



## **Steering Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday 17th December 2008**

**7.00pm at 49b Market Place, Thirsk**

### **Minutes**

#### **Present**

Peter Walker (Chair); Ted Naisbitt; Peter Cole; Mark Haynes; Pauline Simpson; Linda Gibbon; Richard Rowling & Ellen Storm.

#### **Apologies**

John Potter; Colin Musgrave; Mark Firth; Bill Austin; Abigail Homer-McGhie; Cllr. Gareth Dadd; Jan Marshall; Angela Hall & Tony Jordan.

#### **1. Welcome & Introductions**

Peter welcomed Pauline Simpson, Head of Sixth Form and member of the Senior Management Team at Thirsk School.

#### **2. Minutes of the Last Meeting held Wednesday 19th November 2008**

Agreed as a true record thereof.

#### **3. Actions & Matters Arising**

- Ted reported that the webcam is to be moved to its new site at Joplings in the near future.
- Peter confirmed that the outstanding invoice for £1880 has been paid to Town Talk and that this issue has now been resolved.
- Over twenty business representatives attended the recent TRI-sponsored 'Networking For Business' event which was considered a success by the facilitators. A further event will be held in January 2009. An invoice for £86 made payable to Carole Johnstone (The Gavel Café & Bar) was paid for catering at this event.
- The issue over the distribution of the remaining Blue Plaque leaflets has been resolved with a decision taken by the Town Council to donate the remaining leaflets to the TIC for sale at a reduced price.
- Carolyn Mullins, the Extended Schools Co-ordinator for the Thirsk area, has agreed to attend the next TRI meeting to be held in January 2009.
- It was agreed that given the Yorkshire Moors & Coast Partnership's position with regards to access to TRI equipment at 49b Market Place a decision on the relocation of this equipment be made in the New Year. Both Rural Arts North Yorkshire and Thirsk Library were suggested as possible locations for the equipment.

#### 4. **Thirsk Clock: Update**

Linda confirmed that negotiations are still ongoing between Thirsk Clock and the Nationwide Building Society to resolve the issue over an extension of the current lease. Linda confirmed that the Trustees had expressed an interest in adopting a partnership approach to securing 'My Space' funding should the lease not be renewed.

#### 5. **From Ideas to Implementation: Feedback**

Ted reported on the recent 'From Ideas to Implementation' event held on the 3rd December which provided the LSP Area Groups with an opportunity to share ideas and experiences as to how local community-led projects can be delivered. Of particular interest was the rebranding and communication strategy agreed by the Northallerton & Villages Community Forum and the grassroots consultation undertaken by the group at the Northallerton carnival. It was agreed that the Thirsk & Villages Community Plan be reviewed early in the New Year in an attempt to involve the surrounding villages and engage more effectively with the business sector. It was suggested that young people and access to learning & skills opportunities provide the theme for future TRI activities in order to promote local regeneration. It was noted that public transport services to training providers is inadequate and discourages young people from taking up learning opportunities. **Action:** Peter, Mark & Peter to review the Action Plan and identify those projects across Thirsk and the surrounding villages which have been completed, initiated or have yet to be started.

#### 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. Mark indicated that a potential £20K underspend could help support enhancements to the Finkle Street/Sensory Garden pathway along with improved signage at the Thirsk industrial estate. Members agreed that these two projects be progressed. **Action:** Mark to explore the possibility of the TRI logo being included on signage.

It was suggested that actions T4(a) and T4(b) be re-written to clarify the aim and objective which is to map existing training and learning opportunities for young people across Thirsk and the surrounding villages and to identify any gaps in such provision.

**Action:** Peter C. to invite Julie Chandler to the next TRI meeting to provide an overview of the role of the Hambleton & Richmondshire Employment & Skills Partnership and to ensure that TRI has the opportunity to identify local 'critical issues'.

Concerns were expressed over Thirsk Town Council's decision to relocate the decorative archway feature. **Action:** Mark to contact the Town Council asking for clarification as to why the site for the feature has been changed.

Concerns were also expressed over the number, and state of repair, of empty retail premises in and around the market place. It was agreed that the agents managing the sale/ lease of these empty premises be identified and encouraged to maintain the properties. It was suggested that RANY could produce artwork to enhance the frontage of empty shops.

- **The Thirsk Comedy Festival**

Peter W. confirmed that work is ongoing to co-ordinate the week-long comedy festival to be held in July 2009. It is anticipated that in years 3, 4 & 5 the festival will run for 2 weeks.

**Action:** Peter W. to provide an update on further progress at the next meeting.

**7. TRI Sub Group Updates:**

- **Tourism Group**

Nothing to report – the next meeting of the Group is to be held on Wednesday 21st January at 2pm.

- **Thirsk Safe Group**

Peter provided an update on the Safe Group meeting held on Wednesday 3rd December. Items under discussion included developments at Thirsk Clock, the process by which speed monitoring equipment can be made available to Parish Councils and feedback from the 'Not in my Neighbourhood' community consultation event held at the East Thirsk Community Hall. The next meeting of the Group is to be held on Wednesday 25th February.

**8. Any Other Business**

It was agreed that publicity is needed for the unveiling of the 20th Blue Plaque at the home of Hannah Packer. **Action:** Peter to add this item to the agenda of the next Tourism Sub Group meeting.

**9. Dates for Future Meetings:**

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

The next TRI meeting will be held at 7pm at the Old Courthouse, Rural Arts North Yorkshire, Thirsk.