

Newsletter - January 2017

Happy New Year to all our members from the committee of HCG!

Jason McCartney, who joined us surveying buildings back in August 2016, continues to take an active interest in our work. We have now received a letter of support from the Holme Valley Parish Council. As a group, we are represented on the Parish Council's Steering Group which is developing the Neighbourhood Plan.

Members of HCG have worked tirelessly to collect data on buildings, the public realm and parks and open spaces. The Holme Valley Parish Council recognise that the successful completion of the group's Conservation Area Appraisal for Holmfirth will be a supporting part of implementing a sound Neighbourhood Plan, providing an evidence base for monitoring and implementing future change as recommended by the Parish Council's consultancy AECOM. The Parish Council has expressed a particular interest in HCG's architectural study of the buildings of Holmfirth and their contribution to the area and HCG's review of shop frontages, which is presently being completed by Cathy Davie.

Forty three of you have been involved in this, and we are so proud of what you have all achieved, which is presently being analysed by Frances Bennett, Clem Bacon and Sebastian Bacon.

The chapters are being written by twelve individuals, supported by two others who are part of the editing team who are working to make the chapters represent the single voice of Holmfirth Conservation Group.

Deborah Wyles is leading the group planning the content of the interpretation board and liaising with The Holme Valley Civic Society and the Holme Valley Parish council on its siting.

On the 11th January a group of the management committee will be meeting Kirklees Planning Department when the group will be seeking a letter of support for HCG's work. HCG will present the technical data that underpins the work of HCG so that the thoroughness of the data collection and its usefulness to Kirklees, as well as to Holmfirth, can be recognised. In February HCG plans to share the work and its findings with the community.

Although we have many very active members with lots of different skills, we have no one who has conservation appraisal experience. For this reason we are looking to engage conservation consultants who will provide guidance and ensure that the appraisal is of the quality and rigour necessary to be adopted by Kirklees.

Historic England wants to support our work and have suggested that we could receive a grant to pay for the consultants. This grant however, is dependent upon our receiving the support of Kirklees and others for our endeavours in preparing the Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan. We're working hard with all those concerned to get the successful outcome which we all desire which is the adoption of the appraisal and management plan by Kirklees.

With your support and that of the Parish Council we are confident that the Conservation Area Appraisal and subsequent Management Plan will be acted upon.

Please keep in touch with our website www.holmfirthconservation.org.uk and our Facebook page for updates. If you know of anyone or any group who would like to become members, please ask them to subscribe either through the newsletter or through our webpage.