

Thirsk Regeneration Initiative

Project suggestions based upon the ideas that have emerged from the public consultation exercise undertaken in September/October 2004.

A Young People

Establish in some formal way, a **'Young Person's Forum'** that is a recognised and constituted body that can debate issues of importance to that sector of the community. It would be used to hear from and communicate with young people. It would be the organisation of choice through which to go to engage with young people. It will require links between schools, youth service workers, The Clock (Connexions) and TRI. They will need guidance and mentoring and people who understand young people's issues. It could start to build bridges between the different youth factions – a Third Way.

Useful contacts and links to good practice:

The National Youth Agency

Eastgate House
19 – 23 Humberstone Road
Leicester
LE5 3GJ

0116 242 7350

nya@nya.org.uk

British Youth Council

BYC,
The Mezzanine 2,
2nd Floor, Downstream Building,
1 London Bridge,
London SE1 9BG

0845 458 1489

mail@byc.org.uk

Bristol Young People's Forum

Unit 13,
The Coach House,
2 Upper York St.,
Bristol BS2 8QN

New Deal for Communities (NDC) Achievement Awards Greets Green (Sandwell) Youth Forum, West Bromwich NDC

The forum provides a voice for young people aged 11 - 22 across the cultural spectrum and is starting to have an impact, changing the attitudes of its members. An active programme of team building, public speaking, marketing,

action planning and recruitment enables young people to deliver their own activities.

B Parishes and Rural Hinterland

Seek a mechanism that will bring parish together collectively and then link them to Thirsk. A good approach is being taken forward in North Devon based upon addressing social inclusion issues that is also a concern and action for TRI.

North Devon District Council

<http://www.northdevon.gov.uk/community/social/support.shtml>

Community Action Plans

The Local Government Act 2000 required local authorities to compile a Community Strategy for North Devon. As part of the process local alliances are being developed across North Devon. These have emerged initially out of the Market and Coastal Town Initiative, which has identified South Molton and Ilfracombe as areas of potential regeneration.

Through extensive parish visits the identification of Community Action Plans has emerged. These plans will project the local vision for the next 10-15 years and will include Health, Transport, Education and Community Safety as themes of improvement.

Extensive consultation over the next twelve months will be taking place with the Alliances driving the process. Alliances will have representation from aspects of the community, which in turn will hopefully provide comprehensive consultation. It is then hoped that a series of Community Action Plans both at parish, ward and town level will be produced, emphasising collective parish and ward working, which in turn will be linked to the overarching strategy.

This provides a significant opportunity to see how Social Inclusion objectives can be promoted at a local level.

The following example has a five year track record and seems to meet some of the rural transport needs in relation to surrounding parishes as well as being a vehicle, literally, that could serve to unite parishes and town.

Dengie VillageLink in Dengie, Essex

The Dengie VillageLink bus service is a four vehicle flexible bus network for the Dengie Peninsula connecting with conventional bus and rail services and linking with health facilities. Since Dengie VillageLink commenced on 25 October 1999 there have been calls for the vehicles size to be increased to accommodate more passengers.

The service has many innovative features including:

- Fully accessible flexibus without the need for wheelchairs users to pre-book.
- Real-time information, with actual arrival times of the next service.

- Flexible bus-routes, allowing for diversion of the core route to pick up passengers on demand.
- Specially trained drivers.
- Facilities for cycles at interchanges.
- Seating, lighting and telephones either in or near the shelters.
- Future plans include the availability of through ticketing with local bus and rail operators including the London Travelcard.

Contact: Donald Chalker, Dengie VillageLink Transport Development Officer, Essex County Council Tel: 01245 437774

C Civic Pride

In other MTI programmes beyond the region, the notion of civic pride has been given effect through town centres offering distinctiveness, identity and a quality environment. Most frequently it is addressed through a partnership with the local authorities and a local 'Civic Pride' group (Focus Group) working alongside environmental organisations and 'In Bloom' groups.

A good example of developing civic pride through a partnership between County Council, District Council, Town Council and MTI is provided by the following:

Warwickshire County Council

Jackie Hart
01926 412134
jackiehart@warwickshire.gov.uk

North Somerset Council, with support from the SWRDA, is developing civic pride projects in Weston-Super-Mare and recognised as a good practice model.

'Weston was identified in 2002 as one of the first four exemplar Civic Pride projects in the region. The Civic Pride initiative promotes partnership and provides financial support for public space improvements as part of a wider regeneration package. It recognises that good design and community inspired investment in public spaces lies at the heart of sustainable development. The exemplar Civic Pride projects are already proving that good design benefits residents, businesses and visitors and acts as a catalyst for economic' regeneration.

www.n-somerset.gov.uk

D The Arts

An Artist's Quarter

I have no direct experience of working to create an 'Artist's Quarter', but have identified the following as an example of good practice that has a number of similarities to Thirsk:

Margate Old Town – Thanet

'Now new life is being breathed into the enclave of streets and alleyways that cluster around the Market Place, the heart of the Old Town and are the focus of a Townscape Heritage Initiative. The aim of the Townscape Heritage Initiative is not only to improve the appearance of this unique corner of Margate. The project strives to bring it back to life as a cultural quarter for a range of creative industries from arts and sculpture to modern media and music workshops.'

Carol J Cox
Leisure, Culture & Tourism
Thanet District Council
PO Box 9
Cecil Street
Margate
Kent
CT9 1XZ
Tel: +44 (0) 1843 577637
Fax: +44 (0) 1843 577757
Email: tourism@thanet.gov.uk

E Community Safety

Project work rests with the Community Safety Partnership

F Tourism

A café style culture

This can be taken forward as part of the approach to an Artist's Quarter as described above.

Rationalising the main Thirsk Festivals

Other MTI towns in the region (Otley for example) are also examining ways in which the town 'festival offer' can be co-ordinated, as is the County Council, who have it as a priority for the coming year. There is sufficient experience, skill and knowledge within Thirsk to take this forward successfully if the various organisations are prepared to work collaboratively. TRI has a role to facilitate this process.

G Physical Infrastructure

- **Long Street**
- **Litter Issues**
- **Alleyways Project**

These can all be linked to a 'civic pride' (C above) project to create a critical mass of work that collectively could enhance considerably the town centre

environment and draw in a number of existing community and civic groups to provide support.

Auction Mart relocation

The best model here is the Skipton Auction Mart project. It is now recognised as a multi use site and it already has plans to upgrade some of the facilities and therefore should be contacted to hear about their experiences and what has worked/not worked.

A significant number of local people attend the venue to see theatrical performances – Northern Broadside's theatre group, and last summer they hosted a very successful food fair, sponsored by NYCC. There is also a strong partnership with Craven College delivering a range of training opportunities.

www.skiptonauctionmart.co.uk

H Communications

You can contrast the effectiveness of a high cost portal developed by external consultants for Malton and Norton (round 1 MTI) with that designed locally for Settle (RMT first year)

www.maltonnorton.com

www.settle.org.uk

TRI has a good track record in using IT solutions and in promoting its use, including Broadband technology. The examples demonstrate that you do not need to adopt a high cost approach to achieve good results. You can also compare these sites with the existing arrangements for Thirsk by seeing what 'Thirsk' generates from your search engine.

There are any number of examples of market town sites, but it is the approach to 'portal' design that is key to success. Having a wide ranging interest group, supported by high quality technical advice, coupled with simple, clear design will go a long way to securing large scale buy-in to a Thirsk portal and ensuring that 'rival' sites are minimised. On-going maintenance is crucial to volume use, effectiveness and success.

There are also some good examples of on-line forums(a) engaging young people. The site for the London Borough of Newham is well used and a good example – Newham Young People Online.

www.youth.newham.org.uk

J Economic Development

Social Enterprise

“Social Enterprises are businesses with primarily social objectives whose surpluses are principally reinvested for that purpose in the business or in the

community, rather than being driven by the need to maximise profit for shareholders and owners.

Social enterprises tackle a wide range of social and environmental issues and operate in all parts of the economy. By using business solutions to achieve public good, the Government believes that social enterprises have a distinct and valuable role to play in helping create a strong, sustainable and socially inclusive economy.”
Small Business Service(SBS)

Developing social enterprise is more about adopting a culture that supports and encourages the formation of this type of business. There are now significant sources of information available if you wish to pursue this option. Business Link offices now have a designated social enterprise adviser. The type of business(s) chosen will reflect local opportunity and need. Some known and diverse examples include:

- Providing a range of business services
- Web design
- Call centre operations
- Wind farms
- Horticulture/garden centres
- Furniture recycling
- General recycling
- Catering
- Farmers markets
- Specialist (collectors) fairs
- Garden maintenance
- Rural crafts – stone walling
- Community transport

The Social Enterprise Unit at SBS is responsible for policy development for social enterprise across government. It does not provide advice to the public on social enterprise operations, grants or business development. For queries of this nature, contact:

[Business Links](#)
[Social Enterprise Coalition](#)

KH650
Social Enterprise Unit
Small Business Service
Department of Trade and Industry
Kingsgate House
66 - 74 Victoria Street
London
SW1E 6SW

Tel: 0845 001 0031

K Transport & Traffic

This section has a very diverse content and will require specific partnership working to address the issues raised.

L Access

There are no specific project ideas here of which I have any experience.

David Potts – January 2005