



## **Steering Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2008**

**7.30pm at Rural Arts North Yorkshire  
The Old Court House, Thirsk**

### **Minutes**

#### **Present**

Peter Walker (Chair); Cllr. Gareth Dadd; Angela Hall; Peter Cole; Tony Jordan; Alison Cramb & Mark Firth.

#### **Apologies**

Linda Gibbon; Richard Rowling; Freda Roberts; Cllr. Ellen Storm; Jan Marshall; Ted Naisbitt; Bill Austin; Phil Bustard; Mick Jewitt; Michael Webster & Colin Musgrave.

#### **1. Minutes of the Last Meeting**

Agreed as a true record thereof.

#### **2. Actions & 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 decision to develop the salon at Thirsk has been put on hold for two reasons. Firstly all courses could be accommodated on the days every school wanted in the existing salon in Northallerton and secondly, the room identified in Thirsk was not large enough to house enough learning stations to fit the group that could be based there. The proposal for the salon at Thirsk is still in this year's plan, but the Local Authority is not spending money on facilities until a county wide strategy is in place. Peter W. confirmed that Pauline Simpson (Thirsk School) has agreed to attend future TRI meetings to provide further updates on 14-19 curriculum development. **Action:** Peter C. to follow up with Ros as to the rationale and timing of the decision to establish salons at Northallerton College and the Allertonshire School.

- **Thirsk Contact Centre**

Gareth confirmed that the issue of a Thirsk Contact Centre will be raised at the forthcoming Thirsk Area Forum. Gareth has asked for a full report to be made available on this issue but indicated that he could not support any large scale investment without evidence of the true value of such a facility. **Action:** Gareth to provide an update on any decisions taken prior to the TRI meeting to be held in November.

- **Thirsk Webcam**

Peter W. reported that he had received an email confirming that Joplings have agreed to host the Thirsk Webcam. **Action:** Peter W. and Ted to co-ordinate the transfer of the camera to the new location.

- **Thirsk Clock**

Peter W. reported that Thirsk Clock has not yet been informed as to whether the lease on the existing premises will be renewed.

- **Networking For Business in Thirsk**

Peter confirmed that the first business networking event is to be held on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2008 at the Thirsk Rural Business Centre between 3-5pm. **Action:** Peter W. to draft a press release to promote the event.

It was agreed that following a suggestion from Gareth future TRI meetings start at the earlier time of 7pm.

### 3. **Finance Report**

Alison presented a Financial Report outlining TRI income & expenditure between 1<sup>st</sup> January 2008 and 30<sup>th</sup> September 2008. It was agreed that a question over contributions from the fairground attractions at this year's festival be resolved at the next meeting.

### 4. **Project Update**

- **The Thirsk Events Group and Festival**

Peter W. reported that Geraint had elected to step down from the TRI Committee and as such has decided not to participate in the organisation of the fundraising dinner proposed for February 2009. Peter thanked Geraint for his commitment to TRI over the years and for his hard work in ensuring the success of both the Claire Balding Dinner and the Thirsk Festival.

**Action:** Peter W. to write a letter on behalf of TRI expressing thanks and appreciation to Geraint for his support for the group.

#### **Festival Dinner**

Prior to the meeting Geraint had provided estimated costs for the proposed fundraising dinner:

- Dame Tanni Grey-Thompson: £4000 (+VAT)
- Food/venue/PA System and other entertainment: at least £4000 (+VAT)

**Action:** Peter W./Mark and Peter C. to meet with Lindsay Ross to clarify the level of support available from Severfield-Reeve, to gauge the level of interest for such a festival dinner from the private sector given the current economic climate and to explore the options available for the festival dinner.

## **Thirsk Festival**

Peter W. presented proposals, drawn up in partnership with Rural Arts North Yorkshire, for a Thirsk Comedy Festival to be developed over a five year period that would achieve regional recognition by 2012. Peter explained that the festival would capitalise on the 'Cultural Olympiad' leading up to the Olympics in 2012 and would be managed by a Festival Planning & Management Group. This group would adopt a partnership approach to secure funding and community engagement whilst making use of existing resources (including schools, the World of James Herriot and Rural Arts North Yorkshire) to provide high-quality entertainment, to secure community 'buy-in' and to ensure that the Festival is accessible not only to residents of Thirsk but also residents of the surrounding villages.

TRI members endorsed the proposal for a Thirsk Comedy Festival that will evolve over a five year period and which becomes part of the cultural heritage of the area. It was suggested that given this endorsement plans for the Fundraising Dinner 2009 be worked up.

- **The Hambleton Renaissance Business Plan: Update**

In Mark's absence Peter presented an update on those local projects which appear in the Hambleton Renaissance Business Plan and other projects being supported by the Group (update circulated prior to the meeting.)

- **Carrs Field**

Tony provided an update on proposals to develop Carrs Field. The Trustees continue to seek funding to help undertake enhancements to the site and it was suggested that the area offers an excellent location in which to deliver land-based learning opportunities including hedge-laying, site clearance, pruning etc. Tony confirmed that the Trustees are willing to work alongside local schools to ensure the green open space remains accessible and invited TRI members to suggest other possible uses for the site. **Action:** Peter W. and Tony to explore the site's potential for the delivery of learning provision.

## **Thirsk Skatepark**

Peter C. confirmed that the Thirsk8 Park Committee had submitted a successful bid to the Community Safety Partnership to undertake the contaminated land survey referred to at the last meeting. As a result the Committee is not seeking funding from TRI to cover the cost of this survey.

## **5. TRI Sub Group Updates:**

- **Tourism Group**

Peter C. explained the Group hasn't met recently and confirmed that a meeting is to be arranged once a suitable date has been agreed by key partners.

- **Thirsk Safe Group**

Peter C. confirmed that work was progressing to establish a Community Safety 'Roadshow' to be held in April/May 2009. The date of next Safe Group meeting is to be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 49b Market Place. Representatives from Thirsk Clock have agreed to attend.

## 6. Any Other Business

- **Christmas Lights Switch-On:** Members considered a request from Colin for financial support to cover costs for this year's Christmas lights switch-on (staging, PA, artists costs etc.) Members felt unable to support Colin's request given TRI's current financial position.
- **Grassroots Grants:** Peter C. circulated details of the Grassroots Grant initiative, a new funding source for voluntary and community groups across North Yorkshire. Over £3/4 million has been awarded to the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust (YDMT) who, in partnership with York and North Yorkshire Community Foundation (YNYCF), aim to distribute grants from £250 up to £5,000 over 3 years. Grants are available to voluntary and community groups with annual incomes below £20,000. It was suggested that participatory activities such as workshops at the proposed comedy festival may be eligible for Grassroots funding.
- **Area Group Network Event:** Peter C. described the purpose of an Area Group network event being held at the Civic Centre, Northallerton Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2008. The day will comprise presentations from people involved in a range of projects that have been successfully delivered in and around the district. There will be information from Yorkshire Forward on its work on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Market Towns. A further presentation is being organised from people involved either in festivals or youth engagement, these being themes common to all towns often raised through the Area Groups. Invitations to the event will be circulated shortly.
- **Skillbuilders:** Mark provided an update on the Skillbuilders Seminar held recently in Knaresborough which seeks to provide young people with the opportunity an opportunity to understand and experience practical craft and artisan skills including catering, construction and furniture making. **Action:** Mark and Peter W. to consider how school 'buy-in' can be secured and how such learning opportunities for 14-16yr old students could be developed across Thirsk.

## 7. Dates for Future Meetings:

- Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November: 7.00pm Rural Arts North Yorkshire
- Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 7.00pm (venue tbc.)