



Steering Committee Meeting

Wednesday 18th February 2009

7.00pm in the Old Courthouse at Rural Arts North Yorkshire

Minutes

Present

Peter Walker (Chair); Jan Marshall; Peter Cole; Linda Gibbon; Nicky Smith; Carolyn Mullins; Emily Thomas; Freda Roberts; Mark Terry; Ellen Storm; Alison Cramb; Bill Austin & Mark Haynes.

Apologies

Cllr. Gareth Dadd; Ted Naisbitt; Angela Hall; Emily Thomas; Richard Rowling; Kathryn Chapman; Tony Jordan; Pauline Simpson; Gillie Gill; Janice McVay & John Potter.

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting held Wednesday 21st January 2009

It was noted that Peter C. had agreed to forward Peter Walker's details to Carolyn Mullins. Peter W. confirmed that Malcolm Warne, editor of the Darlington & Stockton Times has agreed to attend future TRI meetings. Otherwise the minutes were agreed as a true record thereof.

2. Actions & Matters Arising

Thirsk Market: Peter W. confirmed that the guidelines for managing the market and enforcing regulations are under review. **Action:** Peter C. to forward the revised guidelines to TRI members for comment once made available.

Public Toilets: Peter C. confirmed that HDC is considering a proposal to close the Millgate toilets over the winter period starting in winter 2009. Concerns were expressed that there is little or no reduction in the number of tourists visiting Thirsk over the winter and that toilet facilities are needed by those coaches using Millgate Coach Park. It was agreed that this issue be raised at the next Thirsk Area Forum meeting and that a letter be written on behalf of TRI opposing the proposal.

Business Welcome Pack: Peter C. confirmed that the District Council does not produce a single reference source of information for businesses wishing to relocate to Thirsk. It was suggested that this be a project for TRI to lead on.

Car Parking: Peter W. confirmed that he had raised the issue of car parking at the recent Area Forum and questioned whether the District Council would consider deferring the imposition of charges given the economic downturn. It was agreed that TRI continue to lobby the Council to consider methods by which to reduce the effect of car parking charges on local businesses.

3. Action Plan Review

Members considered the list circulated prior to the meeting which identifies those projects which have yet to be started or which have been started and which have yet to be completed. It was agreed that those projects over which TRI has little or no influence be withdrawn from the Plan and that the Group focus on those projects which members felt TRI could achieve.

Action: Peter C. to amend the Action Plan as agreed and to circulate to all TRI members prior to the next meeting. Mark & Peter to agree the process by which new projects are identified and added to the Thirsk & Villages Community Plan.

4. Project Update

- Hambleton Renaissance Business Plan

Mark presented an update circulated prior to the meeting on those projects in Thirsk which are included in the Hambleton Renaissance Business Plan. **Action:** Mark to follow up on T20(c) the development of a café culture given NYCC's recent refusal of a licence to Wetherspoons for such activity.

- The Yorkshire Comedy Festival

Peter reported that planning meetings are being held and that confirmation is being sought from agencies regarding artist's availability. A response has yet to be received from the BBC regarding the recording of a comedy programme in Thirsk. Jan confirmed that the Ritz Cinema is keen to become involved and the Festival is on the agenda of the next meeting of the Ritz Cinema Selection Committee. **Action:** Peter W. to contact Aspire (billed as 'Hambleton's only comedy club') regarding its use as a possible venue for the Festival.

5. TRI Sub Group Updates:

- Tourism Group

Jan reported that a decision had been taken at a Tourism meeting held earlier in the day that the Group be held in abeyance until tourism-related projects are identified which the Group can deliver or support. Alison Scurrah has agreed to present an extract taken from the Community Plan which identifies tourism-related projects at the next meeting of the Herriot Country Attractions Group which is also looking at tourism issues in and around Thirsk. It was suggested that this Group is a more appropriate forum for TRI Tourism issues as links have already been established with key partners – Grand Central, Network Rail, accommodation providers etc. **Action:** Alison to be invited to attend future TRI meetings to feedback on progress and identify any actions/projects which could be taken forward by the TRI Tourism Sub Group.

- Thirsk Safe Group

Bill reported that the next meeting is to be held on Wednesday 25th February at Topcliffe Village Hall. A press release has been circulated inviting new members to join the group. Given concerns over the number of local residents supporting the group it was agreed that attendance at future meetings be monitored and the future of the Group be reviewed. **Action:** Peter W. to contact Area Commander Javid Ali to clarify the Police's position with regards to community consultation and the role of the Safer Thirsk Group.

6. The Election of a Vice-Chair

Peter W. confirmed Ted's decision to step down as Vice Chair of TRI. Peter W. thanked Ted for his contribution over the years, both to TRI and the community it seeks to represent. It was agreed that before a replacement be elected the Group review the Constitution prior to the next AGM to ensure that it reflects the aims and purpose of TRI. It was noted that the last review of the Constitution took place in December 2006. Alison confirmed her decision to step down as Treasurer of TRI at the next AGM.

Action: Peter C. to circulate a copy of the current TRI Constitution along with a copy of the Northallerton & Villages Community Forum's Constitution for comparison. Peter C. to seek nominations for a new Vice-Chair and Treasurer prior to the AGM

7. Any Other Business

- Linda confirmed that the Thirsk Clock is looking to secure alternative premises and have identified three possible sites.
- Alison presented details of income and expenditure since the last meeting and confirmed that TRI has approximately £5k in reserves.
- Peter C. provided an update on activity at Carrs Field. The Trustees met on site with Cllr Gareth Dadd on Jan 29th to suggest including Carrs Field in the 'alcohol free zone' of Thirsk. The Trustees have met with a prospective new Trustee, Christine Ridsdale and a discussion took place between the Trustees as to the work to be done in respect of boundary hedges and ditches. Site security, litter collection and dog waste provision is also under review. Peter C. is to meet with Tony on Tuesday 24th February to identify possible uses for the site and to discuss a way in which enhancements to the site can be undertaken.
- Peter W. thanked Mark Terry on behalf of the Group for providing the refreshments.

8. Dates for Future Meetings:

25th March	22nd April	27th May	24th June
29th July	26th August (AGM)	23rd September	21st October
25th November	16th December		