



Yorkshire Forward

Bedale Renaissance

Statement of Community Involvement and Consultation

22nd March 2004

Final Report

Spawforth  Associates

Bedale Renaissance

March 2004

Statement of Community Involvement and Consultation

1.0 Statement of Community Involvement

This statement is produced to outline the level of consultation, that has been undertaken during the Bedale Renaissance project, identifying the continuous role and involvement the community has had in the process. This will allow the local authority and members of the community, particularly those who have participated in the process, to follow a critical path and identify how their views and opinions have resulted in clearly defined projects and output.

This statement and its supporting documentation may also inform the Local Development Frameworks (LDF's) which have emerged as part of the review of the planning system introduced in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Bill (2002). Under the Bill the present system of local plans is to be replaced by Local Development Frameworks, a quicker more flexible approach, which provides more effective involvement from the community.

Although the LDF's do not come into force immediately, Hambleton District Council are already considering the implications of the local development framework (LDF) and suggests that many of the principles that underpin the LDF can be acted upon under the current system.

One of the fundamental principles of the LDF process is to achieve more effective community involvement throughout the planning system, enabling the people who live, work, study, socialise and enjoy recreation in the area, to help shape its future. This compliments the Renaissance process, which provides members of the community with an opportunity to facilitate change and develop the skills and plans needed to promote and develop the town.

This Statement of Community Involvement and Consultation includes the following:

- The strategy for community involvement in the Renaissance Process and its links to other community involvement strategies e.g. Hambleton Community Plan
 - Identification of the local community groups that have been consulted and demonstrates how local people and groups have been involved and the methods used.
 - A demonstration of how the results of the community involvement have fed into the preparation of the Bedale Masterplan.
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2.0 Consultation and Public Participation Undertaken

Existing Plans and Policies

A review of Hambleton District Wide Local Plan, the North Yorkshire County Structure Plan and the CIP Plan was undertaken. The review of much of this information is contained within the baseline assessment.

Inception Meeting with Key Stakeholders

Discussions were held within the existing Community Plan Forum, with Hambleton District Council Development Control and Policy team and Community Planning teams.

Internal Officer and Consultant Group Meetings (Sponsor Group Meetings)

This group comprises Yorkshire Forward, Spawforth Associates and representatives of Hambleton District Council planning policy, development control and community planning teams.

The group meet on a monthly basis to consider issues arising from the Renaissance workshops and masterplan. Meetings were held during September, October, November, December 2003 and January, February, March and April 2004.

Local Strategic Partnership

Spawforth Associates attended two meetings with the Local Strategic Partnership where updates on the development of the Bedale Renaissance Vision were presented.

Bedale Town Council and Bedale and Villages Community Plan Forum, Group Meetings

The Town Council and the Bedale CPF group have been kept fully informed of progress throughout the Renaissance process with members of both groups attending public meetings and individual workshops.

Contacts Database

A database of all members of the community who have attended public meetings and all bodies, representatives, local community societies, clubs and organisations who have been consulted on the process has been established and this forms a separate document.

General Awareness Campaign

Summary leaflets and posters establishing meeting dates have continued to be widely distributed around the town and local parishes throughout the Renaissance. A copy of the vision and town charter will be distributed to local shops, libraries and public buildings and all parishes in the surrounding area, once the Vision and masterplan have been launched on the 26th April 2004.

Internet and Web Based Awareness

Information relating to the Bedale Renaissance, progress updates and information relating to future meetings have all been posted on the Yorkshire Forward Rural Renaissance Market Towns portal website and www.Bedale.com, a locally formed website which will champion the Bedale Renaissance.

There will be opportunities for people to view and comment upon the masterplan on the internet, once the masterplan and vision have been launched in April 2004.

Media and Press Statements

The press have been kept informed of the Bedale Renaissance Process since its launch in July 2003. Dates of public meetings have been published in the Darlington and Stockton Times. Articles have also been published in the Hambleton District Council newsletter to provide a summary of the progress. When the final vision and masterplan is launched in April 2004, a major PR exercise is to be undertaken, using the local media, with articles on the local radio and in the Darlington and Stockton Times. The aim of the exercise is to engage more local residents in the next stage of the masterplan development and delivery.

Public Meetings and Workshops

A series of public meetings and workshop events have been held throughout the Renaissance process, in order to engage with a wide cross section of the community. The

Renaissance process is built around community involvement and has promoted proactive planning, providing an opportunity to involve all sections of the local community in the emerging vision, as part of public consultation events, meetings and focus groups. This aids the planning process providing greater consistency and acceptance amongst all local stakeholders as to the type of development which is required. A log of these meetings and workshop can be referred to in the appendices.

The following 'working groups' were created as a result of the initial public meetings:

- Community Interests
- Leisure and Recreation
- Education, Skills and Employment
- Transport
- Tourism
- Retail

Opportunities for further Public Participation

When the Renaissance vision and masterplan for 2030 is launched in April 2004, the process will continue to the delivery stage.

The Bedale and Villages Community Plan Forum and Bedale Chamber of Trade and Tourism, have been identified to champion and or deliver many of the Renaissance projects. Members of the community are currently being canvassed to become actively involved in the delivery of the Renaissance, through joining one of a number of task groups and should contact John Laity, Chair of the Bedale Chamber of Trade and Tourism, 8 Market Place, Bedale or Mike Barningham, Chair of Bedale and Villages Community Plan Forum.

Hambleton's Local Development Framework that will emerge during late 2004 and 2005, will also enable members of the public to participate in the local planning process. The Bedale Renaissance process has provided a vision for what Bedale may be like in 25 years time, but it is not a development plan and a number of projects are currently contrary to the current adopted plan and policies. Some of the projects may not come forward in the short term due to landowner aspirations and may require patience and a long-term commitment from both the local authority and community leaders. The Local Development Framework process may provide an opportunity for changes to be made to local planning policy and land use allocations in the district, which will enable some Renaissance projects to come forward in the medium term.

Statement of Community Involvement and Participation

The LDF is similar to the local plan process, with members of the community being encouraged to make representations to the Council in respect of Council policies and land allocations. It is therefore hoped that the Renaissance process has stimulated greater numbers of members of the community to contact the Council and express an interest in a particular site or planning policy, during the consultation stage of the Local Development Framework Process.

Appendix 1

Log of Public Meetings and Workshops

Statement of Community Involvement and Participation

Meeting Type:	Public Meeting
Date:	August 2003
Venue:	Bedale Hall
Subject of Meeting:	Inaugural renaissance meeting with key stakeholders.
Key Issues and Conclusions:	This meeting enabled Spawforth Associates to obtain background information on existing themes, policies, aspirations, areas of concern and potential difficulties.
Attendance:	15

Meeting Type:	Public Meeting
Date:	23 rd September 2003
Venue:	Bedale Hall
Subject of Meeting:	Analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats unique to Bedale. Identification and discussion of main issues, themes and priorities.
Key Issues and Conclusions:	Strengths: natural and built environment, community, local tourist attractions, sports and leisure facilities. Weaknesses: traffic, lack of coach parking, relief road, limited housing. Opportunities: Wensleydale railway, Becksides, change to market day. Threats: relief road, people shopping at other towns.
Attendance:	16

Statement of Community Involvement and Participation

Meeting Type:	Public Meeting
Date:	14 th October 2003
Venue:	Bedale Hall
Subject of Meeting:	Discussions with stakeholders to confirm nature and level of requirements for additional specialist input and themes for further development.
Key Issues and Conclusions:	It was agreed by all parties present at the meeting consultants would be appointed to look at transport and tourism constraints and opportunities.
Attendance:	37

Meeting Type:	Public Meeting
Date:	4 th November 2003
Venue:	Bedale Hall
Subject of Meeting:	Discussion of potential scenarios and opportunities, developing strategic themes and development sites. Recruitment of key stakeholders to join topic workshop groups.
Key Issues and Conclusions:	Issues discussed: linkages between proposed relief road, car park to rear of St Gregory's, Bedale market place and station. Linkages between local tourist attractions, connecting Big Sheep and Little Cow and Wensleydale railway and the Becksides. Improving congestion in the town. Promoting a brand or identity for Bedale which is unique.
Attendance:	32

Statement of Community Involvement and Participation

Meeting Type:	Public Meeting
Date:	25 th November 2003
Venue:	Bedale Hall
Subject of Meeting:	All those in attendance agreed to the formation of tourism and branding, transport, retail, community interests, leisure and recreation and skills, education and employment topic groups.
Key Issues and Conclusions:	The group then discussed the key issues for consideration by each topic group.
Attendance:	20

Meeting Type:	Workshop
Date:	2 nd December 2003
Venue:	Courtyard Restaurant
Subject of Meeting:	Topic groups: tourism, transport and retail inception meetings. Analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) relevant to these topic areas. Identifying areas of opportunity and projects established as part of the renaissance.
Key Issues and Conclusions:	Tourism Strengths: attractive market town, good visitor attractions, Wensleydale railway, proximity to A1. Weaknesses: attractions not well-linked, poor coach parking, traffic congestion. Opportunities: Wensleydale railway, Bedale beck, Big Sheep and Little Cow. Transport Strengths: Good bus service, railway, market place. Weaknesses: no coach parking, trains don't currently stop in Bedale. Opportunities: improve pedestrian links to station, location of bypass, town trail, beck side, rail and cycle link. Retail: Strength: attractive town centre, small independent retailers. Weaknesses: high proportion of commuters, the market. Opportunities: strengthen market, continue to offer something different, balance local needs with tourism.
Attendance:	32

Statement of Community Involvement and Participation

Meeting Type:	Workshop
Date:	8 th December 2003
Venue:	Courtyard Restaurant
Subject of Meeting:	Topic groups: community interests, leisure and recreation and skills, education and employment inception meetings. Analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) relevant to these topic areas. Identifying areas of opportunity and projects established as part of the renaissance.
Key Issues and Conclusions:	Community Interests: Strengths: community spirit, school, sports and leisure facilities. Weaknesses: fragmentation with youths, youth provision, toilets, public transport links. Opportunities: Enhanced youth services, improve toilets. Leisure and Recreation: Strengths: School and local sports facilities, allotments, local clubs, local sports fields. Weaknesses: Access to local cinema's, lack of paths and walks. Opportunities: Reels on Wheels – portable cinema, town trial, youth drop in centre. Skills, education and employment: Strengths: local school has very good reputation. Weaknesses: Bedale School has no sixth form college, local employment generators struggle to find local staff, and young people leave Bedale at 16 to gain better education and employment. Opportunities: Sixth Form College, business incubators, opportunities to increase levels of local employment.
Attendance:	13

Meeting Type:	Workshop
Date:	12 th December 2003
Venue:	Courtyard Restaurant
Subject of Meeting:	Workshop with 15-16 year students from Bedale High School to undertake a SWOT analysis and determine their aspirations for the town.
Key Issues and Conclusions:	Students have strong local identity proud of Bedale and its unique character. Most student have aspirations to gain further education and employment outside of Bedale. The students would also like some form of youth drop in centre to relax after a school.
Attendance:	11

Statement of Community Involvement and Participation

Meeting Type:	Public Meeting
Date:	15 th December 2003
Venue:	Chantry Hall
Subject of Meeting:	'Bringing it altogether' Progress meeting
Key Issues and Conclusions:	The group discussed the actions of topic workshops and progress on masterplan and creation of Bedale Charter and town team constitution.
Attendance:	26

Meeting Type:	Workshop
Date:	5 th January 2004
Venue:	Courtyard Restaurant
Subject of Meeting:	Topic groups: community interests, leisure and recreation and skills, education and employment meetings. Discussed detailed renaissance projects and identified project champions.
Key Issues and Conclusions:	Community interests projects identified: Community information and gateway centre, public toilet upgrade, town directory, promotion of Bedale.com as Bedale renaissance website. Leisure and recreation projects identified: Community Cinema (Reels on Wheels), relocation of allotments to a larger site with purpose built support facilities, town trail to link key attractions, Enhancement of Bedale Harbour and beck side park. Education and employment projects identified: Promote Bedale High School and establishment of sixth form, Create B1/B2 office and workshop space for business expansion and start-up, NE of Bedale Station, West of Mowbray School and West of Bedale Hall.
Attendance:	14

Statement of Community Involvement and Participation

Meeting Type:	Workshop
Date:	6 th January 2004
Venue:	Courtyard Restaurant
Subject of Meeting:	Topic groups: tourism, transport and retail meetings. Discussed detailed renaissance projects and identified project champions.
Key Issues and Conclusions:	<p>Tourism projects identified: Signage to Bedale from the A1, Joint Dales Marketing Initiative, new and enhanced linkages with Bedale Station, improved linkages between tourist attractions, town marketing and promotional plan, promotion and expansion of visitor numbers to Big Sheep Little Cow, Wensleydale and Thorp Perrow, creation of Town Trail, expand Bedale Chamber of Trade to include tourism and brand ownership and promotion, creation of high quality environment adjacent to Bedale Beck.</p> <p>Transport projects identified: Creation of a new gateway, medium to long stay visitor car and coach park to North of St Gregory' Church, Create high quality and unique entrance signs to the town, create home zone, pedestrian priority area on Emgate, create a pedestrian orientated environment in the Market Place, create new and enhanced links between Bedale Station and town centre.</p> <p>Retail projects identified: Reassess planning policy to allow greater numbers of A3 and possibly A2 uses in the town, amend opening times of retail and hospitality businesses to meet commuter needs, introduce high quality town centre lighting scheme, produce a street style for Bedale that builds on the Shop front Design Guide for Hambleton District Council, investigate moving market day to Sundays or creation of specialist Sunday market during the summer, produce an enhancement scheme for the alleyways at Bedale, establish family dining in existing or new licensed premises, create wider footpaths to allow pavement retailing and dining.</p>
Attendance:	30

Statement of Community Involvement and Participation

Meeting Type:	Public Meeting
Date:	13 th January 2004
Venue:	Bedale High School
Subject of Meeting:	Meeting at Bedale High School to discuss the draft Bedale Charter, Goals and Objectives.
Key Issues and Conclusions:	Spawforth Associates presented the Bedale Charter. The group discussed each objective and amendments were made to the charter.
Attendance:	21

Meeting Type:	Public Meeting
Date:	3 rd February 2004
Venue:	Bedale Hall
Subject of Meeting:	Confirmation of amended Bedale Charter, Goals and Objectives
Key Issues and Conclusions:	The audience agreed to the amended Bedale Charter.
Attendance:	19

Statement of Community Involvement and Participation

Meeting Type:	Workshop
Date:	9 th February 2004
Venue:	Courtyard Restaurant
Subject of Meeting:	Topic groups: community interests, leisure and recreation and skills, education and employment meetings.
Key Issues and Conclusions:	The group discussed detailed renaissance projects and identified project champions and working groups.
Attendance:	22

Meeting Type:	Workshop
Date:	16 th February 2004
Venue:	Courtyard Restaurant
Subject of Meeting:	Topic groups: tourism, transport and retail meetings.
Key Issues and Conclusions:	The group discussed the detailed renaissance projects and identified project champions. Formation of 'Bedale Forward' to create economic environment for inward investment and promote and market the town in a coordinated way.
Attendance:	27

Statement of Community Involvement and Participation

Meeting Type:	Workshop
Date:	1 st March 2004
Venue:	Courtyard Restaurant
Subject of Meeting:	Topic groups: community interests, leisure and recreation and skills, education and employment meetings.
Key Issues and Conclusions:	The group discussed the detailed renaissance projects and identified project champions and working groups.
Attendance:	19

Meeting Type:	Workshop
Date:	8 th March 2004
Venue:	Courtyard Restaurant
Subject of Meeting:	Topic groups: tourism, transport and retail meetings. Discussed detailed renaissance projects and identified project champions.
Key Issues and Conclusions:	The group discussed the role of Bedale Forward and its relationship with the Bedale and Villages Community Forum. Spawforth Associates also presented the draft Bedale Vision 2030 for discussion.
Attendance:	28

Statement of Community Involvement and Participation

Meeting Type:	Public Meeting
Date:	22 nd March 2004
Venue:	Courtyard Restaurant
Subject of Meeting:	Discuss the relationship between Bedale Forward and the Bedale and Villages Community Forum. To refine the delivery process and coordinate the activities of those people and groups that wish to move things to the next stage.
Key Issues and Conclusions:	
Attendance:	

Meeting Type:	Public Meeting
Date:	29 th March 2004
Venue:	Courtyard Restaurant
Subject of Meeting:	Presentation of final Masterplan and Vision to members of the topic groups.
Key Issues and Conclusions:	
Attendance:	

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Meeting Type:	Public Meeting
Date:	26 th April 2004
Venue:	Bedale Hall
Subject of Meeting:	Final public presentation and hand over of the masterplan and vision. Members of the town team, topic groups and the community to sign the Bedale Town Charter.
Key Issues and Conclusions:	
Attendance:	

