

NEWSLETTER – MAY 2017

STOP PRESS

Kirklees has given HCG a letter of support for our work to date.

Our CIO status, our letters of support from Kirklees MBC, the Holme Valley Parish Council and Jason McCartney mean that we are at long last in a position to apply for funding. Additionally we know we have the support of Thelma Walker candidate for the Labour Party, the Lib Dems and Cllr Andrew Cooper Leader of The Green Party in Kirklees. Therefore we are now able to make an application to Historic England's Capacity Building Grant for funding.

Funding is a vital part of our process. It will be used to fund a Heritage and Conservation Consultant who will audit the Conservation Area Appraisal (CAA) to ensure its content and flow provides the rigour required, set out by Historic England.

Funding will also pay for a graphic designer to put the polishing touches to the design of the appraisal and to engage a Public Relations Company to help us promote the work we have done.

It is our intention to continue our policy of openness with our community as this is your project and we have faith that the outcome will lead to the removal of Holmfirth Conservation Area from the Historic England's "At Risk Register," lead to investment in our town and economic development.

What's Happening Now

During this month we will be applying for a grant, sending identified consultants a brief, interviewing them and making choices.

The editing team are putting the finishing touches to the CAA and the first draft will be ready for the Management Team to review very shortly.

April's Quiz

Unfortunately we think we chose the wrong weekend – a bank holiday, the tour de Yorkshire . We decided during the week leading up to the event that we had sold too few tickets and reluctantly cancelled the event.

We apologise to the three tables who had bought tickets and to anyone who decided to turn up on the night. We advertised the cancellation widely and sent out notice to all on our contact list. As we were providing supper, we had to be able plan for a committed number of covers – this is an issue we need to think about when we plan the next event – do we offer supper or not?

We'd love to hear your views and perhaps to know what sort of social/fund raising events you'd like to see offered. In the meantime our **Information Board Project** for which we hoped to raise additional funds is well underway and should be celebrated in September with an opening tour of the area covered.

On Saturday 13th May we have a table at the **Volunteering Fair** organized by **Holmfirth Community Forum**. We will be looking for volunteers who have specific skills in the following:

Creating QR codes

A licensed drone pilot

A person to manage our social media accounts more effectively on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter

Someone who could make a YouTube video which would be used with our interpretation boards along with the QR coder

We need individuals with skills in fund raising who can offer HCG practical help in organizing and running the events.

In addition we'd like to create a panel of surveyors, architects, lawyers and builders who would give free informal advice to the community.

If you have skills in any of these areas please contact us on Holmfirthconservation@outlook.com or through our website www.holmfirthconservation.org.uk expressing your interest and telling us how you could help us.

Finally

The work of the community and its achievements has been unprecedented in its scope and depth. HCG is moving onto its next goal - the completion and signing off of the Conservation Area Appraisal.

This will, in turn, inform the subsequent Conservation Area Management Plan drawn up by Kirklees Council; and this will help encourage direct investment in our town which will lead to greater prosperity for this fabulous town. Thank you to you all.