



MAY NEWSLETTER

Holmfirth Conservation Group's second open meeting is to be held on Wednesday 18th May, 7pm at Brambles. You will already have received an invitation by email.

At this meeting we will explain Holmfirth Conservation Group's exciting project in detail. The aim is to preserve and enhance Holmfirth's built environment for the benefit of all. At the meeting we will be asking for volunteers to photograph and collect data about our built environment and the public realm which will be used to support the community led Appraisal of Holmfirth Conservation Area.

We are part of the Parish Council's Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and all the data we collect will contribute to the formation of this key planning vision.

There may be some confusion over dates and venue. This is because we have been asked to change our date and venue on two occasions because other Holmfirth groups had plans for the same day. We apologise for the inconvenience and any confusion.

We wish to thank **HEAD** and **Keep Holmfirth Special** who have provided us with funds to get going! **Holme Valley Vision** is the umbrella under which both groups work and has provided us with invaluable contacts and advice. **River 2015** will be working with us to survey the stretch of the River that runs through the conservation area.

We estimate that this project will cost us in the region of £15 000. We are still waiting for a response from the Heritage Lottery Fund to our Expression of Interest. If you know of any funding sources that may be available for us to apply to would you kindly let us know using our email address.

As you know we are a constituted group but as we will be handling money we have decided to apply to become a charity and one of the team is looking into this at this moment. We hope that by the 18th May we will have news for you about the grant and the charity status.

In the meantime, we have decided to open the group to a wider membership and in order to start of the process we are asking you to become a member of Holmfirth Conservation Group – this will give you voting rights at the AGM. We will include you in the membership unless we hear you want to opt out – don't worry you will still receive our newsletters and be invited to events and to volunteer.

In our April newsletter we asked you to contact us if you have skills we need. But, we have received no replies. PLEASE contact us. The skills which are in short supply are: town planning, surveying, landscape architecture, finance, photographers, heritage, IT. You might only have time to act as a consultant but that too would be highly prized. We need your expertise!

Please bear in mind this is a community project, and, we need your help and your views over the next few months every step along the way of this exciting project.

This part of the project is limited to the writing and submission of the appraisal, so it is no long-term commitment but it's worthwhile and will benefit the town and empower the local community.

At the meeting there will be presentations by members of the Team. We will explain the process, the projected timescale, share the data sheets with you and invite you to play a part. Every contribution, however small, will be valued.

Once the data collection, entry and analysis are complete we will be holding open meetings in order to collect your views and prioritise developments for the action plan. Our shared vision for the future of Holmfirth is vital.

On our Facebook Page you will find the invitation. Please share it with your friends or forward the invitation sent to you by email. We want to ensure our work is representative of the whole community.

We look forward to welcoming you on the **18th May, 7pm at Brambles** to discuss the project which should begin during June with the data collection following volunteer training. There will be an exhibition of photos past and present to inspire you, and cheese and wine to give you confidence to volunteer!