

December 2016 Newsletter

Dear Members and Supporters

We have much to celebrate this month. Firstly the award of £1000 by Longley Farm One Community Fund for an information board, which will celebrate certain historic features within the conservation area and lead the visitor on a walk of discovery. A huge thank you to Longley Farm and the managers of the fund for supporting our project which was presented at a gathering at Brambles on Wednesday 7th December where the twelve voluntary groups working with the community gathered to receive their awards. It was an inspiring evening and we were so honoured to be selected and to be there to receive our award and to celebrate the marvellous work that is undertaken by other local voluntary community organisations.

HCG welcomes Diana Krawczuk who as our Minutes Secretary is doing a great job following complicated discussions and recording them so brilliantly, thank you.

HCG also welcomes Kim Chandler to the Management Committee, her major role will be as Events Manager/Organiser but she has already signed up for other sub-group working parties. She has tirelessly worked on data collection for buildings and the public realm and data input. Her profile will be available on the website shortly.

Deb Wyles, Kim Chandler and Peter Hibbard will be working with all interested parties, including the Parish Council, on the siting of the information board and its contents.

Holmfirth Conservation Group has now completed all the survey work and members of HCG are now engaged in the writing of chapters for the Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan (CAMP).

In addition to Historic England's approval of our work we are delighted to announce that we have a letter of support from Jason McCartney MP. We have received direct support from folk in the wider Holme Valley, including interested members of The Labour Party, The Liberal Democrats and Green Party in the valley. We thank you all for your support. Particularly for expressing your support for the vital part in which community groups, and specifically HCG, play in our modern world when funding and resources are so short in local government.

On that note we are pleased to announce that we have an appointment with Kirklees MBC Planning Department on 11th January at 12:30 when we will be reviewing our progress with Simon Taylor, Head of Development Management) and Nigel Hunston, Conservation Officer, sharing the technical analysis of the Conservation Area and securing their support for the Conservation Area Appraisal.

We have 43 signed up members all of whom have worked for us in some way, for example as surveyors, trainers, and writers of chapters for Streetscape, Character of the River and Shop Frontage and a further 57 supporters on our mailing list.

We plan to hold a Public Meeting, probably in February where we will present to you our findings so far and possibly our draft appraisal. We hope to reach a wider audience in the Holme Valley. In these times we need to work together to ensure that our beautiful valley isn't compromised and we are all aware of the present

pressures imposed on us whether we are those engaged in the development of the Local Plan, the Neighbourhood Plan or the wider community.

We are in the process of converting the conservation group to become a charity with a wider membership. Membership of the charity will be open to all. What we are proposing is that all current supporters and volunteers who are on our mailing list will automatically be enrolled as members. As a member you will have a direct say in what HCG does and its policies. If you do not wish to become a member please email us.

If you receive our newsletters through another source – a friend or community group like Holme Valley Vision (HVV) and you are not on the HCG mailing list, membership does not automatically apply. You will need to go to our website and subscribe to our mailing list (<http://www.holmfirthconservation.org.uk/contact-us>). So don't forget to do so – register for a vote, a say in what HCG does and how HCG executes its policies.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! - From HCG