

Culture & Heritage

2nd Round Public Consultation
19:30 Wednesday 29th June 2016
Strutts Community Centre
Derby Road, Belper
Facilitator: John Morrisey

Reporting Feedback



The community has a great love of its culture and heritage. We have had very positive feedback about the lively range of arts activity. Belper is well served with a range of arts, music, historic and wider cultural groups and events. These range from the annual multi-faith Carol Service by the town Christmas tree through to a wide ranging sports offer and an active local theatre, festivals, creative arts and music programmes. There is an appreciation of the area's history and its notable buildings, and strong feeling that the character and the vibrancy of the town must not be lost.

Consultation is ongoing with a wide range of the many groups in the town, and there is an obvious overlap with other topics under consideration, but this is an opportunity to outline some of the issues raised and to obtain feedback on particular matters raised:

Culture

1. Are the cultural venues available in the town fit for purpose, particularly concerning accessibility? Are you aware of any difficulties people have that may not be obvious?

Larger halls for public performance are in Belper school ; Fleet Arts; the Strutts centre; No 28 Market Place; Belper Football Club; the Lion Hotel and the Ritz Cinema; do we need another large facility for entertainment, and if so, where?

There was support for a new accessible and independent theatre in the centre of town, do you agree?

Do we need other types of entertainment facility, such as bowling?

Small venues - such as pubs, clubs, community halls, etc. - are particularly important for outlying areas. Is there anything that can be done to support them, bearing in mind that they have to be commercially viable?

2. Belper has an established range of very successful festivals Belper Arts , Summer and Winter food, Belper goes Green, Music and Beer. Do they need any assistance? What do you think we could do?

3- Crafts are not perceived to be widely represented in the Belper arts offer though there is a lot of activity. How can craftspeople be encouraged and supported?

Do you think a Belper makers' and artists' fair is a good idea? If so, how often should it be?

4. What arts teaching is available? How could the skills of artists in the area be used to increase teaching courses?

Heritage

We are privileged to live in a World Heritage Site, but it has complexities. The granting to Derwent Valley Mills of World Heritage Site status was not just because of the early mills that began the factory system, but also because they were established in a rural landscape that is still largely intact! thus making it an area of Outstanding Universal Value.

1. Does Belper get the best out of the Derwent Valleys Outstanding Universal Value? How can we best maintain this? The North Mill is in a very fragile state.

2- The difficulties of maintenance and use of heritage buildings in the modern world (e.g. East Mill; Wards Warehouse) are being looked at by DVMWHS and others and will be reported on later in the neighbourhood plan process.

3. There are several other heritage areas (e.g. the Deer Park; the River gardens) and we need to get the best out of them. Any others that you can think of? Any ideas about usage?

4- Belper's railway cutting and bridges are special and should be maintained and better showcased. Do you think we need a "friends" organisation for this? If so, would you be prepared to be involved?

5. The impact of electrification of the railway line will need to be monitored.

6. Any other comments.

CULTURE & HERITAGE FEEDBACK. Please hand the leaflet in or post to: NP4B, St. John,s Chapel, The Butts, BelperDE56.1HX. ore-mailto:info@planforbelper.org.uk