**Cobra Meeting**

**Link via Zoom**

**June 6th 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 and Rich Gomersall (The Place), Jane Cotton (Craven Community Land Trust, Settle Town Council), Jonathan Kerr (Age UK North Craven), Tania Ackernley (Home Start Craven)

**Updates:**

Jo Rhodes

* Message from Sarah Wiltshire from ACE - meeting on Thursday next week (15th June) - looking at Solar power and community energy and how you can tap energy back into the grid or surrounding houses, moves afoot to try and get more solar panels on bigger buildings like schools/swimming pool. Another meeting this Saturday (10th June) about soil health and ecology at St Johns - will email with more info.
* Hub News - We have received a Lottery grant for the community fridge - big relief, so this will be able to carry on as we are.
* Wonderbag and Haybox cookery demo next Friday 16th June at the Quaker House - not done a lot of promoting yet, will do some posters. We’ll be there 10 - 2.30 ish with examples of Haybox cookery, recipes, energy saving and a free lunch! We were going to run an evening event but one of our volunteers is unwell and didn’t want to go ahead without him but we do have evening events booked for the first Wednesday in July and August to do pop up public living rooms at Victoria Hall Gardens.
* Everything else running as normal
* Yorkshire Dales Millenium Trust are opening up a new Community Grant round, they usually do small specific grants but this one is more general. Meeting on Friday to discuss this with Mike Appleton their grant person.

Jane Cotton

* Reminder it will be noisy weekend June 30th to July 2nd as there is a big music festival on at Victoria Hall.
* Folly news - Barry from Town Council has been in touch about Plastic Free Settle - which is going to be happening. Folly will try and be involved as others are but will depend on finances.

Jane, Jo and Jonathan

* Conversations around Plastic Free Settle, the refurbing of the Fountain and investment in Settle and developing the Website. Revamping of Town Committee, Town Council due to unitary authority changes - flexible funding for Settle to make decisions, people round the table - town council, Chamber of Trade and councillor Staveley.
* Meeting with Erin Wheeler from the Local Enterprise Partnership to be rearranged - this was a follow up to a meeting about plastic free settle, circular economy and circular town stuff so this will all be discussed there. One of us to follow up - will update.
* Also discussions on developing effectiveness of volunteer groups and how we can impact change and involvement/funding from council and those higher up. Encouragement that Settle has a lot of active volunteer groups and suggestion Jonathan could feed back information from his involvement at bigger meetings with decision makers.

Jonathan Kerr

* Busy with the usual stuff. Had a lot of staff sickness but everyone back now, which is great. Sheena who has held the fort together is not well and will be leaving us shortly. We are recruiting for a new Office Manager, also recruiting for an Age Well Coordinator - we do something called Information and Advice which is equivalent to Citizens Advice - specialist advice on finances, legal issues things like that so we have to give the right advice and be trained properly and what we are finding is that we are seeing about 3 times as many people as we were 3 years ago, demand spiralling. So we want someone to support people in the home, stay independent, signpost and also to support people technically with benefits, PIP, Blue badges etc.
* We are doing a lot of work with The Place - Louise can update.
* Good news is Caroline who works for us has been going along to the bowling club to try and encourage people to turn up and use that and its been working really well, either to play or to sit and enjoy the sunshine. Really good to work with one of the local groups and clubs to help them get a boost themselves and for other people to enjoy it. Possibilities of moving on and doing this with other groups. Feels like things are progressing.
* Looking at Health and Mental Health issues and looking through the Bradford centric work and how we need a local plan as well as a Bradford plan. They (Bradford) need to know geography is important, transport is important and they struggle with this, North Yorkshire don’t do enough either - but we will keep battling.

Tania Ackernley

* First group for parents yesterday Mon 5th June at the Place.
* In 2 weeks we have our first group for parents with children with additional needs at the library using their new quiet room.
* I was going to run term time only but I am in the planning stages of coming up with a plan for one off activities through the summer holidays, this is a long time for those who are struggling- so trying to find out what the needs are. Hoping to carry on through summer at The Place on Mondays.
* Suggestions of Swimming pool and Victoria Hall interactions.

Louise Try

* Community Anchor Role has been awarded to us by North Yorkshire and comes with funding - we have been asked to do some mapping of the organisation hopefully to get some support from North Yorkshire in our areas of weakness. We will feedback any information and help received.
* We have recruited an Assistant Manager post 16 hours a week - focus on support for managing the building, room hire and the biggest part being around coordinating/recruiting volunteers. Also looking at developing The Place as a hub for volunteering information for the Settle area.
* Other things are generally ticking along.
* Introducing Rich who is with us today and is a volunteer at The Place in the allotment and office. He is doing an Energy Ambassador course that will enable him to advise people on energy use, companies and how to save money. Will put some packs together and advise people who drop in with energy queries. Jo offered for Rich to chat to contacts that she has who have also completed the course.
* Homestart, Mindfulness groups started.

Next meeting Tuesday 4th July 2pm