



## **Northallerton and Villages Community Forum**

**Tuesday 29th September 2009**

**4.00pm – 6.00pm**

**Main Committee Room, Stone Cross Civic Centre, Northallerton**

### **Minutes**

**Present:** Sally Anderson (Chair); Jacquie Boulton; Robert Beaver; Nick Taylor; Rev. Michael Webster; Nicky Smith; John Sheehan; Colin Cooper; Robert Carter; David Blades; Marjorie Stratford; Gloria Davies; Emily Thomas; David Tucker; Stan Hudson; Rosemary Bullimore; Ken Blackwood & Stuart Isaac.

**Apologies:** Lesley Shaw; Cllr. Tony Hall, Mark Haynes & Cllr. Tim Swales.

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#### **1. Welcome & Introductions**

Sally welcomed Nick Taylor, Scarborough's Renaissance Business Manager and Colin Cooper from the Northallerton Rail User's Group to the meeting.

Sally reported that Hugh Thompson had decided to step down from the Group. Sally thanked Hugh on behalf of the group and the community it seeks to represent for his support for the group over the years.

#### **2. Community Engagement: The Secret of Scarborough's Success**

Nick described his involvement in the delivery of Scarborough's Yorkshire Forward-funded Renaissance Programme and the proactive techniques used to promote community engagement and public participation. The purpose of the strategic programme is to increase the economic performance of the town whilst challenging the traditional democratic decision making process. This includes attempts to further engage with the multiple retail outlets and local schools to improve the skill levels of the local community.

Scarborough has a Town Centre Manager funded by Scarborough Borough Council and a monthly newsletter is produced which includes regular contributions from the business community. Scarborough has a population of approximately 60,000. A planning weekend was held in 2002 to develop the Community Plan and over 1000 people attended. Scarborough has recently won 'Europe's Most Enterprising Place' award along with the 'Project of the Year' award for the harbour development scheme. Nick suggested that by entering such competitions the local community is provided with a focus and new cohorts will engage with the community-led planning process. For further details of Scarborough's renaissance please visit: <http://business.scarborough.gov.uk/Default.aspx?page=6853>

#### **3. Minutes of the Last Meeting held Tuesday 19th May 2009**

Agreed as a true record thereof.

#### 4. Matters Arising

- **Northallerton & Villages Community Plan:** Sally reported that work to rationalise the Community Plan following last year's review has yet to be undertaken.
- **Business Against Crime in Hambleton:** Peter confirmed that £3k has been secured from the Hambleton Strategic Partnership to allow the scheme to continue, though it is not known how long the scheme will continue for. **Action:** Peter to check as to how long the scheme will continue given the current level of funding.
- **Windfarms:** It is understood that a planning application for the Bullamoor site will be submitted to HDC in October 2009. A proposal was put forward that the Forum act as the host for the Community Benefit Fund and that a Steering Group be established with representatives from Northallerton Town Council and Osmotherley and Brompton Parish Councils to establish criteria and agree project priorities. Seven members were in favour of this proposition, 2 abstained and there was one objection. The proposal was duly endorsed by the Group, though it was agreed that this decision does not represent an endorsement of any specific project.
- **Tourist Information Centre:** Gloria confirmed that the lease on the existing TIC premises has been extended for a further 3 years, though the issue over car parking for the volunteer staff remains. A letter has been submitted to Dave McGloin regarding the dispensation of a free parking space for TIC volunteers, though a response has yet to be received. **Action:** Peter to follow up once a decision is taken on discretionary parking for volunteers.
- **Northallerton Carnival:** David thanked Forum members for their support for this year's carnival which had proved successful.
- **Hedge Maintenance:** Robert confirmed that he is in discussion with NYCC regarding overgrown hedgerows along Stokesley Road. It is understood that a similar situation exists in Appleton Wiske. It was also noted that the Battle of the Standard signage is being obscured by an overgrown hedge along Darlington Road.
- **ActDivertz:** Some confusion remains surrounding the link between NVCF and the ActDivertz Group and the mechanism by which funds will be held. **Action:** Sally and Peter to attend the next ActDivertz meeting to resolve this confusion.

#### 5. Transport:

- **LTP 3 Consultation:** It was agreed that Sally submit a response to the LTP 3 consultation on behalf of the Group.
- **Transport Sub Group:** Members expressed support for the suggestion that a Transport Sub Group be established to consider a range of public transport issues across Northallerton and the surrounding villages. It was agreed that Robert and Ken attend the next meeting of the Northallerton Rail User's Group to establish a link with NVCF and that feedback be presented at a subsequent NVCF meeting to help inform the scope of the proposed Transport sub group. Ken reported that a request for a report on the Bus User Surgery in Northallerton had been submitted to the NYCC Area Committee. This request was refused pending the publication of similar reports for the Harrogate and Scarborough areas. **Action:** Ken to follow up with NYCC.

#### 6. LSP Exec. Issues:

- **Involvement Of Area Groups in the LSP:** members were in favour of a representative from NVCF attending LSP Board meetings and that stronger links

be established with the LSP Theme Groups to address areas of common concern. It was noted that Ken already attends LSP Board meetings

- **Communication: Theme and LSP Reports For Information:** members agreed to proposal that the minutes of the LSP Executive and Board meetings be circulated to the Forum via email for information.

## 7. Project Update:

Hambleton Renaissance Business Plan

- **The Rutson Project:** Mark circulated a report prior to the meeting outlining draft proposals for a community facility at the Rutson Hospital. Members suggested that along with those uses outlined in Mark's report the facility include a small cinema, a conference room suitable for accommodating 80 people, a heritage resource centre and an IT training facility. Members supported the principle of creating such a community facility on the Rutson site. It is understood that further consultation is to be undertaken on proposals to enhance the Northallerton 'Town Square', enhancements which may link with proposals from the Rutson and the bus interchange.

Other Projects

- **Shopmobility:** Nicky confirmed that the Shopmobility Steering Group would prefer not to set up a new bank account and it was suggested that NVCF's account be used to hold and transfer funds electronically. **Action:** Nicky & Ken to discuss the role of the Shopmobility Treasurer and the time required to undertake such a role. There was a discussion that the marking of Disabled Parking places next to the toilet was too late as the lines had recently been painted. The lines for the parking bays were not painted. It was only those used to mark out the parking meters.
- **Transition Towns:** the initiative is to be launched at Northallerton Town Hall with a screening of the 'Age of Stupid' on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October at 7.00pm. The Group is to focus on three priorities:
  - Promoting local shopping
  - Promoting local food production
  - Raising awareness of landshare opportunities and allotments
- **Brompton Pavilion:** Robert confirmed that the project is now complete, although an issue regarding disabled provision has yet to be resolved.

## 8. Finance Report & Election of Treasurer

Ken was duly elected Treasurer of the Northallerton & Villages Community Forum for the next 12 months and confirmed that the Group has approximately £65 in reserves.

## 9. Any Other Business:

- It was agreed that the Project Proposal submitted by Robert with regards to the building of a new village hall in Brompton be added to the Northallerton & Villages Community Plan. The proposed scheme will include improved disabled access and car parking and better facilities including internet access. The total cost of the project is estimated at approximately £350k.
- John Sheehan expressed concerns over the lack of boards with which to promote local events and organisations. It was noted that Ken has a key for the notice board outside the Café. **Action:** John to forward posters promoting the Local History Society to Ken to be put up in notice board outside the Café and at the monthly cinema, a facility on offer to all community groups

- Stuart presented a copy of the draft Business Consultation questionnaire for comment. **Action:** Peter to circulate the draft questionnaire to members via email for consideration. Members to forward comments to Stuart at [stuart.photowork@btinternet.com](mailto:stuart.photowork@btinternet.com).

## **10. Dates for Future Meetings**

- Tuesday 24th November: 4pm in the Main Committee Room at the Stone Cross Civic Centre.