has recently been in abeyance although NYCC Highways have been consulted on the specifications for enhancements to the car park. A site visit to Bagby Airfield identified a possible rubber surface material which could be used which is similar to that used at Stokesley School. **Action:** Mike to follow up with the Parish Council.

**Village Hall Enhancements:** No updates on recent activity were given.

**Stokesley Cycleway:** Caroline indicated that NYCC had an underspend of approximately £18m and that a proposed extension to the existing route linking Stokesley with Great Ayton and Ingleby Cross had been added to the list of recommendations presented by HDC. Peter confirmed that the Sustrans feasibility study drafted in 2004 had been used to evidence the need for such a cycleway.

**Stokesley, Great Ayton and Area Intergenerational Project:** Helen confirmed that a programme of 'Quest Seeker Team Reads' will be held over the summer and that 'Beginners Internet' sessions will be held in Stokesley and Great Ayton libraries. '10-Pin Tuesdays' will continue, the success of which will be evaluated after Easter. Helen indicated that there is a shortage of qualified youth workers and that as yet there are no exact figures for the number of people engaging with the various projects.

**Ingleby Villages Recreation Area:** No update was presented in Brian Loader's absence.

**Crathorne Reading Room:** Bridget reported that some progress is being made with regards to enhancements and repairs to the Reading Room and that a village plan meeting has been held.  
**Action:** Bridget and Peter to meet with key partners to agree a way forward prior to the next meeting.

## 7. Meeting Updates/Correspondence

**Area Forum Update:** Peter reported that in response to concerns expressed over public transport links to the Stokesley Business Park the Council has agreed to co-ordinate further consultation with employees on the Business Park and the local community, to gather robust intelligence with which to demonstrate the need, or otherwise, for an enhanced bus service between the Business Park and Stokesley and the surrounding villages. Issues remain over gaps in the footpath between the High Street and the Business Park and it was agreed that any plans to improve access to the Business Park should include the provision of a cycle path.

## 8. Financial Report

Caroline confirmed that there had been no change to the Group's reserves since the last meeting and that the current balance stands at £923.70 of which £553.07 is held for SNAG. The Group therefore has £370.63 in reserves. Members agreed to the request that any surplus following the winding up of SNAG be allocated to the hire of the Astro Turf for the 'On Your Doorstep' football project.

## 9. Any Other Business

- **Leader Funding:** Peter circulated details of the LEADER Programme (see attached to minutes.) LEADER is EU funding which aims to tackle "economic underperformance and deprivation" in rural areas through a community economic development approach. LEADER aims for an integrated approach to sustainable rural development, incorporating both socio-economic and environmental activities. Malcolm Bowes, Bilsdale Midcable Parish Council, has been elected Chair of the LAG Executive, whilst Cllr. Peter Spencer, Tees Valley Rural Community Council, has been elected Vice Chair. Peter Cole is the nominated officer representing Hambleton District Council on the LAG Executive. Eligible parishes within the Stokesley catchment area are:

Whorlton	Bilsdale MidCable
Great Ayton	Stokesley
Little Ayton	Faceby
Ingleby Greenhow	Ingleby Arncliffe
Kirkby	Great and Little Broughton
Easby	Kildale
Great Busby	Little Busby
Carlton	

For further information on the LEADER programme please contact Mike Horrocks, the LEADER Programme Manager on 01439 770657. To request an Expressions of Interest form please contact Amy Thomas, at: [a.thomas@northyorkmoors-npa.gov.uk](mailto:a.thomas@northyorkmoors-npa.gov.uk)

- **Community Plan Review:** Members were reminded of the need to forward Peter details of progress made towards projects in the Community Plan along with details of new projects being worked up.
- **Annual General Meeting:** The Group's AGM is to be held on Wednesday 10th June 2009 at Stokesley Town Hall. Nominations are being sought for the position of Chair given Mike's decision to step down after 7 years in post. It was agreed that Peter continue to provide clerical support for the Group.
- **Battersby Junction Welcome Pack:** it was agreed that the production of a 'Welcome Pack' for new and existing residents of Battersby Junction be added to the Stokesley & Villages Community Plan.

## 10. Dates of Future Meetings

10th June

12th August

14th October

9th December