



Better Barrow Community Project

Newsletter April 2014

As we have recently held our AGM, we thought it was time for an update for our members and supporters. It has been another busy year. There are two main areas to report upon, events – past and planned - and the Market Place project.

Things always take longer than you expect – but progress has been made - and it's true that a project of this level is not going to happen overnight. We have, since our last AGM, worked closely with our architects and also with North Lincolnshire Council and the Parish Council. There have been regular meetings, chaired by Councillor David Wells, of a liaison group which brings all these parties together. This level of communication across the spectrum of interested and relevant parties within North Lincs has been extremely useful and has produced a level of co-operation that has resulted in advances which we could not hope to achieve on our own.

Parking

Earlier in the year we carried out a very detailed study of parking in and around the market place – some of you helped with this. This revealed that although there are times when parking is difficult, tea-time for instance, overall the level of parking 'stress' as it's called is less than we expected, especially if people are prepared to walk more than 20 yards to a shop. This survey will be used as evidence in our planning and funding applications. Thanks to Rob Whitaker for his work in collating this and the feedback on the market place design.

Market Place Design

2B Landscape Architects worked with us to come up with a wide range of designs for the area, which we then put to consultation in December in the Village Hall and on-line. We leafleted all the households within Barrow with an invitation to attend. We had over 100 visitors to an extremely professional display provided by 2B, who were there much of the day together with members of our committee. Every visitor was invited to complete a questionnaire covering all aspects of the designs proffered by 2B; these designs and the questionnaire were also available on our website. The feedback from the consultation responses received and the discussion we had over the consultation day were analysed in detail and a report summarising the findings is available on the website. If you do not have internet access then contact us and we will print and deliver one to you.

Responding to concerns of Barrow residents, we have been at pains to stress to the architects and to NLC the need to maintain the amount of parking, to make allowance for deliveries and to achieve a safe environment. However a future design is worked out, we look to those with experience in these matters, i.e. the architects and Highways Dept of NLC to achieve the best outcome for residents, businesses and visitors. It is also a priority to ensure access is maintained to properties

Dates for your Diary

June 7th-8th Wheelbarrow and Open Gardens Weekend

June 27th John Harrison School Summer Fayre

July 12th Celebration of Act of Longitude

which currently enjoy access and to make the area attractive to both those who live very close, to those who use it regularly and those who visit.

In summary, the overall message received from the community was 'keep it simple and easy to maintain'. Designs incorporating circles and soft lines were preferred over sharp linear shapes. A parking solution which did not reduce the current parking levels, and a layout option which both allowed access to properties such as the care home but also provided space for soft landscaping and for community events, were well-supported. A statue of John Harrison was generally supported, either seated or standing on a plinth and a limited number of information boards, perhaps incorporated into the bus shelter.

Next Steps

The architects have taken on board this feedback and will be preparing a design which they will make public for the weekend of the Wheelbarrow Event. This will try to take account of as many people's wishes as possible, though it may not be possible to please everyone. However, we have been encouraged by the number of people who have given general positive support without being overly concerned with detail. Also, of course, when a design is completed, it will need to be submitted for planning consent at which stage there will be opportunities for suggestions and objections. That is still a little way off and we do have to secure funds!

Funding

We are researching sources of funding, for example Landfill Communities Fund. We have been enormously encouraged by a recent grant of £50,000 from the North Lincolnshire Community Funding - a fund set up to support the key role that community groups play in North Lincolnshire. It will form part of match-funding for the capital works.

Heritage Centre

We should mention at this stage that we have also discussed with NLC and Enterprise Inns the owners of the Royal Oak about the possibility of converting the unused outbuilding next to the pub as a Heritage Centre. Discussions are at an early stage and would involve a separate project and a separate grant from Heritage Lottery Fund. The owners and NLC are supportive of the idea and we will keep you informed of any developments.

Past Events

In terms of events, we held a very successful Wheelbarrow and Open Garden Weekend last June, with over 60 wheelbarrows and 19 gardens. We learnt a lot from the first year's event and this year's ran a lot more smoothly, as well as being grander in size and composition. We had entertainment in the market place and even a celebrity judge. As well as the general fun of the weekend one of the greatest pleasures that we, as the organising committee, got was all the positive feedback from the village. It seems that our activities are having a very positive effect on the community and we can't ask for more than that. In addition to our main event of the year, we have had cake stalls in December's howling gales and a table at the Rotary Car Boot sale in pleasanter weather – also a Charity Auction from which we shared profits with When You Wish Upon a Star.

Future Events

We are now gearing ourselves up for two major events: the this year's Wheelbarrow and Open Gardens Weekend 7-8th June and an event to celebrate the three hundredth anniversary of the passing of the Act of Longitude in 1714. On the Wheelbarrow and Open Gardens weekend we hope to repeat the success of last year with at least as many, and hopefully more wheelbarrows and open gardens. There will be entertainments and food in the market place, culminating in the Barrow Band on Sunday afternoon. We hope that everyone within Barrow will participate again – let's get our barrows out, open our gardens or visit other people's and have a great weekend walking around the village and visiting the Market Place. Please keep your eyes on our website, Facebook page, notice board and the posters we will be putting up around the village.

This year marks the Act of Longitude's three hundredth anniversary – a very important event in the history of Barrow upon Humber. We were determined not let this go unrecognised within the village and we have been successful in obtaining a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to employ a professional creative practitioner to work with the school in the summer term. Pupils in Year 6 will be researching local history, especially things relating to time, navigation, and of course John Harrison, in order to provide materials which will become part of a revamped Harrison display in the church. They will also be working on a performance for the school and a public presentation in the Market Place on the 12th July.

Contacts and Publicity

We have been in touch with – and received support from – Dava Sobel, author of Longitude, the Astronomer Royal, Sir Martin Rees, and the previous Astronomer Royal, Arnold Wolfendale, who also sent us a contribution of £500, as well as a number of museums with maritime connections. We are liaising with Hull City of Culture 2017, the John Harrison Foundation and the Royal Maritime Museum and Observatory at Greenwich.

May I also remind you that we have an active website and Facebook page on which we regularly post updates as to what is going on within Better Barrow. If you have not visited these may we encourage you to do so. We have also been working hard to spread word of our group further afield and we have had articles published in the Scunthorpe Telegraph as well as being interviewed on Radio Humberside. The more people we can get interested in Barrow and our history the better our chances of succeeding with our aims.

Thanks to everyone, our supporters and helpers from the Better Barrow Community Project Committee.

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Cakes needed for Wheelbarrow Weekend!

Please contact Bobbie 530359 or Pam 530678.
Cakes to be brought to Bramley House in the
High Street on Friday 6th June.

This newsletter is delivered by hand. If you do
have an email address, please let us know.
Thanks.