



## **HOLMFIRTH CONSERVATION GROUP – SEPTEMBER 2016 NEWSLETTER**

Holmfirth Conservation Group continues to proceed at an amazing pace, thanks to the work of our hard-working committee and volunteers.

As you know Holmfirth has been designated an area “At Risk and in Decline”, by Historic England.

Historic England have been following our progress from a distance are so impressed by the commitment of our community to the task in hand that they hope to celebrate our achievement – the completion of our Appraisal and Management Plan – with their own celebration of the 50 year anniversary of The Civic Amenities Act. To this end they have invited us to apply for funding to help us complete the work by July 2017 to coincide with their anniversary. This is a wonderful opportunity to put Holmfirth on the national map and we are delighted about the prospect.

We now have all the data survey forms back – there are 39 areas of which 20 have been entered into the database. 30 areas have been photographed to date.

Photographs are an essential part of our survey because we can zoom in to see closely features which the surveyors can't see. Thank you to Eric, Peter, Fran and Clem.

The formulae have been added so that we can see the condition and authenticity percentage of each building or structure as it is entered. It has been an enormous task but it will enable us to summarise features of our built environment with accuracy and supported by evidence. All this evidence will be kept so that it can be referred to, and in the future, to provide the opportunity to compare the conservation area in 5 or 10 years time with today.

We are grateful to our volunteer Landscape Architect Jenny Sweet who has redesigned our River Survey Form and has trained 10 volunteers to survey the stretch of the River Holme as it crosses the conservation area. We are delighted to have the support of River 2015 and hope that our section of the river proves to be useful to them.

Thank you to Cathy and Steve Davy who will be acting as advisors to us on surveying The Public Realm, recording the data and training volunteers. Although, less time consuming we hope, it is a more complex task for us to manage and to have experts as part of the wider HCG membership is an incredible advantage. We have 13 volunteers signed up but should you wish to

be involved let us know through the website please. We welcome young people but if they are under the age of 16 they must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Volunteer surveyors were invited to a social evening on 2nd August and 26 of us enjoyed a celebration of team spirit, friendship over a drink at The Tap House.

On 18<sup>th</sup> August we were joined by Jason McCartney MP who is supporting our project. Those present shared their views about accessibility, lack of one person accommodation, listed buildings, our historic environment, our artwork about the town. Jason is excited about our project and will do what he can to promote our cause.

We anticipate that during November or December we may be ready to share some of the findings with you. In the meantime members of the committee will be planning what goes into the Appraisal which , should our bid for funding with Historic England be successful, we will be discussing with consultants and Kirklees Planning Department.

One last piece of news is our application for Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) status is in the post.

Don't forget to keep abreast with news and events by keeping a watchful eyes on our web site at [www.holmfirthconservation.org.uk](http://www.holmfirthconservation.org.uk)