



Community Plan for Hambleton Monitoring Report 2007/08

INTRODUCTION

This is the second annual report for the updated Community Plan for Hambleton 2006-2011, which was published in July 2006. The focus over the past 12 months has been on the delivery of the Theme and Area Group Action Plans and agreeing the overall strategic priorities of the Partnership. These have been agreed as:

- Positively engaging vulnerable groups
- Homelessness
- Climate change
- Support for businesses
- Reducing alcohol misuse
- Migrant workers
- Tackling obesity

In terms of the broader context work has taken place to develop the second Local Area Agreement for North Yorkshire LAA2 2008-2011, together with the development of the North Yorkshire Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2018. The Partnership has contributed to the development of both of these documents by putting forward the agreed priorities for Hambleton District.

Government policy continues to focus on engaging and consulting with local communities particularly in relation to influencing local decision making and strengthened partnership working. This is further reflected in the introduction of Comprehensive Area Assessment, the new inspection regime for public sector authorities, which outlines a key role for LSP's.

The annual monitoring report brings together information on progress made to date across the Strategic Themes of the Community Plan, through the work of the five Theme Groups and five Area Groups, detailing key achievements made over the past 12 months and future priorities for each group. In addition to project delivery it also outlines progress against the quality of life indicators and partnership effectiveness indicators contained in Section 3 of the Plan.

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DELIVERY OF COMMUNITY PLAN AND AREA GROUP PROJECTS

During 2007/08 further progress has been made in delivering projects in the Community Plan and Area Group Action Plans. This is illustrated in the tables below.

The majority of actions in the Community Plan (Theme Group Plans) have now been started. Area Groups continue to make progress in delivering projects and implementing their local action plans.

Community Plan projects

	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08 (new plan)
Completed	23%	58%	66%	4%
Initiated	68%	39%	31%	57%
To be started	9%	3%	0%	39%
Withdrawn	0%	0%	3%	0%

Area Community Plan projects

	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07*	2007/08
Completed	18%	23%	24%	31%
Initiated	38%	41%	41%	37%
To be started	44%	36%	33%	29%
Withdrawn	0%	0%	2%	3%

* These figures include 84 new projects added in 2006/07 from the Thirsk Action Plan that was reviewed and published in 2005

The following sections give more detailed information on some of the projects that have been developed and delivered by each of the Theme and Area groups during the past year, together with future priorities for 2008/09

PROSPEROUS THEME GROUP

Chair: Roy Parsonage, North East Chamber of Commerce

Meetings: Bi-monthly at Hambleton District Council

Focus Groups:

None

2007/2008 – ACHIEVEMENTS

Micro Loan Scheme

The bank was launched in October 2006 to provide interest free loans of up to £1,000 to very small start-up businesses in the District. The scheme was created after the members of the prosperous theme group identified a need for financial support for micro, start up companies in the district. Following an initial award take up has been slow. During the year it was decided to increase the maximum level of grant available from £1,000 to £2,500 which has stimulated an increase in applications and two awards have now been made during the year.

Business Promotion and Support

The Building Better Business programme includes a range of different initiatives aimed at bridging the gap between the public sector and local businesses by pooling together resources and funding from partners such as BLYNY, North Yorkshire Area Learning Partnership, Hambleton Strategic Partnership and Yorkshire Forward. The key objectives of the programme are:

- Better communication
- Localised events and business seminars
- Expansion of business forums in the District
- Research

A "Lets Talk Business" event took place at Thirsk Racecourse in June 2007 and was attended by around 17 local businesses. Following this postcards were circulated to business across the District to collect contact information which can be used to populate a database for future mailouts.

A new business forum has been established in Northallerton this year and around 30 businesses are currently involved.

Re-organisation of Business Link services

The group have contributed to the discussion on the re-organisation of Business Link services in North Yorkshire. The contract for this service has been awarded (to Y&H IDB operating as Business Link Yorkshire) and the new arrangements have taken effect. Although the headquarters of Business Link Yorkshire are located in Barnsley, business advisors will be mobile with no real 'base'. In North Yorkshire, the local access points will be in the form of Key Location Centres in York, Scarborough and Colburn. Although there is not a Key Location Centre within Hambleton, the current practice of locally based business advisers continues, the Group will seek to strengthen the links with them and Business Link Yorkshire where appropriate.

Wheels to Work

This very successful and fully utilised scheme provides short-term loans of mopeds to enable young people to travel to work. Currently, there are 50 mopeds and 12 electric bikes in the Hambleton and Richmondshire areas and pilot schemes using the Hambleton model have been rolled out across other Districts this year. The latest statistics show that since its launch in 2001 Wheels 2 Work has received 692 referrals and has assisted 315 people from Hambleton. The Scheme was recently visited by the Transport Minister and Minister for Yorkshire & Humber - Rosie Winterton MP, who heard from 3 young people the real difference the scheme has made to their lives. Further

funding has been secured from the District Council this year to purchase 6 mopeds, which will support 12 people per year to access employment, education and training.

2008-2009 – PRIORITIES

Business Promotion and Support

Further work to develop the Building Better Business programme will take place over the year to improve communication and links with businesses through events, seminars and newsletters. It is planned to establish a new business forum in Thirsk by the end of the year. It is hoped, as one result of this, to increase the number of business representatives on the Group and this is actively being pursued

Throughout the year, evaluation of the new business support structure will be important to ensure that Business Link Yorkshire is fully meeting the needs of local businesses with limited loss of local delivery – especially in rural areas.

Migrant Workers

The group are also keen to support the North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership research on migrant workers and development of the welcome pack, particularly to ensure that any potential shortfall in data for the Hambleton district is identified and corrected. The group intend to use the established networks that we have to assist in raising the profile of the document namely Business Link, Chambers of Commerce, Jobcentres and regional NFU offices.

Wheels to Work

The long term sustainability of this project continues to be a priority for the Group.

PEOPLE THEME GROUP

Chair: Helen Murfin, Stokesley & District Community Care Association

Meetings: Quarterly at Hambleton District Council

Focus Groups:

Children & Young People

Older People

Stronger Communities

2007/2008 – ACHIEVEMENTS

'We know what you did last summer' 2007 Summer Directory

Building on the previous years project a directory of activities for young people aged 11+ Summer Activities Directory was produced and 7,000 copies have been distributed through schools, youth centres and leisure centres across the District. This year the guide has been designed and produced in partnership with Hambleton District Council, NYCC 4 Youth and Connexions, with funding from the Hambleton Community Safety Partnership.

Young Persons Sub group

The Young Persons Sub Group has developed and been strengthened over the past year, much of this is due to the strong leadership from Jos Mortimer of Connexions, who until recently chaired the group. The group agreed to focus on a specific geographical area at each meeting and invited additional representatives from the area to contribute to the discussion and identify shared priorities for action. A notable achievement has been the work to integrate with the new Integrated Services Team at NYCC. The group reviewed their terms of reference to become the Hambleton Locality Group for the North Yorkshire Children & Young Peoples Strategic Partnership and following a review of membership additional representatives will be invited to join the group.

Youth Opportunity Funding

The young persons sub group agreed to act as the decision making body for £10,000 of Youth Opportunity Funding allocated to Hambleton District Council by the NYCC 4Youth Service. This was used to support the delivery of the following projects: Bedale Youth Centre, Thirsk Clock, Northallerton Football Project, Linton On Ouse Youth Shelter and Stokesley Cheerleading Project.

Establishment of an Older Persons Sub Group

An older persons sub group similar to the young persons group has now been established, with core membership from older peoples forums and the voluntary sector, elected member champions and HDC. Other agency representatives such as health, housing, education will be invited to specific meetings to contribute to the discussion on these issues. This has been led by the Over 50's Forum.

EngAGE Opportunity Fortnight

A follow up EngAGE Information Day was held in Thirsk in June and was a great success with over 40 organisations in attendance displaying information. On the day around 140 people attended, with 10 concessionary bus passes applied for, 150 energy saving light bulbs dished out, 6 people have joined Thirsk Swimming Pool and 35 people had a health check. The project aims to raise awareness of activities – physical, educational and social – for older people both with and without disabilities, in the Thirsk area and encourage them to get involved. An A-Z of local groups has also been produced and circulated as part of the event.

Promoting Volunteering

The LSP awarded a grant of £6,750 to the Volunteer Centres to develop and implement a programme of publicity and promotion for volunteering which was launched during national volunteer week in June 2007. Activities over the year included:

- An Information Pack was designed, printed and distributed widely to 30 outlets and over 300 volunteers.
- The Hambleton Volunteer Centres offered potential volunteers a choice of over 230 volunteering opportunities, plus the offer of individual support to find an alternative opportunity.
- Volunteering information exhibitions were displayed at 13 locations within villages and market towns.
- A mobile volunteering information display toured 144 villages.
- 22 articles and advertisements were printed in local publications and newspapers.
- 499 volunteers (including 134 young people aged 16 to 25 years) were recruited in the year 2007/08, during the period of this project. This is 232 more than in the same period last year.

Parish Plans

A further 6 parishes have started work over the year to develop and publish a Parish Plan, these include Aldwark, Potto, Dalton, Alne, Picton, Great Smeaton.

2008-2009 – PRIORITIES

2008 Summer Activities Guide

The group decided not to produce a hard copy of the summer activities guide and instead to promote activities through a new web site 'gimi' that has been developed to promote positive activities for young people aged 13 -19 (up to 24 for people with learning disabilities or young offenders). The address is www.gimi.co.uk

Other information on the site includes links to other relevant sites, access to information on a wide of range of subjects such as health, bullying and drugs which will include contact details, information on how to get to venues, polls and news. The site will hopefully be launched late June and will be heavily promoted through events in schools, videos, literature and at the Youth Festival

Review of Young Persons Strategy

The Children and group have started to review and updating the Young Persons Strategy to reflect more closely the North Yorkshire context for partnership working on young people issues and the priorities of key partners. The Group will continue to review their Action Plan and feed in to the review of the North Yorkshire Children and Young Peoples Plan.

Local Democracy

The group is considering how it can contribute to Local Democracy Week and HDC is leading a small group to discuss possibilities. One idea is to hold a series of workshops at the Civic Centre, with young people and Councillors working on scenarios, which young people can relate to, that the Council has to make decisions on. This work will be further developed over the year.

Roll out of EngAGE opportunity Fortnight Evaluation & Toolkit

District wide roll out of the EngAGE Information Day and A-Z over the next 2 years has now been agreed starting with Northallerton in September 2008.

North Yorkshire Older Persons Board

The group have commented on proposals to establish a North Yorkshire Older Persons Board and have been asked to nominate 3 representatives to represent Hambleton LSP on the Board, to be formally established later this year.

LSP Strategy for Older People

The Older Persons Sub group are reviewing the Action Plan to agree a new set of priorities to be developed over the year.

Intergenerational Work

A Project Group has been established to co-ordinate intergenerational projects in Stokesley and Great Ayton made up of representatives from Stokesley Leisure Centre; Stokesley Library; 4 Youth; Integrated Services; HOFF; Age Concern; Stokesley CCA and Volunteer Centre; HDC; Stokesley and Villages Community Regeneration Group; Broadacres. Four schemes are being developed as follows:

- Team Read – storytelling initiative for children and older people (during Summer holidays)
- Internet / emailing – buddying scheme for young people to help older people use the internet
- Creative projects involving photography / video – reminiscing projects, skills swaps etc (this is programme in for 2009)
- Wii-habilitation – project to encourage young people to show older people to use Wii consoles to improve mobility and physical health

Migrant Workers – Welcome Pack

The group are represented on the North Yorkshire Action Learning Set to develop a welcome pack for new arrivals into the area including migrant workers. A number of meetings have been held to agree the process and format of developing the pack, which will be web based. Further work will take place over the year to collate the relevant information to be included.

PLACES THEME GROUP

Chair: Steve Towers, Broadacres Housing Association

Meetings: Bi-monthly at Hambleton District Council

Focus Groups:

None

2007/2008 – ACHIEVEMENTS

Affordable Housing

In terms of meeting the housing need for affordable housing, a total of 139 units were delivered in the District during the year.

Empty Properties

A total of 4 empty properties were brought back into use during 2007/08, these were identified by HDC and referred to housing associations.

Decent Homes

A fitness survey for private sector housing was commissioned by the District Council, this has helped to identify vulnerable households in the private sector which can be brought up to a minimum standard and where required adapted to meet the needs of the occupier.

Homelessness Prevention

The Safe Moves project was funded by Hambleton LSP, Connexions York & North Yorkshire, Communities and Local Government, Foundation Housing and the District Council. The project is specifically aimed at the housing needs of young people following an upsurge of homelessness presentations from young single people and in particular 16/17 year olds. A specialist young person's family mediation and support worker was employed to use the successful 'safe moves' model of advice and support. The Safe Moves worker mediates between young people who present as homeless to the Council and their families to find ways of getting them back into the family home. The worker also does outreach work in schools by delivering presentations to every class of year 11 pupils. During this presentation the Safe Moves Worker outlines the consequences of walking out of home and the realities of homelessness and living in temporary accommodation. The project has helped to reduce both the number of homeless presentations and acceptances over the year.

There has been a 10% reduction overall in homelessness presentations to the Council compared to last year.

Extra Care Housing

An extra care housing scheme in Easingwold was completed in December 2007 providing 39 units of accommodation suitable for older people.

Recycling Community Advocacy Scheme

The Rotters Scheme has been developed by Northdale Horticulture to recruit and train members of the community in promoting recycling and composting practices amongst the wider community. There are currently 22 Community Advocates in Hambleton and the scheme is now to be rolled out across North Yorkshire.

Promoting Composting

A total of 792 new compost bins were sold to residents of Hambleton District over the year.

Fuel Poverty

The Community Energy Efficiency Fund project run by the Energy Efficiency Advice Centre aimed to provide grants to householders in certain areas of the district to make their homes warmer and cheaper to heat. To promote the scheme two roadshows were held in Thirsk (4 February 2008) and Easingwold (29 February 2008). The outcome of the roadshows was the delivery of energy efficiency advice to around 50 people with 20 percent of those going on to have work completed under the scheme. Over the year a total of 389 warm front grants were awarded to eligible households to improve energy efficiency in the home – including central heating, loft and cavity wall insulation. This is slightly higher than the previous year.

2008-2009 – PRIORITIES

Empty Properties

Funding of £75,000 per year has been secured through the Regional Housing Board to establish a loan scheme which will be made available to home owners to bring empty properties back into use.

Affordable Housing

The District Council target for provision of affordable housing in 2008/09 is 100 units and work is on-going with partners and developers to meet this target. The Rural Housing Enabler post has been secured for a further 3 years and will focus on bringing forward potential sites for affordable housing in rural areas.

Homelessness Prevention

Following the successful safe moves project, mainstream funding has now been secured to enable the project to continue. The project has been re-named Hambleton Time Out and will further develop the outreach programme of work with young people through work with schools and other partners. There will be further work developed around youth homelessness around bridging the gap between emergency and supported accommodation.

Womens Refuge

Funding and planning permission has been secured from the District Council and Broadacres Housing Association to build a Women's Refuge. Work is due to start this year with a completion date of August 2009. A total of 14 self contained units will be available which can be used flexibly depending on the number of occupants.

Extra Care Housing

Broadacres Housing Association are currently looking at a possible scheme in Great Ayton for up to 61 units and have received funding for another scheme in Northallerton, which could potentially provide an additional 54 units.

Climate Change

The group have developed a draft Hambleton Climate Change Strategy, the focus will now be on publishing and promoting the Strategy and finalising the Action Plan.

Waste at work

A project is currently being developed to encourage LSP partners to minimise waste within their own organisations, it is hoped that this will be further developed throughout the year.

Fuel Poverty

The Council in conjunction with EAGA Plc are targeting individuals in private accommodation in receipt of Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit with the Government's Warm Front scheme. The District Council is committed to two mailouts this year, in June and November, with another two scheduled for 2009.

HEALTHY THEME GROUP

Chair: Dr Phil Kirby, North Yorkshire & York PCT

Meetings: Bi-monthly

Focus Groups:

None

2007/2008 – ACHIEVEMENTS

Annual Public Health Report (APHR)

The group received a presentation from Dr Phil Kirby on the 2006 Annual Public Health Report (APHR). This was also presented to the LSP Board together with an overview of how locality working will be delivered in the future. Copies are available to download on the Primary Care Trust website: www.nyypct.nhs.uk/PublicationsReports/PHAnnualReport

Action Plan Update & Local Area Agreements

The action plan has been updated and links made to LAA targets.

Health Improvement Training

The PCT has delivered training to promote understanding of health improvement to groups and organisations which have an interest in the health and well-being of their clients and workforce. Details of the 'Understanding Health Improvement' course have been circulated to LSP members who have been encouraged to attend or pass the details to others they think might find it useful. To date the PCT has delivered training to 17 participants with another 20 enrolled for July 2008. Initial feedback has been positive.

Smoking Cessation

The North Yorkshire Stop Smoking Service (NYSSS) has been working towards meeting local targets for the number of people stopping smoking. Support has been made available from NYSSS to LSP partners who would like their staff to undergo training in delivering "brief interventions" for smoking cessation, or would like to develop in-house smoking cessation support services.

Physical Activity

The jointly funded physical activity officer post has been working on a number of initiatives including the production of a Dance Directory for Hambleton and Richmondshire, Step-o-meter programme, exercise referral schemes, weight management classes

The results of the Sport England survey which is conducted every 3 years by MORI highlighted relatively high levels of participation in Hambleton of 28.5%. This was the highest level of the Districts in North Yorkshire.

Promoting Cycling

A cycling referral scheme has been introduced to promote cycling in Hambleton & Richmondshire and is currently receiving referrals.

Community Sports Network

The Hambleton Community Sports Network 'Active Hambleton' has representation from the voluntary sector, children's centres, extended schools, youth services etc. An action plan has been developed and investment portfolio has been submitted to Sport England, 5 of the 6 projects have been approved to stage 2, these are Galtres Centre Sports Hall, EngAGE in sport, Thirsk Swimming Pool extension, Disability sport and Volunteer development.

2008-2009 – PRIORITIES

Links to PCT Commissioning

The importance of ensuring clear links with the local commissioning agenda has been discussed by the group. A representative from the local Practice Based Commissioning Group is to be invited to a future meeting of the group to discuss how this can work.

Obesity Workshop

A multi-agency Childrens' Obesity Workshop was held by North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust and North Yorkshire Sport in June 2007 in Northallerton for groups and organisations directly working with or responsible for providing services for children and families. More recently the headline results of a national child measurement programme have been published – the results for Hambleton showed **6%** obese at reception year (lower than the NY&Y average 9.2% and national average 9.9%) however this increased to **15.2%** obese at year 6 (slightly lower than the NY&Y average 15.8% and national average 17.5%). Further work will take place over the year to develop initiatives to address this issue.

Weight Management Strategy

The North Yorkshire and York Weight Management Strategy will be out for consultation shortly and local targets will be developed over the year. Training will also be commissioned for key front line staff (available to statutory and non-statutory staff) on the provision of brief nutritional advice and support.

Physical Activity

This is a key area of Partnership working for the group, with a target to increase participation in physical activity by 1% year on year. The group will be working to deliver objectives within the Health & Physical Activity Plan – including priorities around developing new opportunities for sport and recreation, increasing awareness of existing opportunities and improving access to and affordability of facilities.

Future funding has now been secured to support the Physical Activity Coordinator post which is jointly funded by Hambleton DC, Richmondshire DC, and NYY PCT for one day per week until March 2009. A key role for this post will be in maintaining the local Exercise Referral Scheme and run 2 child obesity projects.

Extending Activities

In 2007 the government invested £100m in the "5 hour offer" a scheme aimed at giving every young person aged 5-16 the chance to do 5 hours of sport per week and 16-19 year olds 3 hours per week. £75,650 has been secured to develop the Extending Activities Programme to give young people in Hambleton aged 5-19 further sporting opportunities. The money will enable a programme of 8 – 10 weeks courses to be set up, these courses will then feed into existing classes and clubs. An estimated 638 young people per year over the 3 year funding period will be engaged in new, high quality, sporting activities at various venues across the district

Hambleton Strollers

Funding has recently been secured to produce walk maps for Easingwold and Thirsk this year, this will complete all the Hambleton market towns. In addition further work will take place to develop links between the strollers and key community groups in the East Thirsk and East Northallerton areas.

Alcohol Strategy

The Group will be considering how it can work in partnership with the Safe Theme Group on issues identified in the recently developed Alcohol Strategy.

SAFE THEME GROUP

Chair: Rosemary Taylor

Meetings: Quarterly at Hambleton District Council

Theme Groups:

Safer Neighbourhoods

Alcohol Misuse

Road Safety

Domestic Abuse

2007/2008 – ACHIEVEMENTS

Reducing Crime

The target reduction of 15% was achieved for the British Crime Comparator targets, Hambleton CDRP was also ranked 2nd in the CDRP Family Group.

Burglary, Motor Vehicle Crime and Common Assault Crime categories all had consistent reductions throughout the year.

Building Respect in communities and reducing anti-social behaviour

Two new initiatives were developed within 2007/08 Respect Walkabouts and Street Safe Surgeries. Respect Walkabouts are visual audits undertaken by the community and agencies to determine the level of anti-social behaviour and the impact on an area, in terms of environmental damage and raising fear. So far there has been very positive feedback from and involvement with communities in Thirsk, Bedale Stokesley and Great Ayton and a regular annual programme of initiatives has been developed. The evaluations from the walkabouts show an early improvement in most areas in anti-social crime levels.

Street Safe Surgeries have been developed to provide crime prevention advice and equipment, support service information i.e. victim support information, domestic abuse information and re-assurance through media and promotional events delivered by agency representatives in the market towns. Evaluations and feedback from the communities show high levels of satisfaction and support for the events.

Reducing Road Traffic Accidents

Successful summer and winter drink drive campaigns have been delivered across the district, as well as Speed Matrix deployments and the successful Operation Sirens. However, the challenge for the district is still to reduce the number of road traffic accidents which are continuing to increase.

Re-assuring the public, reducing the fear of crime

A successful media and promotional campaign has consistently delivered crime and safety information throughout the year in Hambleton. Public awareness of safety initiatives and funding opportunities for community projects is high, the CDRP funded local community projects during 2007/08 to the value of £20,000.

Tackling Domestic Abuse

2007/08 saw the establishment in Hambleton of the 'Making Safe Scheme' in Hambleton, a multi agency initiative supporting victims of domestic abuse to remain safe within their own homes at the same time challenging the offender's behaviour.

2008-2009 – PRIORITIES

Alcohol Misuse

Better identification and treatment of alcohol misuse, tackling alcohol related crime and improving services to victims and witnesses are priorities.

Creating an environment that promotes sensible drinking and reduces the harm caused by alcohol and substance misuse will be a key priority for this year.

Safer Roads

Identifying and creating localised problem solving plans in consultation with the community and relevant agencies will be a key priority this year, speeding and drink driving will be the key areas of focussed work.

Safer Neighbourhoods

Working together to deliver safer neighbourhoods by tackling anti-social and unacceptable behaviour through the promotion of positive values will be a key priority.

Promoting multi-agency problem solving approaches to target specific community problems and where necessary using a range of tools and legislation to enforce solutions.

Domestic Abuse

To increase the reporting for domestic abuse and reduce repeat incidents of domestic violence encouraging reporting to the police, voluntary and community groups across Hambleton.

BEDALE AND VILLAGES COMMUNITY PLAN FORUM

Chair: Mike Barningham

Meetings: Bi-monthly at Bedale Hall

Focus Groups:

Business and Tourism

Community Issues

Education and Training

Environment

Safe

Transport

2007/2008 – ACHIEVEMENTS

X-Nihilo (Bedale Youth Venue)

The Group has provided financial support for the Bedale Youth Venue which is due to open in Summer 2008.

Bedale Empty Spaces & Shop Front Improvements

A planning application has been submitted to develop Bedale Hall garage. The plans have been finalised and a likely tenant has been identified. Plans for the Land of Green Ginger plans are still progressing with a view to submitting a planning application later in the year. A number of public realm projects are being worked up including improvements to ginnels and existing parks. Approximately 20 local businesses have expressed an initial interest in the scheme.

Bedale Signage

Finials have now been fitted to the finger posts completing the scheme.

Bedale Community Minibus

Capital funding to purchase a Community Minibus has been secured and the vehicle has been ordered.

Bedale Lighting & Gas Works Lane Improvements

RMT RTF funding has been secured, along with £5k from the HDC Community Grant Scheme. Bedale Town Council is underwriting the remaining £5k but other funding sources are being explored.

Promotional material

A revised promotional leaflet has been produced for Bedale which complements a new Visit-bedale.com website

Safer Bedale Group

Well attended meetings held throughout the year to address resident's concerns over community safety issues.

2008-2009 – PRIORITIES

Scruton and Crakehall Village Halls

To undertake physical improvements to each Hall to meet the needs of the community

Bedale Scouts and Guides

To support the development of a new headquarters to replace their existing building

Bedale Renaissance Park

To create a new park adjacent to Bedale Station developing a high quality asset for the town

Bridge Street Development

Redevelopment of existing buildings to improve the approach to the town centre and boost the local economy

EASINGWOLD AND VILLAGES FORUM

Chair: Frank Johnson-Banks

Meetings: Bi-monthly at the Galtres Centre

Focus Groups:

Tourism

2007/2008 – ACHIEVEMENTS

Promotional material

A revised promotional leaflet has been produced for Easingwold to complement a new Visit-easingwold.com website

Galtres Centre Cinema

The Galtres Centre has secured HDC Community Grant funding to purchase cinema equipment. The cinema should be operational September 2008.

Huby Youth Centre

A successful Friday night youth club has been established for 11-16 year olds in response to a high level of demand from local residents.

Husthwaite Recreation Area

Funding has been secured to undertake the first phase of an extensive scheme to develop the Husthwaite Recreation Area. This includes the purchase of play equipment for young children. It is anticipated that the play facility will open in February 2009.

2008-2009 – PRIORITIES

Community Safety

To develop a successful relationship with the Neighbourhood Police Team to help address community safety issues that are raised by the community

Huby Village Hall Plans

To support any future plans for developing a new village hall/recreation facility in Huby

Parish Plans

To continue to support Parishes which are interested in developing their own Parish Plan and assisting those that have completed a Parish Plan and are looking to implement schemes

Community One Stop Shop

To continue to contribute with planning for a community one stop shop that will provide a home for key service providers in Easingwold under one roof

Tourism Related Projects

To ensure that tourist facilities across Easingwold and the surrounding villages are included in future marketing initiatives including the Moors & Coast Tourism Partnership and the local press.

NORTHALLERTON AND VILLAGES COMMUNITY FORUM

Chair: Sally Anderson

Meetings: Bi-monthly, Civic Centre, Northallerton

Focus Groups:

None

2007/2008 – ACHIEVEMENTS

Promotional Material

A revised promotional leaflet has been produced for Northallerton along with a Visit-Northallerton.com website. The website went live in May 2008.

Great Smeaton Parish Plan

The Parish Council are currently in the process of drafting a questionnaire – HDC have agreed to print multiple copies of the questionnaire 'in-house'. Anticipated completion date of draft Plan February 2009 with a launch in May 2009.

Northallerton Town Square

Support for the improvement of the existing public space at the front of Northallerton Town hall has been secured from HDC and NYCC Highways. Further discussions will be required once plans are further developed.

Signage Scheme

The Stokesley Road entrance has now been modified to take the new signage. NYCC Highways are examining the smaller roads into town now to determine if any are suitable to carry the smaller entrance signs that have been produced. The potential for signs at the train station is still being examined.

Shopmobility Scheme

Abbey Health has indicated that they are willing to operate a Northallerton Shopmobility Scheme from the existing Tourist Information Centre adjacent to the Applegarth Car Park in Northallerton. A meeting is to be held between the District Council and stakeholders to agree a way forward and to address the complex legal issues involved.

Osmotherley Parish Plan

Parish Plan completed.

Smeatons with Hornby

A questionnaire is being drafted for circulation in June 2008. Hambleton District Council to produce multiple copies of the questionnaire 'in-house' at no cost to the Parish Council. Anticipated completion and launch of Plan is May 2009.

Appleton Wiske Parish Plan

Parish Plan completed.

2008-2009 – PRIORITIES

Forum Marketing Material

To use new branding to promote the work of the Forum and agree a communication strategy to ensure that residents are able to communicate their views effectively

Christmas lighting scheme

To update the Christmas lighting on the Town Hall and develop a lighting scheme for this area of the High Street which could be used at other times of the year for performances and events

Tourist Information and Shopmobility Scheme

To support the development of a Shopmobility scheme to generate future revenue

The Base

To continue to develop this project for young people and secure a permanent venue for the scheme

Parish Plans

To continue to promote the development of Parish Plans in the Northallerton area and support the implementation of projects that have already been identified in a Parish Plan

Northern Development Opportunity and Business Incubators

To consider the implementation of feasibility studies that have been undertaken to look at development opportunities (housing, economic and community) to the north of the town and potential for constructing business incubators

Voluntary and Community Sector facility

To work in partnership with the voluntary sector to construct a new facility to provide a base for voluntary and community groups in Northallerton

Climate Change Projects

To ensure that local projects which seek to reduce carbon emissions and benefit the environment are included in the Community Plan

STOKESLEY AND VILLAGES COMMUNITY REGENERATION GROUP

Chair: Mike Richardson

Meetings: Bi-monthly – Stokesley Town Hall

Focus Groups: None

2007/2008 – ACHIEVEMENTS

Promotional material

A revised promotional leaflet has been produced for Stokesley along with a visit-stokesley.com website.

Signage

A successful submission has been made to the HDC Community Grants Scheme for £5k to purchase seven stone-plinthed signs with flower-beds. Further funding has secured from Stokesley Pride in our Town (£1k), Stokesley Parish Council (£1k) and Stokesley Society (£1k) to enable the project to be delivered.

Community Halls

A new programme of fund raising events for Whorlton Village Hall is now underway. Planning permission has been granted for disabled access improvements at Great Ayton Village Hall involving an open air access lift. Potto Village Hall has secured funding from the HDC Community Grant Scheme to undertake a flooring improvement project.

Stokesley Cheerleaders

40 young people attend regularly, though more funding is being sought to support Summer activities.

2008-2009 – PRIORITIES

Skateboard Park

To find a suitable site within the Stokesley area to build a skateboard park

Improved access to cemetery

To investigate plans to improve access into the cemetery

Parish Plans

To continue to promote the development of Parish Plans in the Stokesley area and support the implementation of projects that have already been identified in a Parish Plan

Community Buildings

To support community and village hall schemes that will increase the quality of the facility and increase usage.

Climate Change Awareness

To work with Hutton Rudby Parish Council to develop a hydro electric scheme to promote climate change

River Leven enhancement scheme

To support the work of the Stokesley River Leven Society in their plans to enhance and conserve this valuable asset

Stokesley, Great Ayton and Area Intergenerational Project

To support the work of the project which seeks to that would bring together younger and older people together to improve perceptions, reduce the fear of crime and improve relationships.

THIRSK REGENERATION INITIATIVE

Chair: Lindsay Ross

Meetings: Monthly – 49b Market Place,
Thirsk

Focus Groups:

Tourism Safe Events

2007/2008 – ACHIEVEMENTS

Promotional material

A revised promotional leaflet has been produced for Thirsk along with a revised visit-thirsk.com website and 'What's On' Guide in partnership with the Thirsk TIC. Thirsk Town Council agreed to contribute £250 towards a reprint of the Visit Thirsk leaflet which is currently the Thirsk TIC's most popular leaflet.

2008 Festival Dinner

TRI hosted a successful Claire Balding fundraising dinner held 7th Feb 2008 which generated approx. £4k profit to support events to be held in 2008-09.

Alleyways Enhancement

Funding secured from RMT RTF and the Thirsk Town Council to undertake a range of improvements to the ginnels including re-surfacing of two alleys, improved signage. An archway feature in the Market Place is also planned.

Thirsk eng-AGE

Successful event held on Monday 2nd June 2008. TRI made a donation of £250 to support the event which attracted approx. 140 local residents.

TRI Mid-Summer Forum

To be held on Wednesday 2nd July 2008 at the Thirsk Rural Business Centre. Dr. Stuart Burgess, the Government's rural Advocate and Chairman of the Commission for Rural Communities, has agreed to attend the meeting to describe how rural regeneration can be achieved in a rural setting and how such a strategy must evolve to reflect the needs and aspirations of the local community.

Rural Arts Courthouse

Rural Arts have appointed a contractor and following discussions with Yorkshire Forward it has been agreed that work to develop the site will commence in September.

2008-2009 – PRIORITIES

Sensory Garden

To provide a public open space on the riverside portion of the former Salem Chapel site. The survey of the site and the remaining kerbstones and headstones is now complete. Thirsk Town Council has completed a formal 3 month consultation with the community on the plans to relocate headstones or kerbstones from the site. TRI to support further consultation with user groups.

Alleyway Improvements

To continue to improve alleyways into the Market Place, making them safer and more accessible

Centre of Rural Enterprise

To ensure that local people are able to equip themselves with the skills and knowledge needed to meet local employers' needs for trained, skilled and professional staff. Though an Executive Summary of the CoRE Report has been circulated to TRI members for consideration further work needs to be done to ensure that the Rural Academy can respond to, and is aware of, the demand

for vocational training for all learners across the Thirsk area.

14-19 Curriculum

To maintain a dialogue between the Area Learning Partnership's 14-19 Task Group and ensure that regular updates on 14-19 curriculum development are being received.

Tourism Related Projects

To continue to develop aspects of Thirsk's tourism offer through the TRI Tourism Group including the adoption of a café style culture, the development of the town's museums and a "welcome host" culture. The Group is also seeking opportunities to strengthen the 'Herriot' brand in partnership with the North Yorkshire Moors Railway

Thirsk Events Group

To continue supporting the group, providing administrative and development assistance. The intention is that this group will produce a calendar of events making Thirsk a visitor destination all year round

Role for Older People

To recognise the contribution older people make to the community and support projects that encourage older people to take an active part in their community

2009 Festival Dinner

Plans have been agreed for the 2009 fundraising dinner. Provisional date set for 5th February 2009 at Thirsk Racecourse with proposed speaker Dame Tanni Grey-Thompson.

Rural Arts Courthouse

Development of a fully functioning digital media studio, coupled with an IT training suite, which can be used both for training and for the development of a creative social enterprise

Community Safety

To maintain a dialogue with the police and other organisations responsible for maintaining community safety in order that the concerns of local residents over crime and the fear of crime are communicated effectively.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

The annual survey of LSP members was undertaken in February, this gives each member an opportunity to identify what they feel are the key achievements to date, areas for improvement and comment on any other aspect of the LSP/ Community Planning process in Hambleton.

From the survey results, it is clear that members of the partnership feel that Community Planning is progressing well in Hambleton and that the Community Plan is having a positive impact on the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the area. A number of examples of how this is being achieved have been highlighted, many emphasising the success of partnership working, the delivery of actions in the Community Plan and a number of local community projects delivered by the Area Groups.

In terms of key achievements there is a view from partners that the LSP provides an effective forum for partnership working at a strategic level and is a well established, organised and run partnership with a committed membership and coherent plan. It was also commented that a large number of community level projects have been supported and this was felt to be a validation of local efforts.

In terms of areas for improvement and future priorities – developing work around inequalities across the District, social inclusion, further alignment of mainstream budgets and promoting awareness of the LSP amongst the wider community. The need for further integration with the NYSP and Local Area Agreement was also highlighted

In relation to inclusivity and membership of the Partnership, improved engagement of businesses, hard to reach groups and the wider community were all highlighted in the survey responses.

These recommendations will form a focus for the partnership effectiveness work over the next 12 months.

Many thanks to everyone who has been involved in the Community Planning process in Hambleton to date and who have contributed to this report. If you have any further observations or comments to make, please contact:

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