

Holmfirth Conservation Group February Newsletter

29th February 2016

The team has had a busy month. We met with Councillor Nigel Patrick and Councillor Donald Firth to discuss the proposed project which I outline below.

1. to conduct an appraisal of the Conservation Area of Holmfirth using community involvement.
2. to use this appraisal to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the town and to set targets in consultation with the community which will be published in the appraisal
3. the appraisal will be included in 'The Neighbourhood Plan' and will feed into the 'Kirklees Local Plan' to inform any future planning applications.
4. the group would seek to apply for funding which should make some of these targets achievable.

Councillors Patrick and Firth showed an interest in our work and share the same concerns we do. The team believes our Ward Councillors will continue to take an interest and offer their support along the way. Their knowledge of our town and its history and planning issues, we hope, will guide us as we move through the process with Kirklees Planning Department. We thank them for taking an interest.

This month has seen the near conclusion of a mammoth task – the design of the data collection sheets to cover the buildings of Holmfirth and the area of public realm, namely all the open spaces. Our next step is to test the forms ourselves before making any necessary adjustments.

We met with Adrian Barraclough, Lynva Russell and Janet Williams of the River 2015 project, explained our work and that the data would include the river within the conservation area. We believe they may join in that part of the data collection.

On the 7th March Holmfirth Conservation Group will be giving a short presentation at the Holme Valley Vision AGM. Margaret Dale, Chair of HVV has kindly sent out our newsletter to members of all the groups involved in HVV umbrella.

We would like to thank the following people for their input into the data collection sheets which will be trialled in the next two weeks by the team.

Craig Broadwith of Historic England, Russell Earnshaw, Michael Brammah, Clem Bacon as well as the team, Frances Bennett, Rachel Hogley, Stephen Baggott, Deborah Wyles and Anne Bacon.

Once we have our final version of the data forms complete we will be contacting Simon Taylor, Richard Hollinson, and Nigel Hunston of the Kirklees Planning Department in order to request a meeting for endorsement of the data sheets and the project, the progress of which they have been informed regularly since August 2015.

The Holmfirth Conservation Group is an independent, community group which would like to work with and support Kirklees and the Holme Valley Parish Council in developing a conservation area appraisal for Holmfirth that will be adopted by Kirklees and incorporated within the local Neighbourhood plan. It will only be with the active support of the community that this will be possible. Once the appraisal has been completed, it will be possible to apply for funding to support the delivery of projects that will make a difference to our heritage and community.

The next newsletter will be published after our meeting with Kirklees Planning Department. We will then be able to plan our open meeting to present the project and we will then invite those who are willing to help us gather the information we need in order to write the action plan to enlist.

Thank you for your patience and your continued interest. If you know of anyone who would like to be included in the project and receive the newsletter, please contact the team at

Holmfirthconservation@outlook.com

If you no longer wish to receive our monthly newsletter, please reply to the email address above.