



Bassetlaw Heritage Network

Minutes – 13th August 2024, BCVS 13.00PM

Attendees:

Andria Birch (BCVS), Jessica Hardwick, BCVS, Helen Fox (Inspire), Vendie Charles (Matron Care), Charles Adams, Julie Barlow (North-leverton Windmill), Fran Walker (Gatehouse Trust), Derek Turner (Retford Civic Society), Russel Smith (Royal Voluntary Service), Dee Sissons (Aurora Wellbeing Centre), Tim Gladman (BDC), Alfie Spence (Pinnacle), Paula Graham (Bassetlaw Action Centre), Michael Tagg (BDC).

Apologies:

Georgina Lancaster -Bassetlaw Museum, Laura Sercombe - Bassetlaw Museum, Samantha Roberts - Autism East Midlands

1. Welcome and introductions

AB opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. Everyone introduced themselves, their organisations and their roles.

2. BDC update on the Constructions Heritage Skills Programme

TG- introduced The UKSPF Construction Heritage programme which aims to increase the skills in Nottinghamshire area in restoring/maintaining heritage sites/buildings. This is being developed as a partnership between BDC, Pinnacle and the National Trust

The Initial intake will be 20 learners (open to anyone over 18 who lives/studies in Bassetlaw or works for a Bassetlaw based company).

The course will run one day a week for 4 weeks with additional mentorship available after this through Pinnacle.

TG outlined the aim to create a board or task and finish group (it may be possible attach to an existing board e.g Heritage Network or Skills board). There is possibly additional funding to provide a second cohort this year. Currently unsure if this will continue in to next year until EMCCA confirms what will happen in 24/25 re SPF people and skills provision.

AS This training will provide additional skills not incorporated in current construction level 2 + 3 apprenticeships. Heritage knowledge and skills is not currently included in any

accredited provision below level 4 and there is therefore a significant gap in current provision.

MT – confirmed that Jason Mordant, NCC, has good connections with the Nottingham Universities and the work taking place at Walks of Life Museum. MT's team has been volunteering and saved the group significant expenditure.

General discussion about the potential for volunteer heritage skills and a team of volunteers with heritage construction skills. Risks to buildings through well meaning volunteers or builders without the correct knowledge or skills was discussed and could be a great opportunity to introduced.

MT highlighted the main cost with volunteer models is materials. One project model could be every year there is a nominated selection of sites for maintenance. From a pool of trained volunteers from the program, small groups of around 5 could attend the sites alternately to maintain them.

FW- asked whether this a possibility for the Gatehouse Trust going forward?

TG/MT – confirmed this could be nominated as a future project.

AB – Can this be linked in with another e.g Worksoop Town Fund, The Skills Board or Heritage network as the key stakeholders should sit within these groups?

TG – it may be a task and finish group that is needed and the next step is to bring construction companies, education providers and stakeholders together

DS – is it possible to circulate a brief re what is needed from the task and finish group / board.

Action: TG- Agreed to circulate more details re the task and finish group/board.

3. Funding opportunities

AB – [Round 2 of Transform Your Futures](#) also funded under Priority 3 SPF, People and Skills is open currently and may be appropriate for some BHN members. Please see link below for details – information to be held online and facilitated by BCVS on 21st August.

DS – one challenge is revenue maintenance costs for Heritage buildings.

Several members agreed that further information on funding for heritage organisations would be useful.

MT flagged that Landmark Trust is a useful source of funding information for specific properties and based on using a building postcode.

JH – Aurora and other groups may be eligible to apply for Postcode places funding for restoration of building as this funding is unrestricted. Any support BCVS can offer we are happy to do so.

AB – BCVS is also running a Writing Successful Bids Course free to members on 6th September. [Link circulated in previous newsletters.](#)

We understand there may be another window opening for SPF Priority 1 Arts and Heritage Funding, no dates have yet been announced but if/ when they are we will share.

MT – knows of a number of possible sources of funding of heritage including University trusts and the Heritage funding directory as above. Suggested these sources of funding be collated and shared via the BHN.

Actions – BCVS to add links to BHN area of website

4. Worksop Town Board

AB- Following a significant local consultation, the WTB Investment plan was developed for a submission deadline should have been 1st August. However, the submission deadline has been paused nationally, as yet we do not know when it will be resumed. AB is chair of WTB and has cosigned a letter to Alex Norris from all the Nottingham TF Chairs to escalate concerns about the delays. The £20m funding over 10 years consists of 25% revenue and 75% capital and Heritage is a key theme on the menu of priorities eligible for funding. Updates will be circulated as soon as available.

[Worksop Town Board | Bassetlaw District Council](#)

5. Heritage Open Days 2024

Will be taking place week of 6th to 15th September. Official events are listed on the national website as below [noted following meeting that deadline for registration on the national website has now passed]. Additional local events are being organized including below from <https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/whats-on/printable-area-lists/bassetlaw.html>

In addition to the nationally listed events, there will be an open day on 7th September at Leverton Windmill, The Multicultural Festival 14th September, Worksop and Retford Libraries are holding events, and Aurora is considering organising something. [Post meeting note, Aurora hosts the models produced of the GateHouse and could be a good focus for an additional event.

FW – confirmed that GHT is in need of new volunteers to provide assistance in preparation for this event and on the day and would be grateful if the word can be spread throughout the network.

DT- On Heritage Day in Retford a stagecoach and four horses will be undertaking circuits of the town throughout the day and rides will be offered through a Golden Ticket Competition.

Twelve heritage buildings, with activities taking place, will be freely open for the general public to explore.

The Town Hall will host a 'Showcase of Voluntary Organisations and Local Societies'.

Street entertainment and lectures will also be happening throughout the town.

AB- can any flyers/information for any of these events be shared to newsletter@bcvs.org.uk and we will share on socials also plus collate on the BHN area of the BCVS website.

DS – it would be useful to discuss Heritage Open Days earlier next year.

AB – confirmed this is usually discussed in spring BHN meetings

Action – plans for 2025 to be discussed in New Year. JH to share criteria for advertising on Heritage open day directory nationally plus query about charges. Can be seen in annex below.

6. Multicultural event

JH- anyone interested in marshalling/volunteering their time please register an interest at wmca23@gmail.com as soon as possible please.

DS – Would taking translated resources be of benefit to us and has consideration been taken regarding the recent political unrest and the impact this could have on the communities attending.

AB – Yes we would recommend taking translated resources. Free online translation tools available.

JH – A meeting is scheduled this week discuss the recent political unrest and the possible impact that this could have on communities attending the event,

Action - JH will liaise with colleagues and forward on any relevant information regarding this.

7. Member updates/AOB

AB – BCVS have purchased new software 'Plinth' which will allow a more useful platform in advertising events. A Heritage map can be created detailing all of the heritage sites in Bassetlaw which will be accessible to the public. This can also be used for events advertising purposes using an events filter and will have AI bid writing functionality.

TG – Various employment events calendared for BDC most imminent being 'What's next event' on 17th October 2024. JH – could a list of these dates be provided please BCVS will attend where possible.

TG – Accessibility to Heritage sites is a key issue. NNBid sponsor the events and this enables free transport to be provided. BDC usual providers are Johnsons or Kettlewells. Any ideas for funding/donations of transport to facilitate attendance at key events. Is it worth approaching Worksop College which has minibuses which may be available for CSR work.

AB – Link back 3 key points;

Need for volunteers - Do any organisations have heritage open day or other events with Micro-volunteering opportunities? This represents a good way to attract new volunteers.

Connection with visitor economy priorities – BCVS to reach out to the Destination Group at NNBid to feed into next meeting.

HF- Inspire is delivering events as part of Community Makers programme which include micro-volunteering opportunities.

JH- would you or any of your volunteers be willing to share their experiences regarding micro-volunteering to inspire other groups going forward?

TG- it may be possible to develop Heritage Ambassadors off the back of the heritage skills project which could link in to next years heritage day.

HF – there will also be an event at Worksop library 5th October 10-3

AB- proposed date for next meeting is in Autumn and that we continue to meet every quarter – all agreed this would be useful.

Actions

JH – minutes and Schedule next meeting

JH – will share information regarding multicultural event should there be any changes.

BCVS to feedback on Worksop Town Board funding and UKSPF Art and heritage fund when open

TG – to provide list of dates for careers events plus key points document of what would be required from a board for the heritage skills project for review.

Everyone – share any marketing materials for Heritage-day events to newsletter@bcvs.org.uk

Everyone – any information/volunteering experiences regarding micro-volunteering or any volunteering opportunities you may require support with please email involve@bcvs.org.uk

<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/get-involved/how-to-get-involved/faqs.html>

Fundraising

Heritage Open Days is a festival based on the principle of free access, so NO event can purely be about fundraising. However, there are ways to raise money through extras.

Can I ask for donations?

YES - BUT be careful how it is framed. It should not come across as an obligation. (Nb. 2/3 of visitors in 2023 gave a donation where they saw an opportunity.)

Can I charge for refreshments etc?

YES – if these are IN ADDITION to the main event offer. If the event is a cream tea at the castle, then NO – it must be possible for visitors to attend the HODs event as described in the directory's main event description details entirely for free.

Do we have to drop the car park charge?

Ideally yes but parking charges are a grey area considering the sheer diversity of events and methods of reaching them people have. So, we will allow existing car park fees to be kept, but do not raise them or add one where it was free – don't use this element as a fundraising option. Also, do make sure you include parking details in your entry so that visitors know in advance.