Bolehill & Steeple Grange Improvement Group

Chair's Report for 2023

Meetings:

We held six open meetings in 2022 plus an AGM in January, the attendance has varied from 8 – 15 residents, which is similar to previous years.

BIG Events:

Open Gardens 17 & 18th June – Once again the event was a success with an estimated 280 visitors (excluding children) raising £1700 for BIG funds. In total 19 venues across Bolehill were open to visitors including three art venues and a classic car display on the Sunday. Plant sales took place in the garage of 16 Bolehill Road and refreshments were provided in the field at Lant Close Farm with donated cakes, this worked really well.

Thanks to the organising group, the owners of the various gardens & other venues, the artists, the dental practice for making their car park available for the weekend and all the volunteers that helped during the weekend.

We have agreed to hold the event again in 2024 during the weekend of 8 & 9 June. Volunteers will be needed to help organise the event.

Litter Pick – This year we held two litter picks in April & October, both events were well attended, and 12 -15 bags of rubbish were collected for disposal by DDDC. We have agreed to hold two litter picks again in 2024.

Ragwort Pulling – In July this year a small group of residents spent an hour pulling ragwort in the Recreation Ground, which was collected for disposal by DDDC. We agreed to repeat again in 2024.

Remembrance Sunday. - This year about 50 people attended the Bolehill & Steeple Grange event. Many thanks to Liz Ormond for organising and all those who took part.

Carol Singing – On 15 December about 25 local residents took part in Carol Singing followed by Mulled Wine & Mince Pies in the Institute. Many thanks to Chris Saunders & Liz Ormond for your contributions to making the event a success.

Other activities:

Defibrillator Maintenance – Following concern expressed by BIG about the increasing costs of replacement batteries & pads of the two village defibrillators it was established that Wirksworth Town Council will pay for the future costs. [To be discussed further at Open meeting on 17th January]

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, is progressing well. Many thanks to Ann Plant, Liz

Ormond, Helen Wolf & Jackie Carpenter. An exhibition is being mooted for 2024 to share the work with local residents.

Warmer Wirksworth – BIG was involved with the scheme during 2022/ 2023 and again in 2023/ 2024. Following feedback after last winter a free bus has been organised for this winter on a Wednesday but take up has been limited.

Recreation Ground Survey – DDDC undertook a survey of users of the Bolehill Recreation Ground; some 120 people responded, and the Group considered the results at two of its meetings and our comments passed on to DDDC.

New Village Noticeboard @ Institute – Many thanks go to Marvin Harding for making this happen.

Priorities for 2024: -

Open Gardens & a Summer Picnic – These planned events will probably require the biggest effort from BIG & local residents in 2024.

Parker's Piece – Whilst work has commenced predominantly by Marvin Harding on the idea of providing a seat at Parker's Piece, more support is needed from BIG to make this happen in 2024.

Oakerthorpe Road footway – Despite contacting the County Council nothing has happened yet. This is disappointing and we will need to raise the profile of the safety issues in 2024, otherwise the footway will be lost.

Street cleaning & leaf clearance – This continues to be an issue in various places in the Village, and we need to continue to report issues to the District Council.

Finally: -

Many thanks to everyone who has helped with the BIG activities in 2023 and to Sandie who manages our BIG mailing list, David the money, and Helen who has done the notes so well and Richard & Ann for continuing to help with website.

Jackie Batchelor

Bolehill & Steeple Grange Improvement Group Chair

January 2024

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