



'Creating a Centre of excellence to reconnect Communities to their Heritage and Environment'

Report for Filey Town Council annual Parish meeting 2013



Thank you Card - Filey CE infants school

Project History

For several years, several individuals representing various Filey groups have had a vision for some kind of Heritage and Environmental Centre in Filey. Despite the best efforts of those concerned, funding was not in place or available and no progress was made. In November 2011 a small informal steering group was set up by local groups and grant funding was sought from the European LEADER CWWW programme to help finance an educational and community project in Filey. The groups involved included:

- The Filey Brigg Ornithological Group
- Filey Bay Initiative
- Filey Sailing Club
- Filey Museum
- The Filey Brigg Research Group

Our grant application was successful and with it we financed a professionally designed website: www.Discoverfiley.org.uk and purchased educational equipment, including a tented classroom that can seat up to 25 children and their carers. During the year we have provided educational courses to 63 school groups a total of 880 children of primary school age about the marine life, geology and fossils of Filey Bay. These groups have included Filey CE Infants and our Junior School. We have learned of an enormous disconnect between our children, their heritage and their environment. It is vital that present and future generations are far more aware of the place which they live in and visit.

A further sixteen days of events organised during the year included joint activities with the RSPB, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, Filey Parish Church, The Sea Cadets, Heritage Events, Safety Day and Yorkshire Day. Hundreds of visitors to Filey have learnt more about Filey's hidden treasures. Our website has been very successful with over eleven thousand visitors. Currently we are receiving several enquiries a week about Filey through the website.



Our focus in 2013 is to pursue the development of a purpose built high quality Heritage and Environment Centre on Filey's Country Park. This will be a meeting place and resource for all ages with intergenerational activities. It will serve as a hub for all sorts of outdoor activities and a base for entrepreneurs working in the nature tourism and other heritage and environment based enterprises. Scarborough Borough Council (SBC) and Filey Town Council have been very supportive of this scheme. A number of directors with a wide range of skills have been recruited to the board of the new Discover Filey Development Trust (formerly Filey4wards Development Trust). Native Architects of York have provided 'pro-bono' concept plans, which have been central to our public consultation process.

A business plan for the scheme has been submitted to SBC and they have been very helpful with resourcing, including administrative help and planning advice. During the course of 2013 we hope to submit further applications to grant funding bodies. The process requires a huge expenditure of effort and time by our dedicated team of volunteers but we hope for a build within the next two years or so. In parallel with the build it is also hoped to fund a range of environmental improvements on Filey's Country Park which will benefit all users from dog walkers to cyclists, whilst conserving and improving the natural heritage and environment. The environmental regeneration charity Groundwork has already been very helpful in providing concept drawings of possible improvements.

As the project progresses, we are working closely in partnership with others, including Hull University, Scarborough Campus, to educate and promote our living and built heritage, culture land and seascape for the benefit of future generations. Our public consultation will continue and we have already been inundated with support and numerous positive suggestions which will be incorporated into the building and landscaping. This is a community centered project, we welcome your suggestions and particularly any offers of help. Please contact us on the contact page of our website www.discoverfiley.org.uk or there is someone to be found most weekdays at our office in the ground floor community office in the Evron Centre.



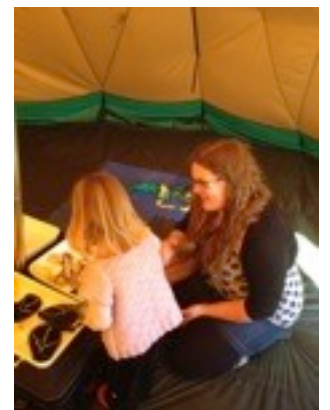
Conceptual drawing of Country Park Centre by Native Architects of York

There are over 60,000 visitors a year to the bird reserve at Bempton Cliffs, they spend over £10 a head and bring over another £1million into the local tourist economy - RSPB information





Card - Filey CE Infants



THIS PROJECT IS PART FINANCED BY

