

Report of the Community Engagement and Training and Volunteer Co-ordinator January – June 2016

Summary of Activity:

Jess Holmes is the Coalfields Community Organiser covering New Bolsover, Carr Vale and the Castle estate, and Elsa MacPherson is the Training and Volunteering Coordinator for the New Bolsover Model Village Regeneration Project, newly appointed in May 2016.

157 New Bolsover Community House is used as a base for regular drop in sessions for local people, and also a venue for community meetings, workshops and training. The majority of consultation with residents so far has been done at 157 New Bolsover, or by officers walking around the village to interact with residents. We also tried doing an evening drop in session this quarter, which was successful.

Ongoing support is given to the Friends on New Bolsover resident's group, through CVP attending monthly meetings and sub group meetings where necessary. CVP will be encouraging the group to do some action/business planning looking at the coming years and plans for projects/activities, and supporting the group to apply for funding.

In April an issue around the housing consultation one to ones and general communication was highlighted by local residents and raised by CVP to Bolsover District Council (BDC) Housing Team. Kim Wyatt, Project Manager, organised for a housing officer to attend a Friends of New Bolsover resident's meeting facilitated by CVP to discuss this, which resulted in the residents forming a FAQ's list which BDC Housing frequently update and is posted on the Friend's website and Facebook page, and a community newsletter distributed regularly, printed by BDC and delivered by local people, with information and the FAQs as well as promoting community training opportunities, events, etc.

In April one resident expressed an interest in media and journalism and was signposted by CVP to Elastic FM Community Radio Station. He was supported with basic training and shadowing opportunities and now has been given a weekly slot on the station. Part of his remit is to report to listeners about the New Bolsover Model Village Project, and any other community opportunities and activities. This resident has also being given the opportunity to be involved, with support, in covering Bolsover Hill Race in May, and

will cover other local events such as the Friends of New Bolsover's Big Lunch Picnic in August. This resident has an interest in photography and film, and participated in the Video Diary workshop led by Can Do and Junction Arts. He also has set up his own camera to take a photograph of the green each day, to capture the changes of the Model throughout the project from start to finish, as well as event days, etc.

Also in April, CVP's Community Development Team met with Diane Sheppard from Chesterfield Age Concern and Barbara White from Chesterfield Time Bank to discuss the Working Together for Older People Project. Here CVP were able to build on previous links and develop the idea of a Time Bank scheme for New Bolsover and surrounding communities with the support of partners, with the idea being that the "new" Time Bank would be a branch off from the framework in existence already, building on and supporting Chesterfield Time Bank. Two local volunteers are working with CVP to promote the 'New Bolsover' Time Bank scheme and have recruited four members who have already 'banked' over 20 volunteering hours between them. A further 6 local residents have also come forward to join the scheme and are awaiting meetings to do this.

Some people who have lived on the Model for some time have said that the community is "not like it used to be" at present, referring to the lower levels of community spirit, but have said that the idea of Time Bank will encourage that community spirit to be built back up again.

CVP developed a draft Terms of Reference for the Community Engagement and Public Realm Steering Group Meeting planned for the 26th April, to which 2 resident reps had confirmed their attendance, but after sharing the document with partners decided to reschedule the meeting for a later date so that the aims of the groups could be discussed and given clarity as there was confusion around what the purpose of the meetings would be. After a meeting with Kim Wyatt it was decided that the purpose of this meeting was for delivery partners of the Activity Plan to coordinate work and develop a communication structure to share ideas, all of which could be fed to both residents as there would be community reps at the meeting, and also to the partnership group. Alternative ways for residents to interact with partners and the project were put forward, such as the school drop in sessions and potentially a residents forum moving forwards. Another Terms of Reference for the steering group was drafted by CVP which will be taken to the rescheduled meeting in Quarter 2.

From the Bolsover Eats and Treats event (March 2016) led by CVP with several partners, DCC Adult Education Team were keen to put some of their resources into the New Bolsover community, ensuring that sessions were more accessible to residents here and from Carr Vale. A 5 week recyclable craft course was run from 157 New Bolsover, with 3 regular attendees, 2 of whom originally came with family members for support, and have developed confidence to participate by themselves and also to enrol on an extra course at the Adult Community Education (ACE) centre. CVP supported with the promotion of the course, and bringing the sessions into Carr Vale and New Bolsover has been an ongoing discussion between partners. Further courses are being planned jointly with the ACE centre. Planned learning to be delivered from the community house at New Bolsover are:

- Family Learning activities – the whole family come together to learn about healthy eating, cooking skills, crafts and games,

forestry skills and so on.

- Heritage Craft Group – this will be based on the social capital ethos, whereby local people share their; skills, knowledge and experiences with one another but still have the support of ACE tutors when there are gaps in skills or low confidence levels. This group is due to start on 21st July. We currently have local people who have skills in rag rugging, knitting, crocheting, needlework, cooking and baking.

Paul Stears from Release Financial Charity was also keen to bring Budget Buddies training into local communities and worked with CVP to organise training at Bainbridge Hall in May. 4 local people were referred to this training by CVP, and 7 in total attended. One resident in New Bolsover is already a Budget Buddy, and we will look to develop this service bringing the volunteers together to discuss the idea of drop in sessions at 157 New Bolsover for local people to get support with money management, debt, and knowing who to ask for help, etc. The Friends of New Bolsover are also looking at linking with the Credit union/Community Bank to see how their services can be promoted within the community.

Throughout May and June, the Friends of New Bolsover were supported by CVP in planning for their Big Lunch event, paying tribute to how the green used to be used to bring the community together, which was set for the 12th June, but was cancelled due to bad weather – the flooding and drainage issues on the green made it impossible to host the event.

CVP encouraged partnership working for the event and linked the group with Village Games, Release Financial Charity, the Green Doctor project, and the Active Lifestyles Project. All partners are to be involved in the rescheduled event on 21st August. The Friends of New Bolsover were also partnering a local business in Carr Vale, Wacky World, who run toddler play sessions as well as other activities. A local volunteer interested in genealogy will also attend to offer information to residents about who lived in their house when the Model was first built, and gain interest to start a genealogy group/club. CVP will be helping the group to gain feedback and evaluation while consulting people about future activities. We will also be using iPads to capture people's experiences and views about the village and the project as part of the Video Diary Project being led by Junction Arts. The footage gained so far will be shown at the Heritage Open Day in September, as well as work done in New Bolsover Primary School by DCC Environmental Studies, and the community timeline showing the history if the Model being developed by Junction Arts.

CVP were successful in supporting the group to secure £400 from Derbyshire County Council's Community Leadership Scheme, as well as £100 from the Bolsover Mayor to support the Big Lunch Event. Photos and a report will be fed back to the Eden Project Big Lunch Team to promote the work done by the Friends of New Bolsover and residents.

A local tots and toddlers group at Bainbridge Hall has been supported to become independent by CVP after funding cuts meant that Bolsover Children's Centre can no longer run the group. They became established in May, and have built up membership since. The group have been given Bainbridge Hall free as a venue by Old Bolsover Town Council for 3 months, after CVP encouraged the group to go to a council meeting and promote their work. CVP also linked the group with Wacky World, the local business, who has

offered their venue free once a month to the community group and offered to support them through fund-raising events. CVP will continue to support the community group, looking at sustainability, and building up volunteers and membership. This group's members mainly live on the Model Village and in Carr Vale.

CVP have met with Mark Smith from the Active Lifestyles Project led by Community Sports Trust to discuss partnership working. A Have your say event has been organised by Active Lifestyles on Vale Park with the aim of consulting local people from New Bolsover, Carr Vale and the Castle Estate about physical activity, and CVP have been invited to promote the NBMV project and to consult residents on other activities they would like to see in their community. We are in the process of setting up a walk leader meeting with local people who have shown an interest in leading walks, potential Walking for Health, and looking at how we can coordinate this moving forwards. One group would like to run on the Castle Estate and in Bolsover centre, and we will be including Carr Vale's Walk this Way group also to ensure everyone is working together, and leaders can support one another. There are ideas around guided walks by the Civic Society highlighting areas with historical relevance, weekly challenges for the route of Bolsover Hill race so more people can potentially participate in that event next year, buggy push walks for local mums who are visiting the Freedom Project Cafe, and also incorporating walks with photography and wildlife learning. Active Lifestyles have also been signposted to the Carr Vale Community Association who will be participating in the Have your Say event to promote their work, and also Castle Estate Resident's Group to look at partnership working there also.

The issue of flooding in part of the Model has been highlighted as a major issue. Previously, the Friends of New Bolsover invited County Councillor Joan Dixon to attend their meetings to discuss this issue, and were assured that this area had been identified as a priority for the County Council. In June there were serious issues again, involved a number of the properties being flooded due to the drains being blocked. CVP identified a local volunteer who is keen to help by acting as a 'Weather Warden' to help place emergency sand bags at the homes of the most vulnerable residents. CVP will support this by liaising with BDC to arrange for sand bags to be stored on New Bolsover and doing a consultation with the residents who are affected by the flooding to identify those who need help.

BDC have appointed Paul Hicking Associates to carry out swift and bat surveys within New Bolsover. Paul Hicking has been working very closely with CVP to promote community involvement with his surveys to help reduce the animosity that some residents have towards wildlife inhabiting their properties. Hicking Associates delivered a Swift Survey Workshop on 23rd June to train residents how to identify the birds correctly and submit requisite information. Only one resident was able to attend but was able to identify five different bird species on the subsequent survey. A total of four residents are actively taking part in the swift survey on a regular basis and reporting their sightings directly to Paul Hicking and regularly accompany him on his weekly surveys. A family bat survey is being planned for one evening in August.

Residents have suggested a "Drop in for tea" activity whereby families drop into 157 and make their own tea together. CVP will be

supporting volunteers to run this group themselves, as a social capital based group whereby residents (including children) share their recipes and money saving tips. CVP has identified a volunteer, who is also a trained Budget Buddy, who will be also to give advice (where requested) on budgeting for all household expenses not just the food bill. CVP are supporting the Friends of New Bolsover group to take ownership of this group and to help them raise funds for a cooker, freezer and cooking equipment.

CVP met with Tanya from Health Watch to discuss partnership work and to promote the NBMV Project. Information CVP has collected from a local resident around drug addiction and homelessness in the area was passed to Health Watch, who informed partners. This information has since been fed to CVP's Strategic Partnership Officer and will be fed into the Winter Emergency Group she sits on. A meeting with the Freedom Project has been set up with CVP to discuss this further. Health Watch will also be running a drop in session at 157 New Bolsover to identify themes of health related issues in the community.

CVP and one volunteer from the Friends of New Bolsover attending CO16 Conference and Training Residential around "Sustaining the Energy". It was an excellent chance to network and we were given the opportunity to have regional workshops, giving us links from other community activists and volunteers in the East Midlands area. The NBMV project was promoted here and at all workshops. Between CVP and the F of NB rep the workshops covered included Community Campaigns, Developing Community Businesses and working alongside the Local Authority.

Good practice & impact:

From the drop in sessions ran by CVP at 157 New Bolsover we have seen some added positive outcomes. The initial issue around communication was raised, and further FAQs have been added to the original list, ensuring that communication between residents and delivery partners is continually being increased.

Issues around anti-social behaviour have also been passed on from these sessions, with residents also being encouraged to report issues themselves, which has resulted in the Police stating they would perform a full risk assessment for one family and support them with providing CCTV and creating an ECINS profile (a multi-agency approach to support families in this situation). We have also been able to spread the word about Time Bank, other activities, and the Friends of New Bolsover group.

Progress against outputs & milestones – slippage, future forecasts:

- TARGET 1 Training and Volunteering Coordinator in post – Elsa started with CVP on the NBMV Project 12th May 2016
- TARGET 1 Community Engagement & Public Realm partnership established – Terms of Reference drafted and first meeting scheduled for July
- TARGET 1 Engagement Activity - This would have been the Big Lunch (12th June), this has been rescheduled for August.
- TARGET 1 Community rep on NBMV Management Group (Steering group) – 2 volunteers were aiming to attend the meeting in April, which was unfortunately cancelled. At least 1 rep will be attending on 7th July.

- TARGET 2 Community Activities – The Swift Workshop went ahead on the 23rd June 2016 as discussed above. The second activity would have been the Big Lunch (12th June) which is rescheduled for August.
- TARGET 125 Community Engagements – 124 engagements took place across Carr Vale, New Bolsover and the Castle estate via drop-ins, attending meetings, being in the community, and attending public consultations.

Additional outcomes:

- 1 New group established – the Bainbridge Hall Tots and Toddlers Group became established on 12th April 2016.
- People reported improved mental health & wellbeing – see case study, the local resident became a presenter at Elastic FM on 4th May 2016.
- New volunteers – 3 new volunteers have signed up, as well as 7 current volunteers still being active. Chesterfield Time Bank partnership established 27th May 2016.
- There have been 50+ volunteer hours put in by local people – they have devised their own time sheets to capture the hours put in from now on