

Better Barrow Community Project

Annual Report 14th April 2015

We are pleased to report that we are now a charity, officially a Charitable Incorporated Organisation charity number 1159794. As such its structure and governance alters slightly. It is managed by a committee of twelve trustees with officers as follows:

Chair: Trevor Millum

Vice-Chair: Steve Johnson

Secretary: Dee Burney-Jones

Treasurer: Helen Anglum

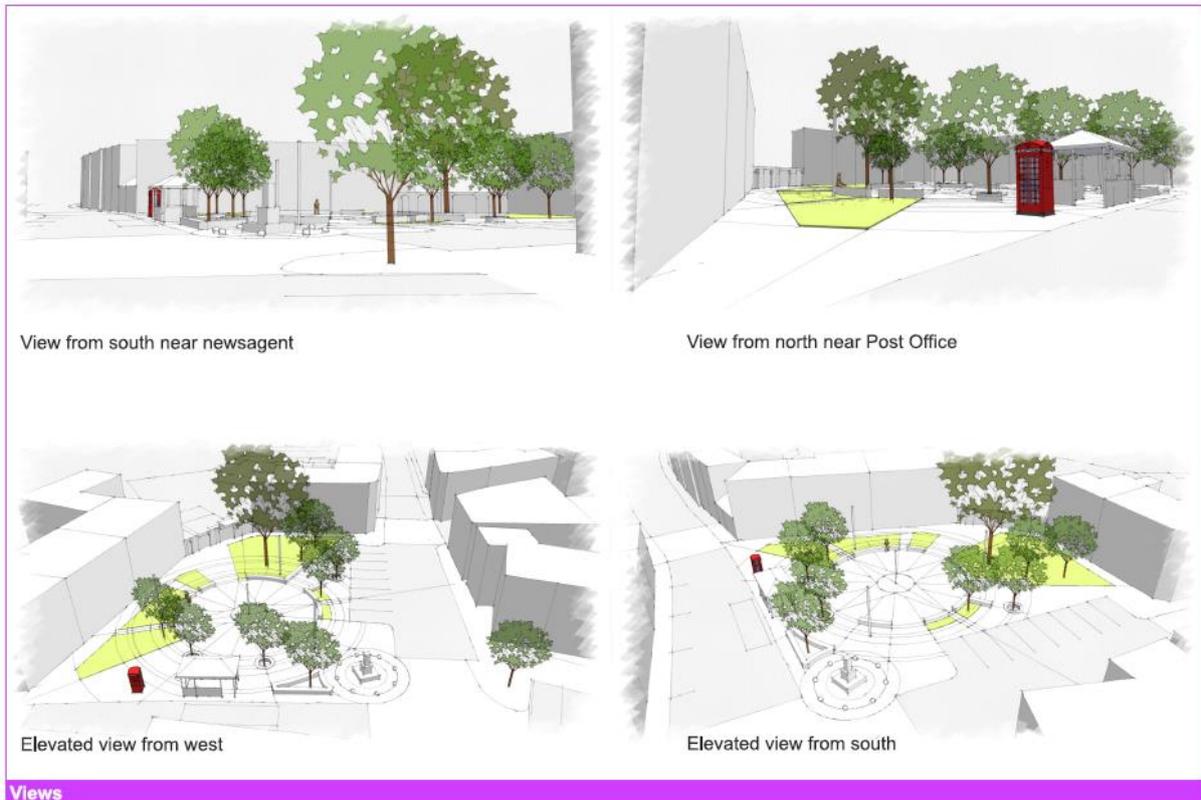
Its official object is 'to improve and enhance the environment of the Market Place and surrounding area and advance the understanding and appreciation of the village's history. It aims to restore and maintain the area as a space for public events, create an attractive area of public amenity and mark the importance of John Harrison through celebrating and interpreting his life and work'.

What official object means in practice is the process of achieving a transformation of the Market Place and surroundings as a hub for community activities and a reflection of its heritage. Not only would we like to reflect the community's desire to have a better community space we also want to respond to the wish that it reflect Barrow's heritage, especially John Harrison.

Over the past 2-3 years, BBCP has carried out research within the community through questionnaires and surveys, consultation days in the Market Place and Village Hall together with its Annual Meetings and those of the Parish Council. This year, designs for the Market Place were displayed during and after the Wheelbarrow Weekend and questionnaires were analysed afterwards before final designs were made by 2B Landscape Consultancy.

As well as the exterior area, we are interested in establishing a Heritage Centre to showcase Barrow's history. We have been discussing with Enterprise Inns the possible use of an outbuilding currently part of the Royal Oak.





We try to keep the community and wider public informed through

- Our noticeboard
- Our website www.betterbarrow.org
- Facebook
- Mailings via our email list
- News updates in the Missing Link
- Regular submissions to the press
- Interviews on Estuary TV & Radio Humberside

HIGHLIGHTS of 2014-15

Apart from the achievement of charity status, which involved much research, form-filling and related work, we have been working refining a design for the Market Place and presenting that for consultation. That consultation was used to achieve a final design. That design has been costed and the costings independently verified. The cheapest option would cost around £350,000 and the most expensive £850,000. The differences in cost are explained by the quality of materials and the area involved.

Potential funding bodies which are being approached include Able UK and ERDF (European Regional Development Fund).

A Heritage Centre would cost something in the order of £100,000 and potential funding bodies for this include Heritage Lottery Fund and WREN Environmental.

Work to access funding is ongoing! We have been fortunate in gaining the support of North Lincolnshire Council whose expertise has been invaluable. Our Chair and Secretary made a presentation of BBCP's work and plans to North Lincs Council Cabinet in January, which was well received..

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The other highlight was the celebration of the 300th Anniversary of the Act of Longitude. A HLF grant of £8,000 enabled us to collaborate with John Harrison School to mark this event. An arts worker, Frances Kelly, was employed to work with the pupils, especially Year 6. During the project they met with experts including Andrew King, who is working on a biography of Harrison and local people with knowledge of Barrow's history. They produced written and art work and collaborated with Frances in creating a half hour play telling the story of Longitude. The play was staged three times in the school. On July 12th, the High Street was closed and the children marched down to the Market Place with their props and larger than life size puppets where they performed extracts from their play.



A DVD and an 80 page booklet was also produced. Finally, the children's work was turned into a professionally designed display for the church comprising 19 exhibition boards. The new display was officially opened by the mayor in February.



We have also organised fund-raising and community events including:

- Annual Wheelbarrow and Open Gardens Weekend



- The John Harrison Prize (in collaboration with Hull Trains and the National Maritime Museum)
 - Barrow's Got Talent
 - Cake-stalls and Cabarets!
- and taken part in Barrow Meridian Rotary's car boot sales and Christmas Fair.

Further details of these can be found on the website and the Facebook pages.

BBCP is pleased to be supported by:

- Barrow-upon-Humber Parish Council
- Barrow-in-Bloom
- North Lincolnshire Council
- Voluntary Action North Lincolnshire
- The Astronomer Royal
- The John Harrison Foundation
- The Worshipful Company of Clockmakers
- The National Maritime Museum
- Dava Sobel, author of 'Longitude'
- Andrew King, biographer of John Harrison
- Martin Vickers MP
- The Mayor of North Lincolnshire

Events coming up throughout this year:

Three Voices Cabaret 27th April

Plant Sale 16th May

Wheelbarrow Weekend 6th-7th June

Andrew King talk about the
making of the film 'Longitude' 15th September

Pumpkin Carving 31st October (TBC)

Trevor Millum April 14th 2015