



Thirsk Regeneration Initiative

A MARKET TOWNS INITIATIVE PROGRAMME

Steering Committee Meeting

Wednesday 24th June 2009

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

Minutes

Present

Peter Walker (Chair); Jan Marshall; Peter Cole; Freda Roberts; Mark Terry; Linda Gibbon; Ellen Storm; Gareth Dadd & Richard Rowling.

Apologies

Mark Haynes; Alison Scurrah; Dave McGloin; Jacquie Boulton; Holly Bainbridge; Tony Jordan; Alison Cramb & Sue Kendall.

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting held Wednesday 27th May 2009

Agreed as a true record thereof.

2. Actions & Matters Arising

- **Thirsk Station:** Peter reported that Access for All funding has already been allocated for stations up to 2011, with many stations in the South East benefiting from enhancements. Following a meeting between Lorraine Humphreys, Estates Manager for First Transpennine Express and the Board of Network Rail, the prioritisation of Thirsk Station has moved up into the 2011-2015 tranche of funding. It has been suggested that in the meantime a smaller amount of funding would help with engaging an architect/engineer to identify physical solutions to the problems with the station and to cost these solutions ready for 2011. The Delivery Team are looking to identify potential sources of funding for this work to be undertaken. As a result a future meeting with Lorraine is to be held at which TRI input would be welcome. It was noted that any improvements should include an increase in the size of the car park.
- **The York & North Yorkshire Employment & Skills Partnership:** Gareth agreed to clarify why HDC had not provided financial resources to support the work being undertaken by the York & North Yorkshire Employment & Skills Partnership. It is understood that Richmondshire District Council & Harrogate Borough Council have made available funding to support these activities. **Action:** Gareth to provide a response at the next meeting.

- **Climate Change Strategy:** Peter C. confirmed that the impact of the Green Travel plan adopted by HDC has not been monitored. The new plan to be developed in November 2009 *will* be monitored.
- **Thirsk TIC:** Peter confirmed that the roof insulation of the TIC had been replaced earlier in the year and was now considered satisfactory.
- **Visit-thirsk.com:** Peter C. presented a briefing paper prepared by David Shields prior to the meeting for consideration by the Group. Following a discussion regarding the inclusion of non-accredited/inspected accommodation on the visit-thirsk.com website it was agreed that non-accredited/inspected accommodation will continue to be included on the site.
- **TRI branding:** It was suggested that the name 'Thirsk Regeneration Initiative' no longer reflects the aims, objectives and geographical representation of the Group. Peter W. invited members to suggest a new name for TRI for consideration at the next meeting.
Action: members to forward suggestions to Peter C. prior to the next meeting to be held on Wednesday 29th July.

3. Neighbourhood Profiling: Thirsk & Surrounding Villages

Peter C. presented the narrative from the Neighbourhood Profile of Thirsk and surrounding villages, a project undertaken by NYCC in partnership with HDC, the Police, the PCT and other members of the LSP. The Countywide Neighbourhood Profile is a database which uses data sets (obesity levels, income, age, deprivation indices etc.) to compare performance across the wards in Thirsk and also across other areas within the District, the County and the UK. It was agreed that the profile provides a useful planning tool to help identify 'hotspots' and allocate resources where they are most needed. **Action:** All members to forward comments about the issues highlighted in the Profile for Thirsk and surrounding villages for discussion at the next TRI meeting.

4. Project Update

- **Hambleton Renaissance Business Plan**

Peter C. presented an update on Thirsk projects in the Hambleton Renaissance Business Plan prepared by Mark prior to the meeting:

Thirsk Sensory Gardens: Although the site is safe work has stopped on site and funding remains an issue. The river has been fenced off and the headstones replaced. Work is being undertaken to secure further funding to complete the project.

Café Culture: A report is to be presented at the next Thirsk Area Forum meeting to be held on Thursday 21st July outlining the current situation.

- **The Yorkshire Comedy Festival**

Peter W. confirmed that acts had been booked including Bill Tidy, Alun Cochrane and Milton Jones. Venues for the festival include The Ritz Cinema, Thirsk Town Hall, The Angel (Topcliffe) and the Black Lion. Films being screen at the Ritz Cinema include 'Casino Royale', 'The Rocky Horror Picture Show' and 'The Full Monty'. Peter confirmed that a full programme would be available shortly and invited TRI members to support/promote the event.

- **Thirsk Safe Group**

Peter confirmed that an event is to be held between 5-7pm on Monday 28th September at the Thirsk Auction Mart the aim of which is to improve engagement

and understanding between the police and NWS/Farmwatch co-ordinators. CI Andy Everitt has agreed to attend.

5. Finance Report

A summary of income and expenditure since 1st January 2008 prepared by Alison was presented which confirmed that TRI has £5087.44 in reserves.

6. Meetings & Correspondence

- A letter had been received from the Hambleton Older People's Sub Group in support of TRI's efforts to improve access to Thirsk station which they feel discriminates against older people and those with limited mobility.
- An email had been received from Alison Cramb confirming her decision to step down as Treasurer of TRI with immediate effect. Alison asked to pass on her best wishes to members of the Group and wished the Group well for the future. Peter W. thanked Alison on behalf of the Group for her support and commitment to TRI over the years. **Action:** Peter C. to draft a letter of thanks to Alison on behalf of the Group.
- An email had been received from Tony Jordan confirming that Thirsk Town Council have agreed to finance the purchase of a metal security gate in response to concerns over recent activity at Carrs Field. The gate will include a four foot wide pedestrian gate to allow wheelchair/push chair access.

7. Any Other Business

- **Funding Opportunity: The Regional Pledge:** Peter C. provided details of the 'Regional Pledge' which has made a further £40,000 available to community-led projects through the HDC Community Grant Scheme. It was agreed that TRI submit a bid for £1000 to produce a 'Welcome Pack for Business', to match fund with a similar sum from TRI's reserves. The format and scope of the pack has yet to be agreed though it was suggested that the resource be web-based supported by a hard copy. It was also suggested that if successful the resource target new residents to Thirsk. **Action:** Mark Terry, Mark Haynes and Peter W. to draft a project proposal for submission prior to Friday 26th June.
- **Thirsk Clock:** Linda confirmed that the lease on the current premises is due to expire on Tuesday 29th September. Work is underway to identify and secure a new venue and funding.
- **Flood Defences:** The Environment Agency is to host a Thirsk drop-in session at Thirsk Town Hall on Wednesday, 1st July, from 3.30pm to 7pm to canvas opinion on proposed flooding defence schemes. The Environment Agency is recommending a scheme using a combination of flood defence walls in Thirsk and an upstream flood storage area to combat flooding when Cod Beck breaks its banks.

8. Dates for Future Meetings:

29th July	26th August (AGM)	23rd September
21st October	25th November	16th December