

Steering Committee Meeting

Rural Arts North Yorkshire

Wednesday 21st October 2009 at 7.00pm

Minutes

Present

Peter Walker (Chair); Jan Marshall; Peter Cole; Freda Roberts; Ellen Storm; Gareth Dadd; Dave McGloin; Pat Chapman; Jeremy Baker; Mark Faulkner & Audrey Lewis.

Apologies

Mark Haynes; Bill Austin; Alison Scurrah; Rev. Richard Rowling; Malcolm Warne & Janice McVay.

1. Welcome & Introductions

Peter welcomed Pat Chapman (Sowerby Parish Council), Jeremy Baker (Business Link Yorkshire) and Audrey Lewis (Thirsk resident) to the meeting.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting held Wednesday 23rd September 2009

Agreed as a true record thereof.

3. Actions & Matters Arising

- **The Employment & Skills Partnership**

Dave confirmed that a though a Report on potential funding for the Employment & Skill Partnership had been presented at the Prosperity Leadership Board held on Tuesday 20th October a Business Plan had not been submitted. It is understood that funding has yet to be secured from the Richmondshire Local Strategic Partnership and that the application is being considered by the NYCC Area Committee. It was agreed that TRI maintain a watching brief and that Gareth liaise with John Watson at NYCC to be kept informed as to progress.

- **Welcome Pack for Businesses in Thirsk**

It was agreed that Peter C. and Jeremy meet prior to the next TRI meeting to agree a way forward with plans to produce a web-based resource for existing businesses and new businesses wishing to relocate to Thirsk. It was agreed that that the resource be available to the whole business community across Thirsk and surrounding villages. It was suggested that the site include a link to HDC's website which lists vacant business premises across Thirsk.

- **Yorkshire Forward Delegated Funds**

Members considered a draft proposal agreed by Peter W., Mark and Peter C. at a meeting held prior to the meeting which made recommendations as to how the £30k of Yorkshire Forward delegated funds could be allocated. The recommendations were:

- **Thirsk Sensory Garden:** £15k towards remaining costs of £32k for development of the garden.
- **Thirsk Clock:** £5k capital to provide improved IT equipment for use at the new premises.
- **Carlton Lodge:** £4k for improvements to the leisure facilities.
- **Thirsk Station:** £2.5k is put aside to contribute to plans for the station. Plans would be used to lever government monies when available for improvements.
- **Thirsk Town Council:** £600 for benches and litter bins for Castle Garth and Marage/coach park area.
- **Borrowby Parish Council:** £150 for the replace broken seating in Borrowby village
- **Thirkleby High and Low with Osgodby:** £750 for the replacement of village notice boards.

Given concerns over the ability of Thirsk Town Council to complete the Sensory Gardens project by the end of March 2010 it was agreed that the project remain on the list but that other projects be suggested. Jan reported that legal issues over the transfer of land have yet to be resolved but that the Town Council are seeking a quick resolution. It is hoped that the issue will be resolved before Christmas. Jan agreed to provide an update at the next TRI meeting. Other projects to go on the list include further funding to support Thirsk Clock once the move to new premises is complete, work to enhance Ingramgate (ie. to draw up plans and to undertake the work) and work to improve the Thircon roundabout. It was agreed that given the short timescale that a decision on the allocation of the delegated funds be made at the November meeting.

Actions:

- Peter and Mark to confirm the definition of 'spent' and clarify the criteria for the allocation of the delegated funds.
- Jan to provide an update at the next meeting on the position regarding the Sensory Garden project and an indication as to whether the project could/will be completed before the end of the financial year.
- Jan, Peter W. and Gareth to liaise regarding the work and associated funding required to improve the Thircon Roundabout.
- Peter C. to contact NYCC Highways with regards to the installation of brown 'Thirsk Historic Market Town' signs at Busby Stoop and along the A167 ie. costs and associated legislation.
- Peter to contact Sowerby and Carlton Miniott Parish Clerks along with Thirsk in Bloom to check whether that have any small scale capital projects planned or underway that could benefit from this funding pot.

- **Thirsk8 Park**

Peter C. reported that an email from Lawrence Monaghan indicated that there are no plans to extend the 'no alcohol' zone to the proposed Gravel Hole Lane skateboard park. Concerns were expressed over the involvement with the school and that there may be some opposition to the scheme from those living near the proposed site. It was suggested that further consultation be undertaken with both the school and local residents to get a better understanding of the proposed scheme. It was noted that the Northallerton Skatepark is fenced off and well lit and that Gravel Hole Lane is in Sowerby, *not* Thirsk.

4. Project Update

- **Yorkshire Comedy Festival:** Peter W. confirmed that responses from Ellen Storm and Richard Rowling had been received since the last meeting following Peter's request for feedback on recommendations made in the Evaluation Report presented at the AGM. Gareth thanked Peter W. for his efforts with organising the Comedy Festival. It was suggested that charity events with community engagement tend to be more successful in Thirsk and that there appears to be a general reluctance for people to get involved in the organising of events. Members agreed with Peter's proposal that TRI no longer seeks to host a Comedy Festival in 2010 but that community interest in a festival be reviewed in the summer of 2010. It was suggested however that the Ritz Cinema could host a film festival in the future.

- **Hambleton Renaissance Business Plan**

Members considered the Update provided by Mark and circulated prior to the meeting. With regards to project T4 which make reference to access to learning opportunities across Thirsk and the surrounding villages it was agreed that Peter W. and Gareth discuss how this issue can be progressed prior to the next meeting in November. It was suggested that either the Thirsk Area Forum or the NYCC Area Committee would provide the most appropriate forum for further discussion. It was also suggested that a representative from either NYCC Children & Young People's Services or NYCC Adult Learning Services be invited to attend a future TRI meeting to discuss plans for future learning provision.

Members agreed that that T5 (a) which refers to the Thirsk Events Group and T28, which refers to 'facilities and retail expansion', be removed from the Plan.

It was noted that the Awards For All application to support the completion of the Sensory Garden had been turned down. It was also noted that work to plan small scale enhancements to Long Street is underway and that the word 'reform' be removed from the update on project T20(b) . Dave confirmed that one of the 2 sites under consideration for Yorkshire Forward's 'Rural Capital Business Space' programme is adjacent to the Thircon site and the other is at the Sowerby Gateway.

Action: Peter W. and Gareth discuss how the issue of learning & skills provision for learners of all ages across Thirsk can be progressed and to feedback at the next TRI meeting in November.

- **Thirsk Safe Group:** Peter confirmed that the Safer Thirsk Group recently hosted a well-attended meeting at Thirsk Rural Business Centre the purpose of which was to revitalise the Neighbourhood and Countrywatch schemes and to improve existing joint working between the police and the local community. Over 30 Neighbourhood and Countrywatch Co-ordinators attended the meeting. Those attending were given assurances by the Police that more resources were being made available to support both officers and co-ordinators operating across the area. The Safer Thirsk Group will host a similar event early in the New Year to establish whether the planned improvements to the current scheme described at the meeting have had an effect and to discuss any further issues raised by Neighbourhood Watch Scheme Co-ordinators. An evaluation report of the event will be circulated shortly.

5. Meetings & Correspondence

- **Thirsk Area Forum Update:** Gareth confirmed that a special meeting of the Thirsk Area Forum is to be held on Thursday 19th November at 6pm to discuss the future and management of Thirsk market following concerns raised at the last Forum meeting.

Action: Peter C. to liaise with Gareth regarding publicity for this meeting once the location has been agreed and to ensure that market traders are aware of, and are invited to, the meeting.

6. Any Other Business

- **Carrs Field Update:** Peter C. reported that the Police are seeking to establish a multi-agency group to provide diversionary activities for young people across Thirsk, similar to one already operating in Northallerton. The Thirsk ActDivertz Group includes representation from Thirsk Clock, the Police, the Hambleton Community Partnership and Rotary. A key priority for the group is to consider facilities on Carrs Field and a consultation & clean up operation on the site is being held on Tuesday 2nd November in partnership with Thirsk Clock and Thirsk School.
- **Election of a Vice Chair & Treasurer:** Peter C. reported that there has been no progress in electing a new Vice Chair & Treasurer. Members agreed that TRI meetings should continue to take place on a monthly basis.
- **Furniture at 49b Market Place:** Jan raised concerns over access to, and the future use of, TRI's IT equipment currently being stored at 49b Market Place. It was suggested that the equipment, including the colour laser printer, be re-housed in the Thirsk Town Council office to be used both by the Town Council and other community organisations. It was agreed that the printer be offered to other Parish Councils.

Action: Peter C. to contact Parish Councils across Thirsk asking whether they are in need of a colour printer and to give an indication as to whether the wider community would have access to the equipment. Peter to liaise with the Tourism Partnership as to the future of remaining furniture at 49b Market Place (large table, chairs etc.)

- **The Herriot Centre:** Peter W. reported that the Herriot Centre is seeking to undertake repairs to the car used by Alf Wight and currently being exhibited in the museum.

Action: Peter W. to liaise with Mark and Dave regarding possible funding and a suitable garage that may undertake the repairs.

- **Carlton Lodge Accredited Training:** Mark confirmed that Carlton Lodge has achieved accredited status to deliver Leadership & Management courses for young people aged 18-25/30 through a generic programme based on a variety of outdoor activities.

7. Dates for Future Meetings:

- **25th November: 7.00pm at Rural Arts North Yorkshire**
- **16th December: 7.00pm at Rural Arts North Yorkshire**