

HOWDENSHERE FORWARD

Notes of meeting of the partnership held on 1 June 2006 at 7 pm in the board room of the LOIDB, Bridgegate, Howden.

Present:

John Pole (Chair), Christine Burton, Liz Charnock, Jane Crossley, Theresa Fearnley, Liz Jordan, Frances O'Riley, Mark Preston, Ros Taylor, Mark Titcombe, Christine Ware

Apologies:

Mark Birtles, Kevin Crean, Daphne D'Ark, Cora Heptonstall, Helen Holloway, Ingrid Ridley, Anne Shaw, Roger Watkins

1. East Riding Business Network

Mark Titcombe and two colleagues attended the meeting to discuss how they had set up the East Riding Business Network. A group of Driffield businesspeople had initiated the scheme, inviting colleagues from neighbouring villages, with the purpose of networking and learning from shared experience. This proved successful and they subsequently joined up with a similar group in Beverley to form the ERBN. The network is very active and monthly meetings are well attended; members pay £50 a year membership, but its success relies on the energy and commitment of a core group. It was noted that retailers were less well represented than other businesses; most members are individuals with small businesses.

It was agreed that the proposed theme group focusing on local business and tourism should be encouraged to follow the example of the ERBN and it would be necessary to identify key individuals to take it forward. Mark's offer of help was much appreciated.

2. Formal partnership agreement

A summary of the proposed partnership agreement was circulated. This was to be a model agreement which ERYC hoped would be adopted by all the RMT groups in the county. It was noted that Yorkshire Forward had not yet agreed the final wording, but once agreement was reached they would approve the funding for the support officers. It was agreed that this should be discussed further at the end of the next workshop on 15 June.

3. Partnership structure

There was discussion about possible theme groups and working groups. It was recognised that it was important that the partnership should make a positive contribution to the Local Development Framework debate, and that clarification was needed about consultation timescales. Jane offered to arrange for a meeting with planners to discuss this, probably in a joint meeting with Snaith and Goole.

It was agreed that further discussion was needed about representation on the theme/project groups and on the steering group to ensure that the views of 'ordinary' members of the public, ie those with no particular organisational affiliation, were not excluded.

An explanatory leaflet about Howdenshire Forward and the RMT programme had been prepared by Zoe in Jane's office and this was circulated. It was agreed that this should be distributed as widely as possible and the means of best doing this further explored, for example by possible inclusion in East Riding News or by hand delivery alongside the town council's newsletter. Members were invited to bring comments on it to the next meeting.

4. Outcome of RMT Workshop held on 25 April

Anne Shaw's notes of the workshop had been previously circulated and it was agreed that it had been a very worthwhile exercise. It was agreed that the next workshop on 15 June should focus on further developing the project priorities, and how to take these forward and engage with the wider community.

5. RMT Town Teams Event at Yorkshire Show 11 July

It was agreed that Liz Charnock and Ingrid Ridley should attend on behalf of the partnership.

6. Next meeting

To be arranged.