



## **Steering Committee Meeting**

**Rural Arts North Yorkshire**

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2009 at 7.00pm**

### **Minutes**

#### **Present**

Peter Walker (Chair); Jan Marshall; Peter Cole; Freda Roberts; Ellen Storm; Cllr. Gareth Dadd; Dave McGloin; Jeremy Baker; Sue Dodd; Kathleen Raynard; Tony Jordan; Bill Austin; Pat Chapman; Mark Haynes; Kelly Teagle; Chris Teagle; Janet Watson; Sgnt. Sharon Findlay; Abigail Homer & Linda Gibbon.

#### **Apologies**

Mark Faulkner; Emily Thomas; Janice McVay; Rev. Richard Rowling & Malcolm Warne.

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#### **1. Welcome, Introductions & Apologies**

Peter welcomed Sue Dodd, Kathleen Raynard, Sgnt. Sharon Findlay and Kelly & Chris Teagle to the meeting.

#### **2. Yorkshire Forward Delegated Funds: Allocation 2009/2010**

TRI members considered the various applications received for the Yorkshire Forward Delegated Funds discuss at the previous meeting held in October. Mark reminded members that the funding is to support small capital projects which seek to pursue the objectives of the RMT Masterplan and which will be complete (ie. the money be spent) by the end of March 2010. Match funding for each project must be secured before Delegated Funds are allocated. Mark indicated that there will be little or no Yorkshire Forward Delegated Funding available for the financial year 2010/2011.

It was suggested that there is a potential requirement for £4k to support improved signage for Thirsk Market (see Agenda Item 3) although given NYCC's signage policy this money may not be spent by the end of March 2010.

With regards to the Thirsk Sensory Garden concerns were expressed that although following intervention from HDC the Land Registry has agreed to review the situation over land transfer at the Sensory Gardens no guarantee could be given at this stage that the land could be registered and the work be completed by the end of the financial year 2009/10. The delay is caused by a restriction on disposal relating to a neighbouring development and that as a result the transfer of

land has not yet been completed. Members agreed to the proposal that as a firm guarantee could not be given that the project would be completed by the end of March 2010 the funding originally earmarked for the Sensory Garden be allocated to other community projects. Jan Marshall disagreed with the proposal, stating the sensory garden had been on the development plan for some time.

Linda and Abigail provided a brief update on developments at Thirsk Clock and confirmed that a lease on new premises is to be signed within the next 4 weeks. Linda reported that although some funding had been secured from NYCC during the summer a survey of the premises had revealed that there is more work to be done than originally thought. Hence a series of fundraising activities/appeals are to be undertaken to raise the finance required to complete the work.

Peter W. invited members to consider whether the location of the new premises remain confidential for the purposes of the meeting. Following discussion an agreement was reached that the exact location of the new premises remain confidential.

It is understood that planning permission is not required as there is no change of use to the current building and that the Clock is looking to secure £9k to undertake the capital renovation/restoration project. Linda confirmed that if sufficient funding is secured the work would be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010. Members of the Group acknowledged the hard work undertaken by Thirsk Clock. Tony left the meeting at this point.

The following allocations were suggested and discussed:

<b>Project</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
Thirsk Clock	£9k	Restoration & refurbishment of new premises
Carlton Lodge	£4k	Improvements to existing leisure facilities
Thirsk Station	£2.5k	Contribution to plans for access improvement
Thirsk Town Council	£600	Benches & litter bins for Castle Garth/Coach Park
Borrowby Parish Council	£150	Replacement of broken seating
Sowerby Parish Council	£542	Replacement of village notice board
Thirkleby Notice board	£375	Replacement of village notice board
Thirsk in Bloom	£749	Purchase of 55 new hanging baskets
Carlton Miniott	£368	Replacement of seating and litter bins <sup>1</sup>
Thirsk Market Signage	£4000	Purchase of promotional signs for Thirsk Market.

Total Allocation: £22, 284

Remaining: £7716

There were no objections to the proposals and though it was agreed that further clarification is required with regards to the Carlton Miniott project the Group agreed to the proposed funding allocations. The sums allocated to Parish Councils remain subject to clarification of Yorkshire Forward's funding criteria. **Action:** Mark to contact applicants and to liaise with Yorkshire Forward regarding the agreed allocations. Peter W. to contact Thirsk Town Council with regards to sponsorship costs of the Thircon roundabout along with plans to plant bulbs to celebrate Thirsk in Bloom's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2010. It was noted that the roundabout is in Bagby, not Thirsk,

### 3. Area Forum Update: The Future of Thirsk Market

Gareth provided an update on the Area Forum meeting held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November at Thirsk Swimming Pool to discuss the future of Thirsk Market. Gareth confirmed that once it was made

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<sup>1</sup> It is unclear whether match funding has been secured for this project.

clear that traders would be given the opportunity to ask questions at the meeting feedback from the traders on proposals were broadly positive. It was agreed by those present that the promotion of the market should be improved. HDC is to allocate £10k to support the promotion of the market. Gareth confirmed that a proposal to give those traders that have traded in the market for some time lightweight stalls is out for consultation via the HDC Scrutiny Committee. HDC is to review the signage options available, including the introduction of 'brown signs' on the approaches to Thirsk. It was agreed that the Area Forum will remain a consultee on the future management and performance of the market and that TRI has a role to play in monitoring progress. Peter W. confirmed that he had been in contact with Peter Davey in order to better understand the needs of market traders and to consider how to broaden the appeal and diversity of the market 'offer'. **Action:** Peter W. to liaise with HDC and the Town Council and to report back at future TRI and Area Forum meetings.

#### **4. An On-line Resource for Businesses in Thirsk**

Kelly Teagle, Web Development Partner for CK Services in Thirsk, presented draft proposals for an on-line welcome resource for new business wishing to relocate to Thirsk. The site could include a range of demographic data including unemployment figures, wage & skill levels and details of existing businesses in the area. It was agreed that the focus be on 'new' businesses, although the site could include provision to enhance existing businesses, and that both Thirsk and the surrounding villages be included. It was also suggested that to ensure that the site is maintained the development of the site be supported by other key partners including Business Link Yorkshire, Hambleton District Council and the Thirsk Chamber of Trade.

#### **5. YO7 Divertz**

Sgnt. Sharon Findlay describe the role and purpose of the recently established multi-agency YO7 Divertz group which seeks to address anti social behaviour through the provision of diversionary activities for young people across the Thirsk area. Monthly disco's are being held at Aspire and trips are being arranged to take young people to Allanbrooke Barracks. Members acknowledged the valuable work being undertaken by the Group and agreed that it should come under the umbrella of TRI and become a subgroup of the TRI Safe Group. It was noted that a similar group exists in Northallerton which has undertaken a number of successful projects. **Action:** Peter C. and Bill to attend the next meeting of the Group.

#### **6. Minutes of the Last Meeting held Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2009**

Agreed as a true record thereof.

#### **7. Actions & Matters Arising**

- **Learning & Skills Provision across Thirsk:** Gareth has asked that a report be presented at the next meeting of the NYCC Area Committee to be held on the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2010 to establish whether the audit of learning opportunities has been completed by the 14-19 Consortia and if so what are the critical issues for the Thirsk area.
- **TRI IT Equipment:** Peter C. reported that the only response to the offer of the colour printer had come from Thirsk Town Council and that assurances had been given that the wider community would have access to it. It was agreed that the colour printer be moved from 49b Market Place to the office of the Thirsk Town Council.

- **The Herriot Centre:** Peter W. is seeking support from the 'Practical Classic' magazine to undertake repairs to the car used by Alf Wight and currently being exhibited in the museum.

Freda and Gareth left the meeting at this point.

### **8. Visit-Thirsk.com: Hosting, Hits and Associated Costs**

Mark presented a report prepared by Beth Carss which confirmed the monthly 'hits' between December 2008 – March 2009.

It was agreed that the domain names Visitthirsk.com and Visit-Thirsk.com be renewed at a cost of £48 for two years. **Action:** Beth to provide a further report for the meeting in February which identifies where referrals to the sites come from and which includes hits/visit statistics for the summer period.

### **9. Project Update: The Hambleton Renaissance Business Plan**

Mark presented an update on progress towards projects in the Business Plan and drew attention to proposals for the Yorkshire Forward's Rural Capitals Business Space Programme which is looking to provide a number of managed workspace facilities across the region. Thirsk is one such location and a plot of land near the Thircon roundabout has been identified as a potential site. Yorkshire Forward has undertaken soft market testing with developers to determine their interest in taking the project forward. Mark suggested that the scheme, similar to the Evolution managed workspace site in Northallerton, could be completed in the next few years.

Mark is working with Howard Kemp at the Town Council to explore funding to undertake enhancements to Ingramgate.

**Action:** Peter W., Mark & Peter C. to meet to establish what HDC can do to ensure that the Long Street site identified in the Community Plan is safe.

### **10. Any Other Business**

- Members endorsed proposals to resurface the Thirsk All Weather pitch at Thirsk School, adjacent to Gravel Hole Lane and agreed that the project be added to the Thirsk & Villages Community Plan. The total project cost is between £120k-£160k and it is anticipated that the project will be completed by mid 2010.
- Jan confirmed that Thirsk Town Council is looking for funding to support a reprint of the Thirsk & Sowerby 'Past and Present' leaflets. Jan reported that the Past & Present website is not currently working but that work is being undertaken to solve the problem. **Action:** Jan to establish reprint costs for a run of 10,000 leaflets.
- Janet confirmed that the World of James Herriot is working alongside Jet2.com to raise the profile of the museum and that leaflets are to be distributed at an event in Düsseldorf promoting the museum as a tourist destination.
- It was agreed that the December meeting be cancelled and that the next TRI meeting be held in January 2010. **Action:** Peter C. to circulate dates of future TRI meetings to be held in 2010.