



August 2016 - Newsletter

July has been an amazing month collecting data on our built environment. We knew there were 550 buildings in the conservation area but many of those proved to be 'over and unders'. Additionally we had to consider all separate sheds and garages, ginnels and believe it or not buttresses. By the end we will have surveyed more than 1000 separate structures!

To all our volunteers, thank you so much for engaging so enthusiastically in the task. The general feeling is that we have learned a great deal about our environment as a result of taking part in the survey.

This month will see the end of the building survey– the final part in the Old Town will be completed as a team. We are pleased to have the support of Jason McCartney who says "You have my full support. This is a very exciting project and I am looking forward to being part of it and working with you." Jason will be joining us to survey a section of the 'Old Town'.

He has stressed that part of his job is to bring stakeholders together which includes professional

services, commerce, residents, interested individuals, and youth groups with Kirklees, our Ward Councillors, and the Parish Council.

We are delighted to tell you that the Parish Council has generously given a grant of £1000 to this project, Kirklees is working with us and are impressed by our professionalism and the Ward Councillors are keeping in touch with what we are doing. We need the continued support of these three groups and Jason hopes that his support will provide the encouragement we need.

What happens next? We have a new volunteer with a wealth of experience behind him to help us with the river survey. It is a far more complicated process than we had imagined. Although we are concentrating wholly on the 'characteristics' of the river and its surroundings, a considerable depth of skill and expertise is required. Jenny Sweet, our Landscape Architect volunteer is working on our data forms and our new recruit will be joining her training volunteers during the last week of August. We hope that our data may be useful to River 2015 with whom we have close links.

Having spoken to our team of planners we will be considering in greater depth how we collect the data for the public realm on the 22nd August – the survey for which will be undertaken during September.

Therefore data collection will be a month behind schedule but when one considers the scale of the

project and how it has grown during the process of data collection our success as a team of 40 volunteers is a mighty achievement.

The Holmfirth Conservation Group thanks volunteers for working so hard gathering data; our supporters and all who are following our progress.