



Thirsk Regeneration Initiative

A MARKET TOWNS INITIATIVE PROGRAMME

Steering Committee Meeting

Wednesday 27th May 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; Bill Austin; Emily Thomas; Noel Collings & Holly Bainbridge.

Apologies

Tony Jordan; Gareth Dadd; Richard Rowling; Mark Haynes; Linda Gibbon; John Potter; Alison Scurrah; Alison Cramb; Mark Terry; Malcolm Warne & Dave McGloin.

1. Welcome & Introductions

Peter welcomed Noel Collings, Holly Bainbridge and Emily Thomas to the meeting.

2. A Climate Change Strategy for Hambleton 2009-2014

Noel Collings, HDC's Sustainable Development Officer, presented an outline of HDC's Climate Change Strategy and explained that the purpose of the Strategy is reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions being released within the District (at a National level the UK government has set its own target of 20% reduction in emissions from the 1990 base-line figure by 2010.) Noel described measures by which climate change can be addressed at a local level including the promotion of community allotments to reduce 'food miles', the installation of micro-renewable energy sources (small-scale wind turbines, ground source heat pumps etc.) and the use of energy meters to monitor domestic energy consumption. Noel confirmed that 15% of the energy used at Stone Cross comes from renewable sources and that a Green Travel Plan has been adopted by the Council. It was noted that the recycling of business waste and the associated cost is a *national* issue. Noel confirmed that details of the strategy will be made available on the District Council's website shortly.

Action: Peter C. to confirm whether the impact of the Council's Green Travel plan has been monitored over the last 7 years and if so what the impact has been.

3. Broadacres Community Development Initiatives

Emily Thomas described the role of Community Development Co-ordinator, which is to develop stronger links between tenants and the local community and described the purpose of the 'Community Development Fund' which can be used to support community-based activities. Broadacres employs approximately 200 members of staff across Hambleton and provides a range of services to over 4,700 homes in North Yorkshire. A tenants group meets quarterly and it was suggested that links between this group and TRI be strengthened. Broadacres is keen work alongside community organisations across the Thirsk area and is looking to purchase properties to help address the current housing shortage. A mortgage rescue scheme has been established to support those at risk of facing mortgage payment arrears. Broadacres are to undertake 'roadshows' in the villages surrounding Thirsk. The East Thirsk Community Centre was recommended as an excellent venue for such a roadshow in Thirsk.

For further details visit: <http://www.broadacres.org.uk>

4. Minutes of the Last Meeting held Wednesday 29th April 2009

Agreed as a true record thereof.

5. Actions & Matters Arising

- Peter confirmed that Cllr. Adamson has been appointed to the Group and that either David McGloin or Phil Morton will attend future TRI meetings. Tony Hall, the Cabinet Spokesperson for Prosperity will be available to attend TRI meetings for specific discussions relevant to his role.
- Peter C. confirmed that following a discussion with Jayne Charlton (NYCC Highways) it was agreed that a list of sites where banners promoting the Yorkshire Comedy Festival are to be erected be submitted to Jayne for consideration. A risk assessment must be carried out for each banner before they can be erected.
- Peter W. confirmed that an article had appeared in the Darlington & Stockton Times which reflected the message that the retail sector in Thirsk was coping with current economic downturn.
- Peter C. confirmed that no correspondence from TRI members had been received since the last meeting in April indicating support for the Total-e TownTalk initiative. Members agreed that TRI would not enter into further negotiation with the initiative which seeks to promote local businesses via the internet and other media.
- It was suggested that the roof of the TIC is not properly insulated and that as a result pigeons are proving a nuisance. **Action:** Peter C. to contact Steve Prentice to check that the levels of insulation at the TIC are adequate.

6. Project Update

- **Hambleton Renaissance Business Plan**

Peter C. circulated an update prepared by Mark prior to the meeting and drew attention to the issue of improvements to access at Thirsk Station. Peter confirmed that a meeting is to be convened between Beth Carss and Denise Thompson (Community Relations Manager – Network Rail) & David Mallander (Public Relations Manager – First Trans-Pennine Express) to explore possible funding opportunities to resolve disabled access issues. An email had been received from Richard Rowling requesting that TRI lobby for a better service from Thirsk to Darlington and Newcastle, given that many of the First Trans Pennine service from Manchester Airport to Newcastle do not stop at Thirsk. **Action:** Peter W. to attend this meeting once a date has been agreed.

Peter W. confirmed that further discussion had been held with Julie Chandler since the last meeting. **Action:** Peter C. to clarify with Dave McGloin as to why HDC had not provided

resources to support the work being undertaken by the York & North Yorkshire Employment & Skills Partnership.

▪ **The Yorkshire Comedy Festival**

Peter W. confirmed that progress is being made to arrange bookings, workshops & venues. Details of the acts performing during the Festival will be circulated shortly. Peter apologised for confusion over the booking of the Town Hall as a venue for the Festival. Jan confirmed that comedy films are being screened at the Ritz Cinema. Possible films include 'The Titfield Thunderbolt', 'No Limits' and 'Casino Royale'.

▪ **Thirsk Safe Group**

Bill confirmed that a date in September has yet to be agreed with Chief Inspector Everitt for co-ordinators of the Farmwatch and Neighbourhood Watch Schemes operating across Thirsk & surrounding villages. The purpose of the event, to be held in the late afternoon/early evening, is to improve engagement and understanding between the police and NWS/Farmwatch co-ordinators.

7. Finance Report

No Report was presented in Alison's absence.

8. Meetings & Correspondence

- Peter C. confirmed that the next Thirsk Area Forum meeting is to be held on Tuesday 21st July. One of the issues for consideration is the promotion of a café culture in Thirsk.
- A letter has been received from Thirsk Rotary confirming that the Rotary President will no longer attend future TRI meetings. The link between Rotary & TRI will continue through Tony Jordan.

9. Any Other Business

Visit-thirsk.com: non-accredited/inspected accommodation

It was agreed that a decision as to whether the visit-thirsk.com website should include non-accredited/inspected accommodation be deferred until the next meeting once the process by which premises can achieve accreditation and the associated costs are known. **Action:** Peter C. to provide this information at the next meeting, along with the number of providers in Thirsk which have achieved accreditation.

Tourism in Thirsk

Jan made reference to letter which appeared in the local press praising the Thirsk tourism 'offer', in particular the 'excellent swimming pool, first class racecourse, lovely little museum.....and fascinating town trail'. The letter indicated that there is more to Thirsk than 'clean toilets, free car parking and a bus station'.

10. Dates for Future Meetings:

24th June	29th July	26th August (AGM)	23rd September
21st October	25th November	16th December	