



Thirsk Regeneration Initiative

**An Action Plan for Thirsk and District– The Next 5 years
2005 – 2010**

Volume 2 – Action Plan Appendices

Prepared for Thirsk Regeneration Initiative

By

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Full listing of prioritised project ideas

Project ideas and status derived from the local consultation exercise undertaken between August and October 2004

THEME: (A) YOUNG PEOPLE

	Ideas emerging from consultations	Public consultation score	Notes/links	Pass to	TRI retain lead
A1	Create training and employment opportunities for high value and trade skills and ensure access (transport, funding) to appropriate training:	12	A10, J4		√
A2	Skatepark: Develop the existing skatepark facility for Thirsk based at Carr's Field and consider options and alternatives	7	E1,		√
A3	Help young people advocate on their own behalf: Integrate young people more into civic and community life through a youth councillor/mentor to ensure their voice is heard	5	A4,	Thirsk Clock	
A4	Involve young people in civic responsibilities: Establish shadowing opportunities and roles for young people	4	A3, A9, C4	Thirsk Clock	
A5	Develop Thirsk Clock: Create more space to allow for greater variety of activities	4		Thirsk Clock	
A6	Develop support system for 2 – 11 age range and associated groups – nursery, out of school clubs etc:	4	J1, Possible social enterprise opportunities	tbd	
A7	Addressing the diverse needs of <u>all</u> young people across the age spectrum in Thirsk and recognising the existence of 'Townies' and 'Scallies':	4	"Note different social groups who dislike each other intensely"	Thirsk Clock	
A8	Support stronger working links between the community and Thirsk School:	2		Thirsk School	
A9	Run this consultation exercise in local schools:	2	A4	Thirsk School	
A10	Attract young graduates back to Thirsk: Track recent graduates in terms of discipline studied, employment entered, location settled	2	A1		√

A11	Investigate establishing a young people's 'homeless' refuge:	2		Rural Housing Enabler (YRCC)	
A12	Town centre shops made more appealing to younger people:	0		Town Centre Management	

THEME: (B) PARISHES & RURAL HINTERLAND

	Ideas emerging from consultations	Public consultation score	Notes/links	Pass to	TRI retain lead
B1	Encourage retail expansion in Thirsk to ensure it is the 'first port of call' for local shoppers:	13	B6,	Town Centre Management	
B2	Undertake improvements to public footpaths in the surrounding countryside and create maps and guides for local walks and cycle paths:	11	TRI focus group work B3, B4,		√
B3	Create better access to Thirsk from surrounding areas ('Green Lanes') and reduce reliance on car transport:	7	TRI focus group work B2, B4, C6		√
B4	Develop a more 'joined-up system of local cycle routes and way markings:	4	TRI focus group work		√
B5	Enable parish planning activity to link with TRI, Thirsk plans and the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP):	3		HDC	
B6	Understand the relevance and importance of Thirsk Market Town: to the surrounding Parishes and settlements:	3	B1,	Town Centre Management	
B7	Build stronger TRI/Parish links and develop networking:	1	K3, TRI focus group work		√

THEME: (C) CIVIC PRIDE/THE ENVIRONMENT

	Ideas emerging from consultations	Public consultation score	Notes/links	Pass to	TRI retain lead
C1	Improve and enhance the 'gateways' into Thirsk: seeking opportunities to work with local 'In Bloom' group with a focus on the 2005 event:	16	Tourism & promotion focus group C3, D3		√
C2	Develop the 'Thirsk Forest': give wide publicity to its activities and develop other work such as gardening clubs (schools), tree planting in town:	9		Woodlands Group	
C3	Enhance 'Town End' and establish an interesting feature: such as a fountain or public art:	9	Tourism & promotion focus group C1,		√
C4	Involve more young people in Civic ideas and developments:	8	A4,	Thirsk Clock	
C5	Ensure there is a role for older people in Thirsk and that their service needs are understood and met, encouragement and support for integration into local activities:	6		Over 50's Forum	
C6	Develop 'specialist' gardens, such as for young people, a sensory garden (Carr's Fields), sponsored gardens:	3	B3,	'In Bloom'	
C7	Rationalisation of local 'road signs':	3		HDC/NYCC	
C8	Enable better and more relevant community planning:	2			
C9	Undertake more street planting to enhance the built environment:	1		HDC	
C10	Develop a role for a 'Town Centre Ranger': that would compliment tourist information, report damage or dangerous items, litter control and to be an on-street facilitator:	0			
	Living over the shop:	-	Not active		

THEME: (D) THE ARTS

	Ideas emerging from consultations	Public consultation score	Notes/links	Pass to	TRI retain lead
D1	Develop an 'Artists Quarter in Thirsk': in the area of the Ritz Cinema and Courtroom Artspace:	8	J11,		√
D2	Develop opportunities for wider cultural activities: a theatre, visiting writers, drama club:	3		tbd	
D3	Develop a public arts programme (Ouseburn/Naburn Fisherman style): coupled with smaller human scale works:	2	C1,		√
D4	Develop closer working with Rural Arts North Yorkshire (RANY) that could support establishing a regular 'Arts Festival' based on the Art Trail and will link into the Thirsk Festival:	2	D5, J7,		√
D5	Support for local artists and craftspeople: a creative arts centre for makers:	1	D4, J7	RANY	
D6	Establish a 'Literature Festival': that builds upon the local literature heritage and attraction:	1	F2, Rationalisation/joining up of 'Festivals'	Thirsk Festival(s)	
D7	Establish a 'book review' club	0			
D8	Develop a 'Docudrama': based upon the Market Towns Initiative and TRI to take out to village halls	0			

THEME: (E) COMMUNITY SAFETY

	Ideas emerging from consultations	Public consultation score	Notes/links	Pass to	TRI retain lead
E1	Use CCTV in Millgate car park to cover the play area and skatepark in Carr's Field: to provide safety and protection for users:	6	A2,	Community Safety Partnership	
E2	Information Point/Enquiry Shop to be developed: helping to address crime/fear of crime issues and anti-social behaviour in the streets that has a negative impact on both residents and visitors:	3		Community Safety Partnership	
	Suggested 20mph restrictions in Topcliffe Road be phased during the day		Contrary to NYCC policy		

THEME: (F) TOURISM

	Ideas emerging from consultations	Public consultation score	Notes/links	Pass to	TRI retain lead
F1	Adopt a café style culture for pavement seating and enhancing alleyways:	12		Thirsk Town Council	
F2	Rationalise main Thirsk Festivals: to share resources and infrastructure:	8	D6,	Thirsk Festival	
F3	Ensure that the retail offer and infrastructure (cafes, hotels, attractions etc) is attractive: to 'invite' tourists to come and spend.	7	G3,	Thirsk Town Council	
F4	Improvements to local signage into town: to Thirsk from A19/A168 – walking and cycleways: (possible traffic management study)	4		Work in progress	
F5	Establish public transport links to NY Moors (Sutton Bank Top) via Moors bus service:	4		tbd	
F6	Develop a 'Town Brand' for Thirsk: to support marketing campaigns and promotions and establish a local, regional, national and international identity:	2		Thirsk Town Council	
F7	Develop 'welcome Host' culture to ensure that Thirsk is welcoming to visitors:	2		HDC	
F8	Undertake a tourism study: to identify why people come/would come and why they stay/do not stay:	0	F1 – F11 Linked here	tbd	√?
F9	Develop the town's museums: and strengthen the 'Herriot' brand and links:	0			
F10	Undertake a study to assess the feasibility of establishing a Town Centre Management position:	0			
F11	Investigate the possibility of creating a hotel facility that will at least accommodate a 'coach full' of tourists: to ensure that local 'half-day' attractions feature in destination management plans and retain tourists in town:	0			

THEME: (G) PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

	Ideas emerging from consultations	Public consultation score	Notes/links	Pass to	TRI retain lead
G1	Long Street enhancement: to address improved 'gateway' to Thirsk, environmental/public safety issues, vehicle weight issues, car parking – restricted views, the York/Scarborough road roundabout: The garage site: magnet for anti-social behaviour, blight, eyesore, poor image of town at gateway site	35		HDC	
G2	Address litter issues through raising public awareness in all sectors:	8		Thirsk Town Council	
G3	Alleyways project – phase 2: continue to undertake improvements to alleyways and also consider advertising/signposting for businesses located in alleyways – need a uniform system of signage ('A' boards are not an option:	6	F3,	Thirsk Town Council	
G4	Auction Mart relocation: follow progress and ensure support as required and maintain an interest in the vacated site and its future development:	5	Work in progress	Auction Mart Co.	
G5	Establish local affordable housing needs and specifically the needs of young people: working with the Hambleton Rural Housing Enabler:	5		Rural Housing Enabler (YRCC)	
G6	Potential new uses for the redundant police station building: Community Resource Centre:	3	J2,		√
G7	Further Market Place enhancement: to include improved shelters for those waiting for buses/taxis	2	TC Study report awaited (+Traffic Study)	Thirsk Town Council	
G8	Development of a large, modern public venue, seating 300+: for local productions, Thirsk Festival use, conferences etc	0			
	Shop facades in Market Place - Thirsk		Not active		
	Thirsk Castle area enhancement		Not active		

THEME: (H) COMMUNICATIONS

	Ideas emerging from consultations	Public consultation score	Notes/links	Pass to	TRI retain lead
H1	Develop a local 'user friendly' web site for Thirsk and District: to include the parishes: Note: a site already exists at (http://www.thirskonline.co.uk/)	5	H3,		√
H2	Making links with and understanding the needs of local people with a range of disabilities:	3		CCA	
H3	Investigate ways in which local activities and initiatives can be linked up and widely publicised: through a local forum meeting, a local newsheet/newsletter, a local web site, where possible using existing partnerships:	2	H1,		√
H4	Develop local use of Broadband technology:	2	J6,	Business Association	
H5	TRI to develop and maintain better communication links with the general public:	1			√

THEME: (J) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

	Ideas emerging from consultations	Public consultation score	Notes/links	Pass to	TRI retain lead
J1	Support and promote the creation of social enterprises and ideas:	7	A6,		√
J2	Re-use of former police station as artists studio space: Artist's Quarter links – working with RANY on skills development ideas such as web design, graphics design, skills training for new small businesses, enterprise and self-employment:	4	G6,		√
J3	Address the needs of the farming community; diversification:	4		BLINK	
J4	Assess the need to provide training and higher value wage job, especially for young people: and make links with local employers to assess skills gaps:	3	A1,		√
J5	Extend the developable area on Dalton Industrial Estate to provide world class employment opportunities:	2		HDC	
J6	Support and develop wider use and take up of Broadband technology in local businesses: development of net-based businesses, address the needs for a rural Broadband service:	2	H4,	Business Association	
J7	Develop a 'craft centre' with small unit space for makers: and include display space, shared services etc:	2	D4, D5,	RANY	
J8	Investigate the need for greater allocation of employment land in/near Thirsk: suitable for significant job creation:	2	Noted as long term prospect		
J9	Conference Centre: development of a facility close to A19 – possibly incorporated with new Auction Mart:	1	11 negative votes registered	HDC	
J10	Generally exploiting the excellent transport links for Thirsk in relation to A19/A1 corridor:	1	YF SRIP sub theme	HDC	
J11	Creating and developing an 'Artist's Quarter' by the Ritz Cinema:	1	D1,		√
J12	Supporting a more comprehensive provision of catering/shopping for visitors: including early evening catering offers:	1	Town Centre Management	Thirsk Town Council	

THEME: (K) TRANSPORT & TRAFFIC

	Ideas emerging from consultations	Public consultation score	Notes/links	Pass to	TRI retain lead
K1	<p>Thirsk Train Station:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More frequent trains to local towns/cities • Better connections to London trains and also northwards • Better information/access to waiting room • Regular, subsidised bus service from town/estates to station including Sunday service • Better/safer access across lines for elderly people and children (steps too steep/dangerous) • An improved location map showing directions into town centre • Overall consideration of the needs of disabled people • Poor levels of manning • Provision of public telephone 	<p>(26)</p> <p>8</p> <p>4</p> <p>3</p> <p>7</p> <p>2</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p>	<p>Network Rail + Train operators</p>		
K2	<p>Traffic Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction of volume of traffic (heavy goods) in town centre/Market Place and place speed restrictions (20mph) • Need for additional controlled pedestrian crossing points • Traffic to and from big school (Thirsk School) needs to be slowed down (20mph) – with traffic lights 	<p>(12)</p> <p>11</p> <p>1</p>	<p>Traffic Study awaited</p>	<p>NYCC</p>	

K3	Bus Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low floor buses needed for Thirsk and Sowerby • Service bus for Thirsk Market Place goes into Norby Estate but does not enter that part where the majority of elderly people live (restricted turning issues) • Better waiting/shelter facilities needed in the Market Place • Better organisation for bus/taxi waiting in Market Place • Parish Councils should work more closely with existing community transport schemes to identify resident's needs 	(6) 2 4	B7,		
K4	Build a new road from Carlton Miniott (close to the Red House) to the Topcliffe Road: Build a slip road on the A168/Topcliffe Road junction to take traffic north – A19/A170	7	1 negative vote		
K5	Investigate provision of Community Transport/mini-bus sharing:	1		CCA	
K6	Footpath along Topcliffe Road is divided for cyclists and pedestrians: creating too narrow segments and danger for users: confusion for young people regarding the position of riding cycles on footpaths:	0	2 negative votes		
K7	Undertake survey to establish local/area transport needs of young people:	0			

THEME: (L) ACCESS

	Ideas emerging from consultations	Public consultation score	Notes/links	Pass to	TRI retain lead
L1	Yorkshire stone paving in Market Place difficult for wheelchair users: better crossing point where Finkle Street enters Market Place:	4			
L2	Footpath access across castle Garth not possible by wheelchair: needs wider kissing gate:	1	Work in progress		
L3	Undertake an audit of local shops, hotels, cafes and places of public access to assess position: also the position in relation to access bus provision:	0			

Small projects fund

The fund supported the following small projects:

- The Ritz Cinema – Young Film Makers
- Thirsk Community Forest
- Mental Health Support – Drop in Centre
- Thirsk Broadband
- Promotional Leaflets
- Herriot Attractions Group
- Mental Health Support – Stepping Stones Centre
- Knayton Village Hub
- Woodland Community Group
- Holy Rood House Youth Worker
- Holy Rood House Outbuildings
- Holy Rood House Training
- CCA promotional Materiel
- Ritz Young Film Makers Festival 2
- Thornton Le Street Car Park
- AMT Launch – Thirsk
- Thirsk School
- Flood Lighting – St Mary’s Church
- Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall Induction Loop
- Christmas Lights for Thirsk
- Thirsk Clock – Promotion and Improvements to Shop Front
- Thirsk & District Ideal Home & Garden Exhibition
- Thirsk Alleyways Enhancement Scheme (Phase 1)
- Hillside LDEP Steering Group Admin Assistance
- North Yorkshire County Scout Council – IT Equipment
- Herriot Attractions Group & Newby Hall Marketing Campaign
- Thirlby Village Field – Children’s Playground
- North Kilvington Village Hall
- Thirsk Clock – Resource Room
- Vale of Mowbray Girl Guides
- Alanbrooke Out of School Club
- Stepping Stones Computer Training
- Thirsk Christmas Event – Feasibility Study

Some 33 small projects were supported during the three years of the MTI programme with grants totalling £30,000. Individual grants ranged from £180 up to a maximum of £1,000.

Focus Groups

During the lifetime of the MTI programme the following Focus Groups were operational and contributed to project design, development and delivery:

- The Town Centre Focus Group
- Business, Employment and Training Focus Group
- Hinterland Issues Focus Group
- Tourism, Culture, Heritage and Environment Focus Group
- Traffic, Transport and Accessibility Focus Group
- Youth, Community and Leisure Focus Group

Additionally

A Succession Strategy Working Group was established in the summer of 2004 to look at ways of continuing the work of the Thirsk Regeneration Initiative beyond the end of the MTI programme.

Documentation References

The following documentation and reports were studied as part of the process of producing the information within this plan:

- *Rural Strategy 2004*. Defra
- *Regional Economic Strategy for Yorkshire and Humber, Ten Year Strategy for Yorkshire & Humber 2003 – 2012 and The Regional Economic Strategy, Progress Report January 2004*. Yorkshire Forward & Yorkshire & Humber Assembly
- *Investment Plan for York & North Yorkshire 2004 – 2009*. Yorkshire Forward
- *Building the New Rural Economy in North Yorkshire: the development of an Action Plan (draft)*. (2004) North Yorkshire County Council
- *Market Towns Initiative: An Action Plan for Thirsk – ‘Think Thirsk First’ (2002)* Scott Wilson
- *Thirsk Market Town Initiative Healthcheck (2002)* Scott Wilson
- *Community Plan for Hambleton*. Hambleton Strategic Partnership
- *Economic Development Study (draft) for Hambleton District Council (2004)* by Nathaniel Lichfield and Partners
- *Town Centre Study (draft) for Hambleton District Council (2004)* by Nathaniel Lichfield and Partners
- *Market Towns Initiative and Renaissance Market Towns Programme – Scrutiny Enquiry 5 (2004)* Yorkshire and Humber Assembly
- *Yorkshire and Humber Market Towns Initiative – Round 1 Assessment (2004)* for Yorkshire Forward and The Countryside Agency by Genecon (formerly Amion) and David Potts Associates
- *Thirsk Villages Project (2004)* Yorkshire Rural Community Council
- *Housing Needs Survey (draft) (2004)* Hambleton District Council

Consultations

Individual consultations were held with:

Derek Gardner	Thirsk Rotarians & TRI Committee
Linda Gibbon	Thirsk Clock & TRI Committee
Stephen Hubbard	Retailer and TRI Committee
Cllr Jan Marshall	NYCC and TRI Committee
Gill Middleton	CCA and TRI Committee
John Potter	Ritz Cinema and TRI Committee
Cllr Freda Roberts	Thirsk Town Council and TRI Committee
Lindsay Ross	Severfield-Reeve Projects and TRI Committee
Revd Richard Rowling	Thirsk Team Ministry and TRI Committee
Paul Brand	Yorkshire Rural Community Council
Bev Southwell	Resident and TRI Committee
Mick Jewitt	Hambleton District Council
Sam Swinbank	Hambleton District Council
Geoff Herbert	Hambleton District Council
Steph Hiscott	Countryside Agency
Helen Bush	Yorkshire Forward
David Porter	Yorkshire Forward
Mark Haynes	MTI Manager TRI
Elaine Coulson	Thirsk Town Clerk
Abigail Homer McGhie	Thirsk Clock
Insp Val Broadley	North Yorkshire Police
Carol Renahan	NYCC (EDU)
Sue Smith	NYCC (Extended Schools Officer)
Kathryn Chapman	Rural Business Networking
Rob Littlefair	Rural Business Networking
Phillip Beveridge	Business in the Community
Don Moore	Thirsk & District Business Association
Sue Dalton	Herriot Museum
Ellen Storm	Over 50's Forum
Alan Hickman	Community Education (sports)
Pat Chandler	Hearing Impaired Group
Jim Lawton	'Stepping Stones' Mental Health Group
Fiona Coleman	Rural Housing Enabler
Daniel Gregg/Vicky Cuthbertson	Nathaniel Lichfield & Partners
Jane Redfern	Rural Arts North Yorkshire
Graham Purdy	Hambleton and Richmondshire PCT
Dr Phil Kirby	Hambleton and Richmondshire PCT

Additionally small group consultations were held with:

TRI Management Committee
 TRI Annual General Meeting – public forum
 Young people from Thirsk Clock
 Thirsk and District Business Association
 Hinterland group (Dalton) as part of the Thirsk Villages Project.

Three open public consultation events were staged in Thirsk Town Centre during September and October 2004.

Hinterland Map

Reproduced from:

Market Towns Initiative

An Action Plan for Thirsk

'Think Thirsk First'

May 2002

(By kind permission of Scott Wilson)

The Hinterland has been defined by application of the Thirsk Community Investment Prospectus Parishes as defined by North Yorkshire County Council.