Bolehill & Steeple Grange Improvement Group

Chair's Report for 2022

2022 saw the return to 'normal' for BIG after the impact of Covid in 2020 & 2021, although our first meeting of the year had to be postponed to February.

Meetings – We held six open meetings in 2022 plus an AGM in February, the normal attendance is between 10 – 12 residents, although the March meeting attended by County Councillor Dermot Murphy was attended by 20 people. We held one meeting at the Malt Shovel PH as the Institute was unavailable in September.

Social Events – We planned to hold a Picnic with music for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June but the weather was unseasonably cold at 9^{o}c that we, along with many other groups in the area, had to cancel on the day. Although we spent nearly £340 on the cancelled event, this was covered by County Council & Town Council grants. As an alternative we held a Summer Picnic with music on 31st July which was attended by about 40 people and cost BIG £160. Many thanks to all those involved especially the musicians and everyone who helped cut and clear the playing pitch.

Unfortunately, the Institute have expressed their reluctance to allow BIG to hold Pop Up Pubs using their facilities this year and we are looking for ideas on where we can hold social activities. We were, however, able to use the Institute for the usual 'mulled wine & mince pies' following the very successful carol singing by the Old Telephone Box on a very cold evening in December. Many thanks to Chris Saunders, Liz Ormond, Caroline Eyre, Marvin Harding & Sheila Harding for their input.

Other events - This year we were able to hold our normal Garage Sale and Remembrance Sunday event, with thanks to Liz Ormond & others for their organisation of both.

Other activities:

Repair of the Climbing Frame – In late May DDDC repaired the Climbing Frame in Bolehill Recreation Ground after some 9 months being out of use. We have been told that further repairs will be needed in the future.

Membership of DDCVS - In July we became full members of Derbyshire Dales Council for Voluntary Services. We now need to explore whether we can get a grant to help with some of the Group's ongoing costs such as use of The Institute, public liability insurance and maintenance of the defibrillators.

Bolehill History Project – A project to capture the recollections of life in Bolehill from residents who have lived most, if not all their lives in Bolehill, was started in 2022. Many thanks to Ann Plant, Liz Ormond & Helen Wolf for their initiative in taking this forward.

Village Calendar – Marvin Harding & Sheila Harding took on the organisation of the production and selling of the village calendar for the fourth year running. The theme for 2023 is 'then & now in

Bolehill & Steeple Grange' and several residents contributed photographs. Thanks to both Marvin & Sheila for compiling & selling the calendars which raised £200 for the Defibrillator Maintenance fund.

Warmer Wirksworth – We are working with other community groups in Wirksworth to support the opening of Warm Spaces to residents and in helping with the running of the Sunday mornings at the Old Coach House until March. Many thanks to Carol Fieldhouse and Mark & Alison Kenney for their involvement so far.

Newsletter – At the meeting in November we agreed that we would once again produce a newsletter to publicise the work of the Group, this was circulated in early December.

Priorities for 2023: -

Social events - In 2023, in addition to the normal annual events we hope to organise an open gardens event and a summer picnic. This will depend on volunteers coming forward to help.

Recreation Ground - We aim to work with officers from DDDC to achieve the better management of the wildlife areas, play area and the cutting of the football pitch.

Defibrillators – The ongoing maintenance of the two defibrillators is estimated at £1,000 over the next two years. We need to target our fundraising, proceeds from events and applying for grants to cover these costs.

Electric Charging Points – We plan to continue to explore the provision of ECPs in Bolehill & Steeple Grange.

Finally: -

Many thanks to everyone who has helped with the BIG activities in 2022 and to Sandie who manages our BIG mailing list, David the money, and Ann who has done the notes so well but has indicated that she is not standing again for election.

Jackie Batchelor

Bolehill & Steeple Grange Improvement Group Chair

January 2023

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