

# Northallerton and Villages Community Forum

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2010

4.00pm – 6.00pm

Meeting Room 4, Stone Cross Civic Centre, Northallerton

## Minutes

**Present:** Sally Anderson (Chair); Lesley Shaw; Peter Cole; Ken Blackwood; Audrey Pitchforth; Jennie Hancock; Jack Dobson; Beth Carss & Ian Richardson.

**Apologies:** Stuart Isaac; Mark Haynes; Barrie Meech; Rev. Michael Webster; Cllr. Tony Hall; Hazel Kirby; Robert Carter; John Sheehan; Gloria Davies; Jacque Boulton; Cllr. David Blades & Rosemary Bullimore.

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### 1. Welcome, Introductions & Apologies

Sally welcomed Jennie Hancock and Ian Richardson to the meeting, representing the Brompton Heritage Group.

### 2. Project Proposal: The Brompton Linen Workers' Memorial Seat

Jennie presented details of plans to construct an octagonal seat made from salvaged bricks from the linen mill chimney in Brompton to be sited on Water End Green. Jennie confirmed that the project has been approved by Brompton Town Council, planning permission is not required and the total project cost is an estimated £8600. A lottery bid is to be submitted and further funding is being sought to complete the project which may also include the installation of two interpretation boards. Members endorsed the proposed scheme and it was agreed that the project be added to the Northallerton & Villages Community Plan.

### 3. Minutes of the Last Meeting held Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2010

Agreed as a true record thereof.

### 4. Matters Arising

#### ▪ Business Community Consultation: Update

Sally provided a summary of the feedback received from local businesses and confirmed that not as many completed returns were received as had been hoped. Analysis of the feedback received indicated that there is no immediate need to establish a business forum and that energy consumption is not a key concern for the business community. It was suggested that a web-based business directory be created with a link to the visit-northallerton site, though the issue remains as to how such a site would be maintained and populated. It was noted that funding may be available to support the development of such a site and that the District Council's site may have capacity to host the directory. Ken indicated that David Tucker may already have a business database as a result of work undertaken by the 'Business Against Crime' initiative.

#### ▪ The Northallerton & Villages Area Profile: Meeting held 22<sup>nd</sup> February

Peter confirmed that an extra NVCF meeting had been held to consider the Northallerton & Villages Area Profile. The comments made at this meeting have been forwarded to John Matthews and will be incorporated in the final draft.

- **Notice Boards in Northallerton**

Peter reported that permission had been received from Charles Barker allowing NVCF to use the Central Arcade glass-faced notice board to promote community events. Ken confirmed that he is in possession of a key for the notice board outside the railway station which can also be used for community purposes. It was suggested that a map of Northallerton be produced which includes the location of bus stops for display in the notice boards along with other tourist-related literature. It was noted that Parish Councils can raise money through an increase in the precept to replace notice boards that have fallen in to disrepair.

- **Northallerton Tourist Information**

Peter confirmed that HDC were awaiting a reply from members of the TIC in response to a letter issued regarding the future lease of the current Applegarth premises. It is understood that the lease will be renewed, though the length of the lease is unclear.

## 5. Project Update:

- **Hambleton Renaissance Business Plan**

### **Hambleton Promotions**

Beth presented a report which outlined issues regarding the future management and development of the visit-northallerton website. Beth confirmed that Richard Place has agreed to take responsibility for the maintenance of the visit-northallerton website in a voluntary capacity. Beth suggested that the site needs more content and indicated that the site has relatively few 'hits' compared to other Area Group visit sites. Further negotiations will be undertaken with Blue Figment with regards to hosting costs although private sector sponsorship may have to be sought to secure the long-term future of the site. Members endorsed plans to seek private sector sponsorship and accepted Richard's offer to take responsibility for the site. It was agreed that NVCF establish closer links both with Richards and Blue Figment and that a further update on progress be presented at the next NVCF meeting.

### **The Rutson Development**

Beth reported that negotiations are ongoing with the PCT and Yorkshire Forward regarding proposals for the re-development of the Rutson Hospital. Audrey indicated that the PCT is not seeking to support capital investment in buildings.

- **Northallerton Shopmobility**

Peter confirmed that the scheme will start on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2010 and will operate from the new Abbey Health premises which have recently opened in the Central Arcade. Funding has been secured to purchase 5 electric scooters. It will be open Monday to Saturday from 9am until 4.30pm with powered scooters available for £5 per day and manual wheelchairs for £3 per day.

- **The Base Project**

Sally confirmed that refurbishment work is now complete and the venue on Romanby Road was officially opened on Thursday the 4<sup>th</sup> March. The purpose of the facility is to:

- Provide a safe environment for young people, free of alcohol and drugs
- Enable young people to develop their physical, mental and spiritual capacities
- Act as a referral service as deemed appropriate
- Promote, encourage and undertake personal development work
- Provide opportunities for young people to develop and implement their own projects

NYCC have taken over the 5 year lease of the premises and partner organisations supporting young people between the ages of 13-19 are delivering services from the facility. Delivery partners include Integrated Youth Services Prevention Workers, the

NYCC Leaving Care Team and groups providing specialist support for young people with learning and/or physical disabilities. The centre is fully staffed and is open on Mondays (5.30pm-7.30pm), Thursdays (6.30pm-8.30pm) and once a month on Saturdays.

- **Village Projects**

It was noted that:

- 20 allotment plots have been made available in Brompton and that a water supply and allotment sheds are available.
- A Parish Plan is underway in Danby Wiske. It is anticipated that the Plan will be completed in the summer of 2010.

## 6. Meetings & Correspondence

- **Northallerton Area Forum**

Peter invited members to forward any questions to Louis Davies, Committee Services at Hambleton District Council, 10 days prior to the next meeting of the Forum to be held on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March. **Action:** Peter to submit a question on behalf of Audrey regarding the collection of blue boxes at the Orchards Extra Care Housing in Brompton.

- **Northallerton & Villages in Transition**

Sally confirmed that following the successful 'Local Food Matters' event held on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> January actions for the Group have been agreed which include the promotion of the Landshare Scheme, the development of stronger links between local schools and older people and the hosting/co-ordination of seed & tool exchange initiatives. The Group is looking to support the Allertonshire School Green Team and the Northallerton Blooming Together Group with a view to developing 'edible landscaping' initiatives.

- **Access to High Speed Broadband across Hambleton**

Peter reminded members about the event being held in the Council Chamber at the Civic Centre on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> April, the purpose of which is to consider community-led solutions to the inconsistency of broadband speeds across Hambleton. Guest speakers have been invited to attend from NYnet and Community Broadband initiatives in Robin Hoods Bay and Selby.

The meeting will provide provided an insight into the work of NYnet, the current infrastructure in place and opportunities for NYnet to work with service providers to provide broadband to communities and businesses. It was noted that a pilot community project has recently been completed in Newton in Ryedale and a project at the Springboard Business Centre in Stokesley is currently underway.

## 7. Any Other Business

- **Public Hearings for the LDF Submission**

Jack reminded members that the Public Hearings for the LDF Submission will be held on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> May at the Stone Cross Civic Centre. The deadline for written submissions is the 19<sup>th</sup> April 2010.

- **The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)**

Peter confirmed that improvements to care for the elderly once discharged from hospital and concerns over the need for hospice provision had been included in the feedback to NYCC as part of the JSNA consultation process.

- **Car Parking**

Concerns were expressed over the use of car parking spaces to the rear of the Town Hall on the High Street in Northallerton for car sales on a market day when spaces are at a

premium.

- **Leisure & Recreation/Section 106 Projects**

Jack confirmed that work is underway to develop the play area on the Applegarth Park for young people aged 8-13. A total of approximately £100k is available with Northallerton Town Council having made a contribution of £50k. Consultation is underway with residents and local schools and 'challenging' play equipment and provision is being considered. Jack indicated that play provision at Bullamoor Park is also being reviewed.

- **Distinctive Towns**

John Sheehan and John Parkinson are to attend Yorkshire Forward's 'Distinctive Towns' site visit to Blaenavon and Hay on Wye. It was suggested that they be invited to give a presentation at the next NVCF meeting to describe what defines a 'distinctive town' and to suggest how NVCF can learn from other market towns.

### **Dates for Future Meetings**

- Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> May
- Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> July (AGM)
- Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September
- Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November