



# Thirsk Regeneration Initiative

A MARKET TOWNS INITIATIVE PROGRAMME

## Steering Committee Meeting

Wednesday 29th July 2009

7.00pm in the Old Courthouse, Rural Arts North Yorkshire, Thirsk

## Minutes

### Present

Peter Walker (Chair); Jan Marshall; Peter Cole; Freda Roberts; Ellen Storm; Gareth Dadd; Dave McGloin; Bill Austin; Richard Rowling; Alison Scurrah; Jill Miller; Jacquie Boulton & Sue Kendall.

### Apologies

Mark Haynes; Holly Bainbridge; Pauline Simpson; Malcolm Warne & Linda Gibbon.

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### 1. Welcome & Introductions

Peter welcomed Jacquie Boulton (Yorkshire Forward) and Jill Miller to the meeting.

### 2. Minutes of the Last Meeting held Wednesday 24th June 2009

Agreed as a true record thereof.

### 3. Actions & Matters Arising:

- **York & North Yorkshire Employment & Skills Partnership**

Following the response from Dave circulated prior to the meeting regarding the Council's decision not to provide financial support for the York & North Yorkshire Employment & Skills Partnership the question was asked as to whether the Council would review its decision. Dave agreed to raise the issue of financial support for the Partnership at the next meeting of the HDC Leadership Board to be held in September.

- **Café Culture in Thirsk**

Gareth reported that the issue of TRI support for café culture in the Market Place was discussed at length at the recent Area Forum. Both NYCC Highways and Police were given the opportunity to explain the relevant legislation and it was agreed that TRI support proposals from individual local businesses as long as the proposals comply with such legislation.

- **Welcome Pack for Businesses**

Peter C. confirmed that the bid drafted by Mark Terry & Mark Haynes to support the production of a Welcome Pack for New Businesses in Thirsk had been successful and that £1000 has

been secured. **Action:** Peter C. to liaise with Jill with regards to working in partnership with the Chamber of Trade to produce such a resource.

- **TRI Branding**

Peter C. confirmed that no suggestions had been received for a new name for the Group. The 'Thirsk and Villages Development Forum' was suggested but no decision was taken.

#### 4. **The Yorkshire Comedy Festival: Initial Feedback**

Peter confirmed that a comprehensive evaluation of the Festival will be presented at the next meeting. It was noted that the screening of the Rocky Horror Picture Show attracted an audience of 84, whilst 20 people had attended a mid-week reading at the World of James Herriot.

#### 5. **Project Update**

- **Hambleton Renaissance Business Plan**

Members considered the Report prepared by Mark Haynes and circulated prior to the meeting. **Action:** Jan to confirm whether an official launch of the archway art installation will be held.

- **Thirsk Safe Group**

Bill confirmed that a meeting had been held with PC Duncan Pears from the Thirsk Safer Neighbourhoods Team and Geoff Lodge to agree the purpose and agenda for the Neighbourhood Watch and Farmwatch Co-ordinators event to be held on Monday 28th September at the Thirsk Auction Mart. Members expressed concerns over police staffing levels and the service being delivered from the Police Station in the Market Place. It was noted that a decision had been taken by HDC to allocate parking spaces for police vehicles outside the Police Station on the understanding that the police presence in the Market Places was to increase. It was suggested that the Police Station could be used as a 'community facility' when not staffed by the Safer Neighbourhoods Police Team.

**Action:** It was agreed that the issue of Police resourcing be discussed at the next Area Forum meeting to be held in October. Dave to follow up on concerns over car parking outside the Police Station in the Market Place.

#### 6. **Meetings & Correspondence**

- **Area Forum Update**

Peter C. circulated copies of the minutes of the recent Area Forum held Tuesday 21st July for information. It was agreed that the future and promotion of Thirsk Market be discussed at the next meeting of the Forum. Peter W. asked for it to be minuted that the Area Forum performs a valuable function and that positive feedback has been received from members of the local community with regards to the prompt responses from HDC Officers and elected Members. **Action:** Peter W. to check with John Proud as to whether the review of the existing guidelines for the management of the market has been completed. Dave to discuss suggestions of 'anti-competitive practice' with regards to the type and number of stallholders permitted with Eric Kendall.

#### 7. **Any Other Business:**

- **Public Access to TRI's Accounts**

Peter reported that a request had been made by a local resident for a copy of TRI accounts for the last three years. It was noted that the accounts for the current financial year have not yet been prepared. Members agreed to the request. **Action:** Peter C. to supply a copy of the accounts as requested.

- **Annual General Meeting: Date, Venue & Election of Officers**

It was agreed that the TRI AGM be held on Wednesday 23rd September and that the meeting scheduled for the 26th August be cancelled. **Action:** Peter C. to circulate the Comedy Festival Report prior to the meeting in September for consideration.

- **Summer BBQ**

Jill reminded members of the Summer BBQ being held at Thirsk Hall on Saturday 8th September to raise funds for the Christmas lights.

- **Tourism in Thirsk**

Alison reported that the Tourism Partnership had attended the Yorkshire Show and that Grand Central had agreed to sponsor the Herriot Attractions Group. It is understood that discussions are underway between the Partnership and train operators regarding disabled access at the Railway Station.

## 8. Dates for Future Meetings:

- 23rd September (AGM)
- 21st October
- 25th November
- 16th December