

**Draft Minutes of Meeting**

**Date: 23 March 2016**

**Time: 7:00pm**

**Venue: Clowne Methodist Hall**

**1. Apologies** Steven Raison, Brian Betts, Mick and Sue Hirsthouse

**Attendance was 23 people.**

**2. PCSO were due to attend and so must be on duty tonight**

As usual the message is any sightings or worries **RING 101 with any concerns. The community are the eyes and ears for the PCSO and the Police.**

**E mails:**

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**3. Tony Loach Freedom Community Project**

The Freedom project began in Bolsover from a coffee morning but soon came across people with debt and benefit issues. So the project began to expand providing advice and with a foodbank. If people on benefits are sanctioned and benefit money then stops for six weeks then those people often have nowhere to go to for help. There is such a huge raft of benefits and people struggle to understand them even if people are literate. Things get pushed aside and the situation gets worse and soon critical. The Freedom project are trying to stop the downward spiral and help people to recover and potentially get into work. Even people in work can struggle- eg bedroom tax loses some households 14% of income and people then ask what is the point of working? The system does make mistakes and people can get into difficulties as a result. Freedom work out of 6 centres – including one now at Eckington and they are helping others in Sheffield. It is there to help people with financial issues. The extent of people who are falling between the cracks is significant. They are helping people in Bolsover to learn to Read and Write – an essential skill for everyone.

They meet at Clowne Methodist Chapel on Monday mornings 9-12 – with space provided free by the Methodist Chapel. A new charity shop is just opened on Rectory Road Clowne a few weeks ago. Often it is people who are in work who struggle to make ends meet. They have an official debt worker who can advocate for people and they have links to the Credit Unions.

**Q & A session followed**

Dr Nissenbaum commented that he finds the Bolsover project extremely useful for people who their health service are involved with.

In Killamarsh there is a new base to open and in Renishaw supported by S Yorkshire project.

Personal Independence Payments are to replace Disability Living Allowance . It was in the Budget and then out of the budget- it may get re-assessed. But anyone affected can contact Freedom project.

Foodbank – when do they accept donations?. They only collect at the Methodist chapel on Monday – or people can hand in donations to the shop in Rectory Rd. People usually have to be assessed by the Council before they get a food parcel. People are allowed up to six – as usually it is 6 weeks before benefits are sorted out.

Mr Loach was thanked for the presentation.

#### **4. Minutes of the previous meeting 20 January 2016 were approved.**

##### **Matters Arising:**

**4.1 Neighbourhood Plan**- Is the figure of 7-10% returns correct as it seems low. It was believed that this was the right figure quoted as being appropriate to make the returns viable. The comment was made that the questionnaire was not seen as very helpful. Apparently the return rate from households was ok – but this has not been reported back yet. There is a group that is against the Neighbourhood Plan. The form was the one agreed by the Parish Council.

**4.2 Cemetery Trees** The hedge was also being managed next to Mr Calleys property to reduce impact. He had a large number of very big trees next to his house that he will have had removed before he approached the Parish.

##### **4.3 Buses- Eric Burgess updated**

They have been trying for some time to get bus services improved.

To serve Chesterfield, and the Royal hospital, and hope to get Markham Growth Zone served. They met stagecoach and with Anne Western and got nowhere. The issue is that a subsidy for a service is required.

Hopes were pinned on the D2N2 Councils' consortium who would have regulatory powers and could then decide where buses should go.

The consortium have sought regional authority- similar to the Sheffield City Region. Unfortunately 2 District Councils ( Chesterfield Borough and Bassetlaw) have decided to join the Sheffield City region in preference to D2N2.

Both our local bus services operate out of Chesterfield and Worksop depots. Bolsover and NE Derbyshire are staying with D2N2 if it ever gets Govt approval. There are a group of south Derbyshire MP's who are Conservative and who want to get D2N2 scuppered as it would be led by a labour Mayor- they can then get a link with Lincolnshire and have a Conservative led joint councils grouping. This could mean the end of Derbyshire ?

There would be a concern that Sheffield would decide what happens here. Already money from Markham Vale is going into Sheffield region. DCC are looking at a judicial review against the Chesterfield decision. 16 District Councils are signed up to D2N2- but there is a long way to go.

##### **4.4 Housing and Neighbourhood Plan**

Parish decisions seem out of step.- they object to housing applications but all comments are ignored by Bolsover DC. There seems to be no implementation of the conditions on planning approvals by Bolsover Planning. We have 12 Parish Councillors and 4 of these are also District Councillors. The worry is that it is too late. The Bolsover plan is for a rate of housebuilding of 240 per year. A Neighbourhood Plan is the way to make us masters of our own destiny. People are stopped from speaking at the Parish meeting and there is no dialogue. It is not a democratic process. The Parish limit on public questions was because of accusations by the community. They would prefer discussion. But legal protection against accusations have led to them restricting the attacks.

#### **5. Friends of Clowne Event**

They are holding a fundraising ceilidh event at the Anchor Inn on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 7:30 till 11pm. Tickets are available from Cross Garage 07931563573

## **6. Barton St / Mitchell St Rail Bridge and Greenway**

Allan has spoken to Cllr Anne Western and Justine Spencer from Derbyshire CC has provided an update. We are assured that the bridge removal/new ramp is going to happen. Planning Approval and the Footpath Diversion order are approved. DCC now need a contractor selection and then they can start. There is no date for start given yet though. We also need Bolsover DC to confirm that the barriers to wheelchair access on Linear will be removed. The ramp will be built first and then the bridge will be removed by crane. The Gradient of the ramp is to be 1in 20 and we are not sure how wheelchairs will manage the route

It was asked how we will stop motorbikes accessing Linear and the Greenway. Apparently they will be looking at motorcycle barriers somehow. An excellent job has been done by volunteers with Groundwork Creswell on the Greenway. Lots of people are now using the old track more.

## **7. Southgate Colliery Memorial**

There were two collieries in Clowne and the Southgate Colliery was immediately behind where we are now- on the Station Road Industrial Estate site. Southgate Colliery closed in 1929 after flooding. There was a monument put up to the two pit ponies that died down the mine in the flooding – this is now derelict apparently. But, there is nothing to mark the pit or the miners who worked and died there. Allan has researched the history of the colliery and has found the names of 39 men and boys who were killed during the life of the pit.

Previously it was agreed between Clowne in Bloom and Bolsover DC that a redundant sign at the grass area at the bottom of Brook Hill was to be relocated across to the other side (northside) of Station Road to feature the Southgate story.

Allan and the History Society have now found an old mining tub of the right era and locally and the plan is to put this on a concrete plinth at the entrance to the Industrial Estate with the double sided history sign alongside it. Allan has been approaching the community and businesses for funds and has raised a sum enough to be certain of start. Cllr Anne Western DCC has donated alongside local businesses and a donation from Friends of Clowne. The text and pictures about the colliery are ready and the list of the names of those who died. The impact of the collieries on the village was huge with a huge increase in population in a few years driven by the colliery growth and all the town facilities of shops and community services followed. It will be placed on Station Hill on the grass entrance to the estate next to the existing seat with Bolsover DC agreement. We need BDC approval- likely with a Licence and Planning permission. The tub will be looked after by Clowne in Bloom with it planted up with shrubs and flowers. There is also potential for an original Pit Wheel – possibly to be located on the other side of Station Road on the Brook Hill grass area.

## **8. Clowne in Bloom Update**

We have been successful in our application to the Tesco Bags of Help grant application. The public voting in store was in the week ending 6 March. Clowne project got the most coin votes and so £12,000 grant. We are still waiting for the grant conditions though and so a little uncertain of what the detail may be. The concern with such a large grant is that it may have conditions we cannot work with.- usually we spend £400 or so each year – except when we get outside grant. Of the grant around £9,000 will go to Linear park activity and £3,000 to Clowne in Bloom planting – streets and entrances. A key element is plans to put new wooden adventure play equipment in the Linear Park area near the old skate park site including a wood steam train made from large oak tree trunks on the bed of the old L&ECR rail line, to be done by a sculptor from Welbeck Estate. We are still seeking Bolsover DC agreement to these plans. Bolsover tend to prefer the expensive metal play equipment. Our preference is for wood balancing / stretching equipment that connect with the Linear Park better. The

signs at each end of the Park will also be replaced with Clowne History stories. We have a focus on UK Natives planting on Linear. The grant award will test the group and we will rely on more volunteers getting involved- hopefully through the Greenway path volunteers. Groundwork Creswell are to help us with supervision/ oversight of the play equipment installation. A new sign about the rail history is planned with Derbyshire CC as the ramp is done. This Sunday 27 March there is a litter pick on Linear at 10am. Three Family Activity days are planned this year- Sunday 24 April, Sunday 24 July and Sunday 30 October- together with Friends of Clowne volunteers and Clowne Wildlife. A Footpath Designation submission is planned for the two routes across the former Skate Park Chesterfield College site. East Midlands in Bloom Judging is in July this year and we will plan a Best Front garden award and Best School Garden submission.

**NE Derbyshire Well Dressing leaflet** - We have agreed to produce a leaflet for this year promoting the eight groups events in our area of Derbyshire. Bolsover Rotary have agreed to provide £100 grant if we can raise the rest. Each of the groups have agreed to pay £12.50. For 2,000 copies the cost is £199 from RED print.

**Well Dressing in Clowne** – display this year is on week commencing Sat 23 July- making in the week starting 18 July. We also have the schools and Salvation army Rainbow making small boards in that week. We still need a contact with Juniors School.

## **9. Any Other Business**

**Regeneration Framework**- this is being done by Architects Baumann Lyons for Bolsover DC – for the four main towns. The consultation display is in Clowne on 20 April.

**Recycling of Shredded paper** – It was noted that the shredded paper tends to blow about when the recycling is being collected and gets spread all over the street. It needs a complaint to Bolsover DC

## **10. Next Meetings - for 2016.**

### **Committee dates two weeks prior to main meetings**

Committee.	Main Meeting
4 May	18 May
6 July	20 July
7 September	21 September
<b>2 November</b>	<b>23 Nov and AGM</b>

The 23 November 16 **will also be the Annual General Meeting** - any nominations for Cttee places please in advance.

Tea/Coffee and Raffle raised £34.85 and everyone was thanked for their contributions.