



Thirsk Regeneration Initiative

A MARKET TOWNS INITIATIVE PROGRAMME

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY 21st May 2008 7.30pm at 49b Market Place

Minutes

PRESENT

Lindsay Ross; Mark Haynes; Jan Marshall; Freda Roberts; Alison Cramb; Alison Scurrah; Peter Cole; Ted Naisbitt; Cllr. Gareth Dadd; Kathryn Chapman; Richard Rowling & Ellen Storm.

APOLOGIES

Geraint Williams; Mick Jewitt; Linda Gibbon.

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Lindsay introduced Kathryn Chapman. YRCC Development Officer and Alison Scurrah, Manager of the World of James Herriot Museum.

2. MINUTES OF LAST STEERING COMMITTEE

It was agreed that the minutes from the last meeting held 23rd April 2008 were an accurate record. It was noted that details of the proposals to move headstones in the Sensory Garden could be obtained from Thirsk Town Council, *not* Hambleton District Council.

Lindsay confirmed that a letter had been sent to JD Wetherspoons regarding the use of the Three Tuns and that a reply has been received confirming that the new pub will open in December 2008. Signage to this effect will be erected shortly.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

4. THE TRI AGM WEDNESDAY 2ND JULY 2008

It was agreed that the Election of Officers, along with the presentation of Reports, be dealt with at the next TRI meeting to be held on Wednesday 25th June.

The following nominations were proposed:

Treasurer: Alison Cramb
Secretary: Peter Cole
Vice-Chair: Mick Jewitt

Peter confirmed that the following names had been suggested as possible new TRI Chairs:

Barry Dodds
Della Cannings

John Bell
Barry Hitchen

It was agreed that a letter be sent to the potential candidates inviting them, if interested in the post, to attend the next meeting. A press release is to be drafted to encourage other nominations from the wider community.

Peter provided an update on the planning of the TRI Mid-Summer Forum to be held on Wednesday 2nd July 2008 at the Thirsk Rural Business Centre. Dr. Burgess has agreed to attend the meeting to describe how rural regeneration can be achieved in a rural setting and how such a strategy must evolve to reflect the needs and aspirations of the local community. Liz Burdett, the Director of Area for the Learning & Skills Council (LSC) in North Yorkshire will provide an insight in to the role of the LSC and the future of the Learning & Skills agenda whilst Geraint will present his vision for Thirsk as a Festival Town. Exhibitors will include Thirsk Sensory Garden, the World of James Herriot Museum, Thirsk Clock, NYBEP and the North Yorkshire Moors Railway. It was suggested that the Mid-Summer Forum would provide an opportunity to introduce the new Chair if elected prior to the event.

6. THE WORLD OF JAMES HERRIOT: ALISON SCURRAH

Alison provided an update on staff turnover and activities at the museum which has now achieved full museum accreditation. A bid is being submitted to the National Archives to make transcripts of books available on the internet and a 'Their Past. Your Future.' event is being hosted in partnership with the North Yorkshire Moors Railway. Links are being established with local schools to support the national curriculum at Key Stage 2. The museum is to celebrate its 10th anniversary in 2009 and initial planning of activities to mark the anniversary is underway. The Herriot Convention is to be held on the 10th-12th October 2008.

Alison confirmed that the museum has agreed a 2 year sponsorship deal with Wagg Foods, and receives sponsorship in kind from Taylor's of Harrogate. As a result all schools across Hambleton schools are entitled to subsidised visits and pupils receive free workshops. In Alison's view Hambleton District Council has a long term responsibility to support the museum, a museum which members agreed was a valuable asset to the town (it has been estimated that the museum draws in between 30,000 & 35,000 tourists/visitors per year.)

7. PROJECT & SUB GROUP UPDATE

Hambleton Renaissance Business Plan and 2008 Rural Target Fund

Mark provided an update on those projects which appear in the Hambleton Renaissance Business Plan (see attached to minutes.)

Other TRI Projects:

- **Kilburn Projects**

Peter reported that the NYCC engineer responsible for highways maintenance in the Kilburn area has recently returned from a lengthy period of annual leave and an update on who is responsible for maintaining the road-side of the beck should be available at the next meeting.

- **Role for Older People (eng-AGE)**

Peter circulated details of this year's eng-AGE event to be held on Monday 2nd July from 10.00am - 1.00pm in the Town Hall and Old Courthouse. Approximately 30 organisations have confirmed they are to attend.

- **Thirsk Contact Centre**

HDC is in discussion with Broadacres Housing Association to establish a Contact Centre in Thirsk in response to an increase in the HDC-approved target figure for the number of houses within 5 miles of an Access Point. It is understood that work has to be done to ensure that the proposed site is DDA compliant.

- **Children's Centre**

It was reported that the Centre will be open mid-June and that funding is being sought for an outdoor play area.

- **Carr's Field**

As no recent updates have been received it was agreed that this item be removed from the agenda. It was also agreed that as members deemed the area unsuitable for young people the Carr's Field development project be removed from the Section 106 Leisure & Recreation List.

Thirsk Events Group

Mark presented a draft of the 'What's On' guide for consideration and confirmed that Thirsk Town Council had agreed to give £250 to support a reprint of the VisitThirsk.com leaflet. Group members endorsed the design of the Guide, the first edition of which should be available early in June 2008. It was agreed that three editions be produced throughout the year with an approx. total cost of £1050.

Mark confirmed the details of this year's Thirsk Festival and it was suggested that Colin Musgrove be invited to provide a written update at the next meeting. A fundraising dinner is to be held on Thursday 5th February 2009 at Thirsk Racecourse. Dame Tanni Grey-Thompson has been invited to attend as an after dinner speaker.

Tourism Group

It was agreed that Ian Ashton & David Shields be invited to future TRI meetings to provide an update on the Moors & Coast Tourism Partnership.

It was noted that an email offering support and a financial contribution to the proposed Sensory Garden had been received. Planning permission is being sought from the Environment Agency and the Sensory Garden Group have agreed to provide a display at the TRI Mid-Summer Forum.

It is understood that McKay's are to occupy the existing vacant Co-Op premises.

Thirsk Safe Group

Lindsay confirmed that a revised action plan had been agreed at a meeting held with Chief Inspector Dave Foster and Inspector Sarah Sanderson on Monday 21st April. This plan and the election of a new Safer Thirsk Chair will be discussed at the next meeting to be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 11th June 2008 at Borrowby Village Hall.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Thirsk Skatepark

Freda provided an update on proposals for a skatepark in Thirsk ('Thirsk8'). The new design will incorporate a sealed concrete unit, unlike existing skateparks across the area. Though £50k has been secured from the Big Lottery further funding is being sought, along with a Certificate of Decontamination for the proposed site.

LSP Funding

Peter confirmed that up to £35,000 of funding is available to the LSP Theme and Area Groups in 2008/09 to support activities which address issues including engaging vulnerable groups, homelessness, climate change, reducing alcohol misuse and tackling obesity. **Action:** Peter to contact Thirsk Clock to check whether any projects are running which address alcohol misuse and which may be eligible for funding. All TRI members to forward details of other such schemes to Peter for circulation prior to a meeting of the LSP Executive to be held on Thursday 5th June.

East Thirsk Community Hall

Jan reported that a new committee is now in place.

Transition Communities

Ted invited group members to consider the concept of a ‘Transition Community’ as piloted in Ripon and which seeks to address environmental issues and sustainability in construction. For more information visit: <http://www.ripongazette.co.uk/ripon/ls-it-time-for-Ripon.4018744.jp>

Thirsk Museum

Concerns were expressed regarding the level of professional support for the Thirsk Museum and the likelihood that it will apply for museum accreditation. Alison confirmed that local museum ‘hubs’ are to move to London by 2009 and offered to help out with completing the application form.

DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

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|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 25 th June 2008 | 2nd July 2008 (Mid-Summer Forum) | 20 th August 2008 |
| 24 th September 2008 | 22 nd October 2008 | 19 th November 2008 |
| 17 th December 2008 | | |