

Steering Committee Meeting

Wednesday 19th November 2008

**7.00pm at Rural Arts North Yorkshire
The Old Court House, Thirsk**

Minutes

Present

Peter Walker (Chair); Ted Naisbitt; Cllr. Gareth Dadd; Peter Cole; Jan Marshall; Mark Haynes; Alison Cramb; Phil Bustard; Bill Austin; Freda Roberts; Linda Gibbon; Gillian Gill & Ellen Storm.

Apologies

John Potter; Richard Rowling; Pauline Simpson; Colin Musgrave; Angela Hall & Tony Jordan.

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 22nd October 2008 were agreed as a true record thereof.

2. Hambleton News

Ted raised concerns over the lack of articles in the recent edition of Hambleton News highlighting inward investment into Thirsk and the surrounding villages. It was noted that historically Thirsk *has* received investment including the World of James Herriot and the swimming pool. It was agreed that the Group does have a role to play in lobbying to promote investment and regeneration but that any concerns over the District Council's performance with respect to attracting inward investment to Thirsk should be raised at Area Forum meetings (the next forum meeting is to be held on Tuesday 27th January 2009.) **Action:** Peter & Mark to feedback the comments regarding Hambleton News to Aly Thompson.

3. TRI & Town Talk

Members agreed to the proposal circulated prior to the meeting to pay Town Talk the outstanding £1880 (£1600 plus VAT) for maintenance of the Town Talk website. Mark confirmed that legal advice had been sought from the HDC Legal Department. It was agreed that once payment has been settled TRI would not deal with Town Talk in the future. **Action:** Peter to request a duplicate invoice from Town Talk prior to making payment.

4. Action & Matters Arising

- **14-19 Curriculum Provision:** Peter provided an update from Ros Sands regarding the decision to deliver hairdressing from two schools in Northallerton. The hairdressing salon at Northallerton was developed 18 months ago and funded by Dimensions, not by the Local Authority. The Local Authority has now taken back the strategic control of the development of facilities from 2008/9 onwards. The salon at Thirsk School is one of several proposals for facilities across Hambleton & Richmondshire that are waiting for Local Authority consideration. It was agreed that TRI reconsider the position in February 2009 when it is anticipated that a decision will be made as to which sites will be preferred. It was agreed that Peter C. and Ted will lead on this issue and provide the points of contact for future correspondence.
- **Thirsk Webcam:** Joplings have agreed to host the webcam. **Action:** Ted to contact Mark Parker at Joplings to co-ordinate the relocation of the webcam.
- **Networking For Business:** The first event is to be held on Wednesday 26th November 2008 at the Thirsk Rural Business Centre between 3-5pm. A press release and e-newsletter have been circulated to promote the event. **Action:** Peter C. to forward an invite to Judith Wox, HDC Economic Development, for circulation to businesses across Hambleton.
- **Carrs Field:** It was noted that other areas of land also offer potential for the delivery of learning opportunities including the Millennium Green, the Sensory Gardens, Cod Beck and land owned by Carlton Lodge. It was suggested that a list be compiled of areas which can be used as a teaching resource. **Action:** Peter to invite Caroline Mullins (Extended Schools Co-ordinator) to the next TRI meeting.

5. Finance Update

Alison reported that a cheque for £1000 from WHL Building Ltd. had been received and cashed.

6. Project Update

• Hambleton Renaissance Business Plan

Mark presented a report circulated prior to the meeting on those projects which appear in the Hambleton Renaissance Business Plan. Work is ongoing to develop a managed workspace in Thirsk, to undertake alleyway enhancements and to establish a café culture in Thirsk Market Place. Mark reported that NYCC have indicated that for a café license to be issued the piece of land to which the license refers must be adjacent to the food retail outlet which is applying for the licence. **Action:** Mark to check with NYCC if this is legislation or simply guidance.

Mark confirmed that the Sensory Garden's harbour wall is to be repaired and that once the site is cleared a stone mason will be on site in January 2009. Mark is seeking quotes for a new path.

• Fundraising Dinner 2009

Peter W. reported on a meeting held with Mark, Peter and Lindsay Ross to consider the future of the fundraising dinner. TRI members agreed that given the economic climate and concerns over ticket sales and corporate sponsorship the proposed fundraising dinner to be held in February 2009 be cancelled. **Action:** Peter/Mark/Alison & Peter to explore other sources of funding to support the Comedy Festival.

- **Thirsk Festival**

Peter W. provided an update on progress to develop a regionally-recognised Comedy Festival evolving over a five year period to capitalise on the 'Cultural Olympiad' in 2012. It was suggested that the event be held in July (w/c 18th or 25th) and that the event align itself with the Edinburgh Festival. Peter confirmed that Rural Arts North Yorkshire currently operates an on-line booking system and Jan indicated that links could be established with the Ritz Cinema to host comedy films during the festival. It is hoped that the local economy will benefit from an influx of people attending the festival, in particular accommodation providers and pubs/restaurants.

7. TRI Sub Group Updates:

- **Tourism Group**

Jan provided an update following the last meeting of the group held Wednesday 12th November:

- This year's Herriot Convention was a success. The museum celebrates its 10th Anniversary next year and a range of events are being planned.
- The Herriot Attractions Group is working with Grand Central Railway to improve links between the railway station and attractions across Thirsk and the surrounding area.
- Interpretation leaflets are still available. The position over ownership and distribution of the remaining Blue Plaque leaflets is unclear. **Action:** Jan/Peter/Mark to clarify the situation and present an update at the next meeting.
- Given the issues discussed under Agenda Items 3 and 6 members agreed that TRI was not in a position to provide financial support for the redesign of the Herriot Attractions website.

- **Thirsk Safe Group**

Bill reported that a meeting had been held with Chris Fields, Manager of the Hambleton Community Safety Partnership, to develop the idea of a 'Community Safety' event to be held in 2009. It was agreed that given the low turnout at the recent 'Not in my Neighbourhood' event branding is crucial and that the private sector (in particular food retailers – Tesco's, Lidl etc.) be encouraged to provide sponsorship. The next meeting of the Safe Group is to be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 3rd December at 49b Market Place, Thirsk.

8. Any Other Business

- Concerns remain over access to TRI equipment and the meeting room at 49b Market Place when the TIC is closed (after 4pm in winter.) It was noted that at a recent Tourism Group meeting Ian Ashton had explained that a key to the premises is available from the TIC and that in order to satisfy Health & Safety legislation a booking system has been agreed which requires a signature before the key is given out **Action:** Mark to contact Ian Ashton to resolve the issue.
- Peter reminded members about the Area Group Network Event to be held at the Stone Cross Civic Centre in Northallerton on Wednesday 3rd December 2008. The purpose of the event is to showcase a range of community-led projects that have

been completed from around the region and to provide information, advice and guidance to community and voluntary organisations.

9. Dates of Next Meeting:

Wednesday 17th December 2008: 7.00pm at 49b Market Place, Thirsk.

Meeting Dates 2009

21st January	18th February	25th March	22nd April
27th May	24th June	29th July	26th August (AGM)
23rd September	21st October	25th November	16th December