

Cobra Meeting

Link via Zoom

August 1st 2023

Time: 2pm – 3pm

Cobra is co-ordinated by Settle Community and Business Hub. If you wish to have anymore information about points raised here please contact Jo Rhodes on:
hub@settlecommunityandbusinesshub.org.uk

Present: Jo Rhodes (Settle Community and Business Hub) Louise Try (The Place), Jonathan Kerr (Age UK North Craven), Tania Ackernley (Home Start Craven), Ann Harding (Victoria Hall), David Blackburn (Settle Rotary), Ian Gray (Settle U3A), Jane Cotton (Community Land Trust), Julie Clarkson (Settle Parish Church)

Updates:

Jo Rhodes

- Evening Public Living rooms - first one this Saturday (5th August) and then the next 19th August at the Quakers - Temperance Bar type of thing - Alcohol free. Dave is in charge. Funding from Yorkshire Housing for these. Other things chugging along as normal.
- Big news - I was awarded a Winston Churchill Travel Fellowship - couldn't do this at the time because of Covid but it is now back on and I will probably be travelling to America for a month in October looking at lots of rural timebanks - this will help enable us to kickstart our timebank.
- Funding - The Lottery has launched a new cost of living fund - aimed at warm rooms, food projects and groups offering crisis support. The grants are wide ranging but quite large £10,000 - £75,000 so might be better for Age UK or others to do bigger things with this - quite a lot of money over 6 months and must be spent by end of March 2024. Update from Jonathan - Age UK not able to apply at the moment as already existing grant situation but idea of possibly applying as a local Cobra group. Suggestion that there is a coordinated bid rather than individual groups bidding and maybe as Community Anchor The Place lead on this. Agreement from others that they will forward information to Louise for her to start a joint bid.

Jonathan Kerr

- Difficult month for Age UK with the passing of Sheena Stapleton. Lots of catch up with Admin - have recruited some posts but have struggled with others.
- Information and Advice queries have really increased.
- We have been very busy offering support in and out of Settle - more in Bentham and Ingleton. Trying to plan staff around this increase.

Jane Cotton

- Having a slightly dormant time - No one seems to know what they are able to do with their money or their land at the moment so we are just keeping an eye on things and trying to not get despondent waiting for things to get going again.
- From the council point of view they are starting to look at Christmas - Lights switch on, Christmas tree etc, please get in touch with the girls at the town hall if you can help or know of anyone who wants to get involved.
- Flags - ongoing! The new flag pole won't take the old flags - Flags have got to be bigger! Work in progress.
- Audit of street lights taking place so we can get everything LED. Difficulties of lights on peoples properties which is causing delays in the sense of working out where else these might go.
- Jo asked about any updates with the fountain and single use plastic. Nothing happening with this at the moment.
- The Folly has had a massive increase of turnover in the cafe which is good news. They have also bought the old Natwest Building. The plan for this is 2 flats for locals to rent with an exhibition floor downstairs.

Ann Harding

- The weather is causing us issues as you can imagine in the garden as the cafe has been quiet or closed, this has really affected our cash flow. Victoria Hall can't exist going forward with no external income coming in. We need about £30,000 - £40,000 a year which doesn't come from earned income. There is no capacity to earn anymore so we need to raise this extra income. We are having a real focus on this at the moment as we must overcome this issue in order to continue. We may need to shift focus on what we are doing but this is being looked at. Nothing we are doing is wrong, but we need to look at what else we can do.
- Settle Down festival was really successful - so hopefully doing this again next year. They bring a lot of money into the local community and I am currently looking at what this was.
- Victoria Gardens to be turned into a winter wonderland this November/December. We are looking for 25 local organisations to adopt a tree each - created from recycled material or people to donate old artificial trees that organisations can make their own decorations for. They will be lit up with donated lights and there will be a Santa's Grotto, Hot Chocolates etc. The idea being this will be another tourist attraction that people can come and visit. Please let me know if you would like to adopt a tree!
- Beer festival this weekend, come on down- we'd like good weather!!
- Tim is starting a new challenge to travel from Berwick upon Tweed to Lands end only using his bus pass - if he succeeds we will set this up as a sponsor event next year!

Ian Gray

- New U3A membership renewal day in August ready to get going again in September.
- July members monthly meeting had a visit from Nick Abbey from Craven Community Land Trust - he had 3 more join the trust from the event.

- Settle Community News Magazine will cease to exist after the December issue unless new members are found to organise it. We are looking for new younger people to take over. This has been expressed in the latest issue.

Louise Try

- Business mostly as usual
- Looking to rearrange the timetable a bit in September with some new bookings but keeping all the usual groups going.
- New Staff member Pip who most of you will have met. We are now open Fridays.
- Working with Age Uk to set up a new Cancer Support group for Settle plus Bentham as well. Probably to happen at The Place but doesn't have to be there. A need for this has been highlighted and there is currently nothing happening in the area through Cancer Support Yorkshire so putting feelers out and looking for volunteers who might want to be involved with this.
- Better Days pain support group has met for the first time 1st Wednesday of every month - In partnership with Age Uk but is a peer led support group
- Looking for volunteers to help with Social Media and Well being Cafe on Tuesdays.
- As you know we have been awarded a Community Anchor Role for Settle by North Yorkshire Council which has come with some funding. We will be keeping our eyes and ears open as to what is going on and feeding back to the council where relevant. We are in the development stages of this but please let us know if there is any way we can work with your organisations better/differently. Will keep you informed about this as we move forward.
- Always looking for additional funding but this is difficult at the moment as it is for everyone!

Tania Ackernly

- Summer holiday activity sessions have been going great - all sessions have been oversubscribed.
- Will be starting new sessions in September. If you know of anyone with children up to the age of 5 push them my way!
- Will be doing a big push for volunteers as we are really struggling for local volunteers, we currently have 2 great volunteers but both travel in from Skipton. Families need some support and hand holding and this is very rewarding work, they are very capable but don't feel capable.

David Blackburn

- Getting started with Father Christmas! Light switch on is 25th November we will start collecting on 1st December.
- We have been working on Rotary corner by Millenium Gardens - which you will see is looking better. The garden itself is a wilderness at the moment. The council has been short a handy man but one is now in place. Jane will mention the Millennium Garden.
- We still have a fair amount in our funds from last year's collection so if there are little pockets of need we are willing to help on minor funding.

Julie Clarkson

- Food Pantry has a queue of people 15-20 on a Friday morning before we even open. There is a big need - we are going through a lot of food. If there is a need people just come and take what they need - no referrals required. We have generous donations of food but also buy a lot, this cannot be sustained long term. We are receiving less than we were through the donations at the supermarket and it can be really hard to maintain what is needed. There is also some disappointing vandalism of food taking place.

Next meeting Tuesday 5th September 2pm on zoom