

APPENDIX A - ACTIONS AND ASPIRATIONS

A. COMMUNITY ADVANCEMENT

1. Partnerships for community advancement

Explore the possibilities of partnerships with:

- (a) businesses for apprenticeships;
- (b) colleges/universities for adult education;

2. Business hub

Explore various ways in which a central support office or hub for micro businesses might be established and operated, and whether this would be a good location for local businesses of all types and sizes to advertise.

B. CONSERVATION

3. Heritage buildings and those at risk

To monitor regularly the compiled list of heritage buildings, particularly those at risk.

4. Heritage building guidance and renovation

(a) AVBC planning department advise that only broad guidance can be given on upgrading heritage housing as each building needs individual assessment. The project is to publish widely in the local area a leaflet containing the broad indications, the fact that each building needs individual assessment, and advice as to where to obtain it. Perhaps also include examples of what can be done generally, and what has been done locally. Perhaps include, or publish as a separate leaflet, a map or list of places in the conservation area and information on the necessary Article 4(2) planning permission.

(b) Because of their listing, owners sometimes have difficulty in securing planning permission for residential extensions and modifications. The project is for the creation of a Conservation Working Group under the aegis of BTC tasked with producing a pattern book that will guide homeowners living in early industrial housing as to the sorts of works and materials that would be acceptable. Consider the local conservation area rules in this context.

(c) Carry out a survey of buildings and shopfronts that overwhelm or detract from the heritage and character of the area and establish the borderline within the Conservation Area that is to be covered, i.e. town centre or built environment or the whole area; using the survey as a basis, apply for heritage funding for restoration/upgrading of such buildings, as was done on Bridge Street.

5. Advise and consult with AVBC on whether there is a case for reviewing the local conservation area rules so that:

(a) Heritage housing

heritage housing can be made fit for modern living without spoiling the character of the building or the area; perhaps do a survey on how many are rented and householders' views; consider the Project 3(a) pattern book in this context.

(b) Signage

road traffic signs can be put on Belper Market Place to show that it is a Clearway.

(c) Shop windows

advertising displays on windows are not so prominent that they overpower an historic area or building(s) so as to render them unnoticeable.

6. Archaeology

Explore the possibility of a partnership with a university for archaeology, with reference to Belper Historical Society; list areas where archaeological exploration is desirable, e.g. the waterworks of the West and North & East Mills sites.

7. Closer links with universities

The historical importance of the World Heritage Site, its archives and its technology are resources through which children's interest at all stages of their education can be captured, and the necessary skills developed that will enable them to prosper in a global market. Many schools already participate so the project is to explore the possibilities of partnerships with local universities using the WHS resource in order to benefit the neighbourhood area and its students.

C. DISABILITY

8. Passage around Belper

To have more seating on the incline around town. To have dropped kerbs on the areas around de Bradelei, former McDonalds and B&M/Aldi, or to have passage made safer in other ways. To have a flat path around the edge of the Market Place to avoid the cobbles. To develop the parish playgrounds, parks and green areas as inclusive spaces.

9. Toilets

To have more toilets. To have signs to where toilets are. To explore the possibility of having a “changing places” toilet that has more space and is fully equipped (e.g. with a hoist).

10. Meeting rooms

To have more meeting rooms that are accessible. To encourage organisations to hold meetings in accessible rooms.

11. Shops

To have shopkeepers make their entrances more accessible where possible, or otherwise to have a bell available or signage to indicate alternative entrances/services. To have “safe haven” contact points in shops and businesses that young adults with learning disabilities can go to if they feel threatened or vulnerable.

12. Hearing loops

To have more hearing loops in shops and venues. For staff to be aware of the standard of the acoustics in their shops/venues.

13. Less obvious disabilities

To make people aware of less obvious disabilities, such as: (a) someone with dementia could see a black doormat as a hole they could fall into; (b) someone with vertigo could be made dizzy by a patterned carpet; (c) for someone with epilepsy, flashing lights can cause loss of consciousness or bring on a seizure.

14. Electric wheelchairs

Aspire to have electric wheelchairs for hire as manuals are too heavy on the inclines.

D. GETTING AROUND

15. Pedestrian access, safety and ease of movement:-

(a) generally:

(i) Explore how walking and cycling can be made safer in the Belper neighbourhood area, and how car users might be encouraged to use other means of commuting, shopping and getting children to school; for example, by creating a parallel, but West of Bridge Street, non-vehicular multi-user route from the North Mill complex through to Derwent Street.

(ii) Explore ways in which it might be made easier for the public to access the amenities of the Belper neighbourhood area, initially by producing a pedestrian map of the parish showing all footpaths, jitties/channels and safe walking routes.

(b) for those more vulnerable:

Explore ways in which it might be made easier and safer to move around the area for those with disabilities, impaired mobility, the elderly, and those with buggies.

16. Speed calming

To ascertain whether speed calming measures are necessary in Spencer Road and, if so, to explore the alternatives (eg. speed sign(s), speed bumps).

17. Ongoing traffic and car parking surveys

In support of the NP4B monitoring process, to carry out traffic and car parking surveys at intervals to be decided.

18. Public transport in the locality

To explore how the continuance and improvement of public transport in the neighbourhood area might be effected for the benefit of residents who do not have access to a car; for example: relocation of bus stops at Belper Market Place would improve accessibility.

E. NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

19. Wildlife-friendly gardening

Encourage resident to help increase the wild and managed bee populations by planting bee-friendly flowers in their gardens; explore cost-effective ways of spreading the message, e.g. leaflets, BTC website. Encourage householders to consider wildlife-friendly gardening generally. Produce and distribute a leaflet advising on simple things that can be done in a garden to make a difference, e.g. gaps in fences for hedgehogs, bird seed in winter.

Encourage those carrying out wildlife-friendly gardening to notify BTC so that a map can be drawn up in order to identify potential wildlife corridors.

20. Dealing with Himalayan balsam

Encourage landowners to deal with the Himalayan balsam on their land and on the banks of the River Derwent, Coppice Brook and Black Brook, also other areas of the parish.

21. Planting in suitable green spaces

Consider which green open spaces might be suitable for the planting of wildflowers, obtain permission from the relevant authority, consider where to source the wildflowers, get a team of volunteers together to carry out the work. Consider tree planting, sensory gardens and accessible raised beds within the parks and playgrounds.

22. Retaining drystone walls and front gardens

To encourage landowners and householders to retain their dry stone walls, which are so much a part of the area's character. Also, to retain and enhance front gardens. Produce and distribute a leaflet outlining best practice and any legal requirements.

F. PARKS & GREEN OPEN SPACES

23. Create a more detailed list

To assist AVBC and BTC in their decision-making when management plans come up for renewal: expand the list of the neighbourhood area's parks and green open spaces by adding in the size, amenities, any suggestions for improvements and any ongoing difficulties. Publicise how the public can report matters such as excess dog fouling and vandalism.

24. Further the network

Extend and enhance the network of green spaces and allotments as referred to in NP4B Item 80 and Community Objective 5. Work with AVBC to improve the parks, playgrounds and open spaces, developing fully-inclusive adventure play opportunities. Consider how the parks & public open spaces, and any events going on in them, could be publicised.

G. PUBLIC AMENITIES

25. Safe access and well-lit footpaths

(a) It is recognised that the character of the local landscape and historic nature of much of the area make easy access difficult to achieve for those with disabilities, the elderly, those with walking difficulties, and those with buggies.

(b) People have spoken of the difficulties getting into some of the park areas, road access to the rugby and football grounds, and using the channels/jitties and footpaths.

Support and encourage the groups in Belper town already working on these issues; encourage groups in other settlements (e.g. Milford, Makeney) to work on the issue in their locality, and support them; request all relevant organisations and publicly-funded resources to give an update on the provisions they have made (or will be making) for full access and lighting, perhaps using a questionnaire devised for the purpose; if considered advisable, conduct a review of access provision, perhaps with assistance from others, e.g. Accessible Belper, some families with young children, those living near channels/jitties and footpaths; similarly, conduct a review of the lighting of public areas.

26. Possible Community Hub

To explore the possibility of a physical community hub, centrally placed, where all organisations in the area could advertise their activities and future plans. This would need staff able to give out information, and to enable connections and exchanges. It could possibly also act as a tourist information point as an outreach facility for the North Mill Museum.

H. SOCIAL INTERACTION

27. Services/facilities

Explore what services/facilities are already available, and perhaps publicise them more widely, and where there are gaps investigate what further services might be provided and how:

(a) Older people

A frequent theme was the need for provision of a “drop in” club/venue for isolated and older members of the community; explore whether the proposed café at the new care home/library complex to be built on Derwent Street (South) could accommodate this; consider whether just providing the venue is enough or if a club needs to be established or it be taken on by an existing group; consider whether it would serve the needs of the whole neighbourhood area or if other venue(s)/club(s) would be needed to serve those unable to travel into Belper town; if so, explore the possibilities.

(b) Youth

Concern was expressed that there is little provision for older teenagers; explore, perhaps through the Drop Inn Centre and the Blue Box, how widespread among the 14-19 age group this feeling is and what it is they feel is lacking; perhaps also how and where it could be provided..

- (c) **Casual sport**
Explore ways in which, and places where, casual or spontaneous sports could take place, particularly opportunities for free and low-cost activities. Explore how and where multi-user games courts not needing booking in advance could be established.
- (d) **Benefits advice**
To encourage and explore ways in which support could be given to those groups offering help to people in need of benefits advice.

I. SUPPORTING LOCAL AMENITIES

28. The Leisure Centre

Give consideration to the leisure centre needing to be positively supported and maintained in order to give high quality facilities. Explore whether the centre needs to be updated and potentially expanded, and, if so, in what way(s) and how it might be accomplished. Belper is the only one of the four towns in the Borough without a paddling pool or a teaching pool; specific children's facilities are not provided.

29. The Strutt Centre

The Strutt Centre is important to the community historically, visually and as a valued community centre which provides venues each week for many different organisations. The centre is run by volunteers working long hours. Through their fundraising efforts a lift is being installed, which will allow better use of the upstairs rooms. In future the Centre may be able to provide start-up spaces for small businesses. However, Strutts will need £1 million to keep it in good repair. The project is to establish a link with the Strutts' Trustees and explore whether there are any ways in which the wider community could help them achieve their goals, to the benefit of the neighbourhood area.

30. Fleet Arts

Fleet Arts is a useful asset to the community but is struggling because it is at the top of a steep hill, which is difficult for some pedestrians, and can only offer on-street parking, which is limited. In terms of hiring out its rooms it is also feeling the impact of the Strutt Centre, which is close by. The project is to make contact with Fleet Arts Management and explore whether there are any ways in which the wider community could help them achieve their goals, to the benefit of the neighbourhood area.

J. SUSTAINABILITY

- 31.** Livestock farming in the UK is under pressure, and small farms particularly so. Locally this has led to great change in recent years: farm houses have been sold as homes; farmland has been sold for housing development; farm buildings have been converted to other uses and the land let for grazing; farms have become owner-occupier office premises. This is a trend that looks set to continue, but ultimately to detrimental effect. Given that easily-accessible oil is beginning to run out worldwide, within the foreseeable future we will need to be able to produce food locally. There is also the added pressure to maintain the rural landscape as part of the Outstanding Universal Value of the WHS.

The project is to carry out research and explore with farm owners and managers whether ways can be found of sustaining farms and farming, such as co-operating or sharing. Also, if there are ways in which farms could be converted to other uses but with the facility to return to farming at a later date.

K. TOURISM

- 32. Listing of historic pubs, churches and channels/jitties**
To list the historic pubs of the neighbourhood area, the channels & jitties, and the churches. To photograph them, carry out research, write up the history, and produce illustrated leaflets or guide books. To make these available locally, over a wider area, and online. Establish links with the North Mill Trustees and Museum, and with the DVMWHS team.
- 33. Making the historic importance and legacy better known**
Considering its historical importance and heritage the neighbourhood area is not well-known globally. The project is to make its evolution and huge historic significance more generally known worldwide. Consider the various ways in which this might be achieved.

L. WILDLIFE CORRIDORS

- 34.** Identify areas of land that are currently managed under agri-environment schemes and woodland grant schemes; also identify concentrations of sites supporting important habitat (actual and potential local wildlife sites, and known areas of semi-natural habitat; Map all the areas and identify potential wildlife corridors; establish the value of the gaps in between with a view to forming wildlife corridors; as this will inevitably include areas of land where there is no known management for wildlife, talk to the landowners about habitat improvements and the wildlife corridors scheme.