
Kirkbymoorside Town Council

Information for the meeting on Monday 21 September 2026

12. Community Archive Project

- a. To consider the grant application by Kirkbymoorside History Group for £1250 match funding
- b. To consider the request for a letter of support of the Kirkbymoorside History Group's application for Charitable Status

Reference letter of support request

Context

The Kirkbymoorside History Group, founded in 2001, has previously worked with the Town Council on projects to preserve the town's heritage and make it available to all.

The group operate from a rented metal storage container on land owed by Ryedale Auctioneers. We are now seeking to develop a community archive and heritage centre for the town and have been seeking suitable premises. Our aim is to have a space where our holdings can be sorted, preserved, restored and archived appropriately. At present the heritage we already hold is at risk because of the conditions and we are finding that there is much more material available locally, but donors are reluctant to offer it at present as our current storage is unsuitable.

With new premises we aim to make the archive accessible to the town and visitors with appropriate storage, presentation, display, education and exhibition space. We would also benefit from a more suitable setting for our retail sales of books and items which are a valuable source of income as well as offering customers a permanent record of various aspects of the town. A new community archive space would enhance and further develop the town history trail and offer a new visitor and local resident experience which could then lead to more footfall and income generation for the town.

We envisage the archive being open for research assisted by volunteers and would be open to the public certain hours in the week plus by appointment.

We have applied to the Charity Commission for CIO status and await the result. This will certainly help with funding applications.

The group would appreciate a letter of support but at present we are considering various funding options so are unable to offer a specific party to reference in a letter of support, for example the National Lottery.

Constitution / governing document

Formed in 2001, the group's objects are as follows:-

To preserve and promote the history and heritage of Kirkbymoorside town and surrounding rural villages. To communicate, share and make accessible such history to the community. To obtain and preserve documents, photographs, wills, charters,

estate papers, census analysis, court leat papers, maps, plans, postcards, letters, diaries and items of significance to our community history. To record and preserve the oral history of our community, especially the local Yorkshire dialect with due regard to appropriate GDPR and licensing laws. To receive or purchase significant artefacts with local provenance. To ensure that the town's archive material is made available to the public via exhibition, viewing, research facilities, books, events, school visits or through digitisation. To work within the National Archive guidance on the archiving, storing and recording of our material. To ensure heritage or archive items of local significance and provenance that are at risk are saved and preserved. To encourage a younger generation to engage with our local heritage and history. To promote, display, exhibit and share material to the wider public for educational and recreation purposes such as assisting with research, family history and social history recording for the future. To engage with groups such as the older population in our community to appreciate, learn from and value their histories and contributions. To invite school or younger age groups to take part in events and activities which reflect the area's heritage and foster an appreciation of history and societal change. To offer the opportunity for groups to share memories and reminiscences to a wider audience.

Section from our CIO application on the benefits to the community

Displays, exhibitions, talks and film keep local history alive and valued. We reach groups of all ages with our events and educate on the town's background and culture. Sharing our archive and material is key to engaging with the community, learning from the past and appreciating where we have come from and how it has shaped our modern-day area. One of the best aspects is the way we can evoke memories and reminiscences from the older generation, many of whom are in quite isolated outlying rural areas and we make efforts to ensure our events and material are accessible to them, as well as gathering additional anecdotes and in some cases, donations of material. An archive and collection is of little use unless it is available, accessible, well catalogued and organised. This is an ongoing project. The group has saved a considerable amount of heritage which was at risk of being lost. For example, factory records back to late 19th century pulled from a skip, locally made textiles and crafts inappropriately stored, family diaries from the Edwardian era, WW1 autograph books and nursing records to name but a few. Our events bring together a wide demographic as can be seen from the attachment. They create enthusiasm, bring people of all ages together and are enjoyed as a social but educational experience, valuing contributions. Often people don't think their input is valuable or interesting, but seeing their pleasure at sharing and being valued makes our efforts worthwhile.

Linda Knight, Kirkbymoorside History Group volunteer acting on behalf of Steve Peet and Louise Mudd.