



# MERE BROW

area | 21<sup>st</sup> January 2025



## Attendees:

Mike Spall	WL Light Railway	Speaker
Gerry Allen	WLBC	Speaker
Diane Earles	Hesketh Bank Community Centre	Speaker
Annie Ives	The Hub at Banks	Speaker
Peter Halls	Banks & HB U3A	
Carly Morris	WLBC	
Sandra Watts	Hesketh Bank & Tarleton Helpers	
G Iddons	Hesketh Bank Bowling Club	
Paul Sherman	NW Heritage CIC	
Gerald Gallimore	Hesketh Bank & Tarleton Helpers	
Mark Hawksley	Hesketh Bank Christian Centre	
Linda Mayor	LCC - Tarleton Library	
Vivien Mumford	The Friends at Tarleton Library	
Tilly Postlethwaite	Hesketh Bank & Tarleton Helpers	
Sheila McCoy	Dementia Carers	
Sam Lowe	Hesketh Bank Community Centre	
Julie Sawyer	Gymzkool	
Carol Canipa	Home Instead	
Phil Rigby	WLBC	
Vic Citarella	WLCVS	
Jodi Gibson	The Liberty Centre	
Mel Grice	The Liberty Centre	
Rhys Mahon	Deafway	
Kathryn MacDonald	ODFHS	
Steven Howels	Mere Brow Village Hall	

### Group discussion

- Identify the community assets in Mere Brow and the surrounding area.
- Identify what the main issues are that need attention.
- Look at how the network can help.

<b>List of Community Assets</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Banks Hub, Hesketh Bank Heritage Park and Nature Trail, Gardening Club part of Hesketh Bank Bowling Club. West Lancashire Light Railway ( in the future use of multipurpose room), Angling Club (including young people),</li><li>• Parish Councils, Churches (multiple in each village), The Library and Friends of Tarleton Library, Schools, Sports Facilities</li><li>• Tarleton Bowling Club, Rugby Club, Cricket Club</li><li>• Sheltered Housing - Lounges</li><li>• Linear Park, Coastal Path</li><li>• Hesketh Helpers, Mere Brow Village Hall, Mere Brow Village Hall, Hesketh Bank Community Centre,</li><li>• North West Heritage CIC, Facebook – Hesketh Bank and community GP's,</li></ul>
<b>Local Issues identified during the discussion.</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lack of transport infrastructure</li><li>• Funding needed – access to funding and how to apply</li><li>• Loneliness, social isolation, housebound vulnerable</li><li>• Levels of deprivation, financial difficulties</li><li>• Community champions at risk of burn out – need more support</li><li>• Isolated – not linking what we have to get better use of resources</li><li>• Impact of the 29<sup>th</sup> July – negative image / poor identity</li><li>• Poor GP infrastructure in Banks</li><li>• Need young volunteers - cadets</li><li>• Young people in Banks not engaging in activities – are they what they want? Social issues – threshold to change – communication – e.g HBCC and neighbours</li></ul>
<b>How can the network can help?</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Networking, grant funding, promoting our work in venues etc</li><li>• Breaking down barriers</li><li>• Sharing Knowledge and ideas</li><li>• Meetings like this, share ideas</li><li>• Gain awareness of what others are doing and reduce duplication</li><li>• Skill sharing, share best practise</li><li>• Going green – more ECO/ Sustainable venues</li><li>• Need good Leadership for the network to work – to generate worthwhile outcomes which will help overcome the challenges.</li></ul>

**How often to meet:**

	4 times a year	3 times a year	2 times a year	Once a year
Geographic groups	3	1	12	1
Thematic groups	4	2	8	1

<b>What was the most useful part of the event from your perspective and why?</b>
Advice on grant funding
catching up with other orgs - was able to arrange several useful things
Being able to give presentation on Banks Hub. Need to spread the word
Meeting different people in the are of work
Sharing ideas etc from groups
Finding out others' issues are probably the same
Good presentations
Group discussion
Meeting people
Opening doors, understanding what's available
Hearing updates from local people – seeing passion and listening to local inspirational people
Networking, getting to now other agencies working, updates, information sharing
Sharing opportunities to collaborate and putting names to faces
Learning how other orgs had grown from funding and volunteers
Skill set of knowledge within the group and diverse opinions
Finding the confidence and encouragement to continue
Meeting potential contacts
Meeting other groups
<b>Any other comments?</b>
More time needed for the exercise / group discussion
Looking forward to the next meeting
How will the network make community orgs' work easier?
I enjoyed the talks
The for general (not detailed) information of causes of concern in the local areas. Probably info held by the local authority. Info sharing. Is it possible?
Would like to know more about what plans are for Skelmersdale town centre. Any improvements for all areas inc hubs throughout WL
Thank you for inspirational morning
Thank you for the invitation to speak and initiating this project
Accountants?
Pre- screened funding opportunities therefore understanding us better
Very interested in future communication with one-to-one funding advice and grant applications scheme – how to proceed