

Spring 2010 – News Round Up

Changing our name - *but just a little.....*

Towards the end of 2009 the Board of Trustees considered a report by the Centre Manager recommending a small change in the name of the organisation. Back in 2005 the founding members saw the Forum as providing a new '**way**' in which the community could address issues relating to the watercourse and green space of the Wyke Beck Valley. However plans were already emerging from the City Council and Sustrans for a Footpath and Cycle network within the Valley which took on the name '**Way**'. Whilst welcoming that as a key element of the Valley the Forum did not wish to be seen as simply a supporter and promoter of a footpath and cycle route. Hence, to avoid any confusion the decision was taken to be known as **The Wyke Beck Valley Community Forum**. The Charity Commission have been advised of the Forum's name change and this has been recorded in the charity's registration details.



The '**Valley Pride**' banner, first adopted for the Forum's community Conference in June 2009, is to be the Forum's branded name and logo which may be used by others with the Forum's consent if :

- a) It relates to an Valley event or project which we are sharing with other participants outside the framework of The Forum,
- b) Such aims of the event or project meet The Forum's aspirations for the Valley and would not harm our organisation
- c) The Trustees give their consent.

'Awards for All' Big Lottery Fund At the start of 2009 the Forum was awarded £9820 from the Fund enabling it to carry out a Spring and Autumn programme of planting and activities with Groundwork Leeds. This proved very popular and has carried over to Spring 2010. A full report will be available upon completion but in the meantime you can see details of the Autumn 2009 programme in Groundwork's draft report to the Forum.....

other Funding.....

In December 2008 [see Archive NEWS item] Leeds Community Foundation awarded the Forum £980 '**Grassroots Grant**' which supported *educational based initiatives, in particular an emerging environmental *"project with local schools.

** In February 2009 the Forum was 'community client' for LMU School of Landscape students who were briefed before being shown around the Valley and then drawing up individual studies and Landscape Master Plans for the Valley. At their end of term presentations the schemes were judged by a panel of Forum members and a preferred scheme selected.*

**" A party of over 70 parents and children from Seacroft/Manston Family of Schools visited Skelton Environment Centre for a 'Spring Nature Trail' day, 13 April 2010, which is being followed up with classroom learning and activities related to the Wyke Beck Valley.*

The LCF award letter invited further applications under that Grant scheme to a max £5,000 and subsequently supported the Forum's June 2009 **Valley Conference** (£2,000); in March 2010 LCF agreed to release the remaining £2100 to assist with a programme of green space **community 'listening' events'** . .

The Forum propose a series of six or seven 'listening' events along the length of the Valley, Roundhay to Rothwell, to involve people young and old in considering their Valley environment. **Planning Aid-Yorkshire** have agreed to help the Forum with the first one of these, the Fearnville 'pod', which will come together as a community participation day at Fearnville Leisure Centre in early summer.

The A2N bid, below, if successful, will build upon this as part of an environmental programme with the City Council and agencies for the EASEL area [east and south east Leeds].

In March 2010 **Green Leeds Ltd** gave in principle approval to an application by the Forum to the Landfill Communities Fund for funds totalling £50,000 to carry out planting and boundary treatment works with the City Council and Groundwork Leeds at Killingbeck Fields (proposed Local Nature Reserve) and a Nature Area within Halton Moor open space. That funding constitutes a match funding element in an application to the '**Access to Nature**' [A2N] **Lottery Fund** that has been developed through the **Wyke Beck Valley Pride Partnership** for the EASEL area. Coordinated by Leeds City Council's Regeneration Services, the Forum sits on the Steering Group and is the lead community organisation for the application to fund a 3 year Environmental Project. The partnership comprises Leeds City Council, Groundwork Leeds, BTCV, Leeds Ahead and Leeds Voice. The overall aim of this £400k programme, '**building bridges**', is to challenge preconceptions, encourage active participation, and stimulate lifelong interest in the natural environment of east and south east Leeds through positive engagement...

updating the web site

You can't fail to have noticed from the above, past meeting minutes and Centre Manager's reports that although so much *progress has been made the body of the web site doesn't reflect this and lags behind. This is in no way the fault of our excellent web site administrator who has been continually pressing for information to update and amend the site as the weeks and months have gone by. However there's a limit to what our two 'working' volunteers can do (in basically two half days each (*and a bit more*, per week) and there's nothing to stop others making contributions (as *local reporters*) about matters of interest, photos etc for their parts of the Wyke Beck Valley. *Keep us posted!*

* As a result of the support being given by Aire Action Leeds to the preparation of a community led Landscape Framework Plan for the Valley the original 'Vision' groups seen on the web site have now become '**Task**' groups, gathering information and supporting activities to inform a brief for the Plan. The web site will be revised to pick up on the Plan progress and work of these groups, *as and when.....*

vis ECOLOGY, OPEN SPACE/LANDSCAPE, FLOODING ALLEVIATION, YOUNG PERSONS, CONNECTIVITY

and Finally.....

We say farewell to our Chair and begin the process of electing a new one.

At our June 2010 AGM, we shall be electing a new chairperson for the Forum and Board of Trustees. Our present Chair, Roger Harington, is standing down after a stoic performance over 5 years since we first set up back in March 2005. A local Councillor and former priest with an enviable record of service to the community, especially in Gipton, Roger has been an extremely popular and effective Chair of our budding organisation. Perhaps best remembered and greatly appreciated for skilfully guiding us through our ambitious first day long community Conference in June last year which successfully drew wider attention to the Valley's potential. He has been an excellent role model for us re sustainable behaviour towards the Valley's green environment, turning up at our meetings in all seasons, all weathers, on his bike.

To take over from Roger in June, the Board of Trustees have nominated the current Vice Chair and Trustee, Dr Brian Waters, with David Davenport, also a Trustee, nominated as Vice Chair.

*If you would like to become involved or to find out more about the Wyke Beck Valley Community Forum and its work contact Eric and David at the Valley Pride Centre, The Henry Barran Centre, Amberton Approach, Gipton, Leeds, LS8 3JL.
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