

Minutes of the Luddenden in Bloom Group Meeting held following our introduction to our Britain in Bloom mentor Chris Beard on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2011 at 1 Riding Head Lane

Present, Sue and Trevor Hoyle, Joan and Trevor Oaten, Roly, Brenda and Barry McArdle,

Apologies: Andrew, Dilys and Vernon

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed following a change of date for the first plant sale to Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2011.

Matters arising:

Communication:

Britain in Bloom 2011:

We received confirmation of our entry in December. We have also received a questionnaire, which has to be returned by 14<sup>th</sup> January with a representative photo of the village and an invitation for two representatives to attend a seminar.

In relation to our proposed projects:

- The riverside project was not ultimately one that work was undertaken on by the volunteers
- The village sign and the makeover of the entry to Bluebell Walk: Roly had taken flyers to all the houses. Only two responses had been received and both were favourable. One of the respondents may be willing to represent Bluebell Walk on the committee; Roly will talk to them further about this.

- The Conservation Society will try to get sponsorship for the sign. Steve and Trevor Oaten are to look into different types of signs and report back at the next meeting.

#### Plant Sales:

Roly had successfully negotiated three plants sales with Pauline being present at the first of these on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May.

It was also decided to look at other fund raising possibilities to be used on the Open Gardens Day.

It will be necessary for members of the group to transport plants, and it will also be necessary for the group to locate possible storage and growing areas for plants in the future and Trevor O has located at least two locations. It was decided to ask Geoff Dardis if we can use his pickup to transport plants on Plant Sales Day Barry will do this before the next meeting.

Publicity: The newsletters will start again in February 2011. The Courier covered the Christmas Wreath Competition prize giving. It is hope that a similar article will appear shortly in the Hebden Bridge Times.

#### Website:

Tony has put something on the website and the newsletters will be going on from next month. It was decided that we need our own gallery under Luddenden in Bloom.

Plant development: see above. Trevor O has also bought some seeds for growing on by volunteers. He has bought nasturtium seeds which he intends to grow himself and for these to be put in new planters on the "steps to nowhere". He is also looking for sponsorship for the planters.

Paper Shop window: This has been redone by Roly and Andrew and they plan to make further changes in the near future. The committee thanked Roly and wished to record what a great improvement had been made.

RHS schools gardening scheme: Steve and Brenda will look into the possibility of working with the school on this.

A.O.B:

Plant sale vegetable seed requirements: Roly wants people who are willing to grow vegetables seeds for sale at the plant sales to let him know as soon as possible their seed requirements. Trevor O has seed trays available if people need them.

Warley Trust: Trevor O had approached them for a grant. This has been refused as it was felt that the village did not fall within the grant area.

Finances: We currently have sufficient funds for all our projected requirements.

Summer Planting: We will liaise with Calderdale Council prior to ordering our plants Trevor O will approach Kitson's re our requirements.

The Lord Nelson: Barry will speak to Debbie and Geoff re the possibility of their entry into this year's Yorkshire in Bloom competition. The group would be willing to pay their entry fee.

Bridle Path: It was decided that Trevor O, Trevor H and Barry would look at the Bridle path to see if this area could be a project for the group. It was possible that we could get a tree pack from the Woodland Trust to be used in conjunction with this. The group will report their findings and suggestions at the next meeting.

RHS Britain in Bloom Questionnaire: Sue had produced a draft document. This was worked through and completed during the meeting. It will be forwarded to the organisers before the deadline of Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2011.

Seminar: Brenda and Trevor O are to attend to represent the group at the Finalist's Seminar to be held in Liverpool on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2011. Brenda will complete form and send cheque.

Photograph: Several photographs were considered and one was chosen to represent us on the RHS website and in publicity items.

Next meetings:

1. Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2011 at 7.30 p.m. at 3 St. Mary's School
2. Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2011 at 7.30 p.m. at Badger Cottage
3. Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2011 at 7.30 p.m. at 5 Riding Head Lane

Key points from meeting with our mentor, Mr Chris Beard, at 7.30 p.m. on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2011>

- We should receive further information at the National Finalist's seminar.
- Our judges are Andrew Jackson and Jim Knight. We should receive a bibliography/CV for each of them, which will be useful in telling us where they are coming from.
- Go through the criteria and be sure to klist everything that relates to this in each category. Some possible further work with young people was discussed.
- The work done by the Lloyd's Bank volunteers needs to be included in the new portfolio along with any information regarding projects undertaken in the last year.
- Record any relevant contributions being made by other groups in the village.
- Investigate the plans of the Lord Nelson with regard to Yorkshire in Bloom this year.
- Contact relevant personnel at Calderdale Council for their support help and advice. Two people to involve are Debbie Wright and Paul Marshall.
- Give credit to Calderdale Council for their involvement and invite them to send a representative on Judging Day.
- Full exploit our numerous heritage sites.
- Don't hide any problems if these are encountered.

- Record in portfolio the gardens used on the Open Gardens Day. Ask at the seminar about the possibility of using one of these gardens.
- Record and give credit to all community efforts.
- End in a garden for lunch again.
- Don't go to 3 or 4 locations which essentially show the same thing - don't make it boring (you don't have to use all the time allocated).
- Assist the judges in getting to the village by the best (i.e. most scenic) route.
- Collect and return the judges, think about what they will see on these journeys.
- Liaise with the Council to ensure co-ordinated planting.
- Display photographic evidence.
- As last year send judges copies of our newsletters.
- Liaise with the media, try to obtain the maximum publicity
- Display old photographs to show our development. Continuity and sustainability.
- There will have to be a 15-minute presentation, which essentially contains the highlights of our portfolio.

Chris will be willing to visit the village closer to Judging and evaluate our efforts and suggest areas for improvement.

He is also willing to look at our portfolio and offer advice before it is sent to the judges.