

## **MARSDEN AND SLAITHWAITE RENAISSANCE**

### **STEERING GROUP MEETING**

**10<sup>th</sup> July 2008**

**In attendance:** Michael Blake (Chair)  
Camilla Govan  
Graham Mitchell  
Jean Margetts  
Tom Lonsdale (TL)  
Chris Woolnough  
Lisa Mew  
Jenny Stein  
Chris Herring  
Heather Croft  
Jaki Howes  
John Griffiths (KMC)  
Maggie Mellor (KMC)

**Apologies:** Steve Smith  
Steph Hiscott (YF)

#### **1. Welcome and introductions**

MB opened the meeting and noted apologies. The group welcomed Jenny to the meeting and everyone introduced themselves.

#### **2. Matters arising from meeting Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2008**

- Rural Target Fund (4) – Discussion re priorities within the 'long list' discussed last meeting. Settled on
  1. Ned Lane Triangle – JS to speak to householders in adjacent cottages; MM to speak to John Fletcher (Culture & Leisure) to get history/plans/costs/ability to do
  2. Slaithwaite Station approach – MM to speak to Rowena Chantler at Rail Partnership and Area Committee to check history/plans etc. Some of this could be picked up through Town Centre Enhancement plans?
  3. A62 fences – MM to investigate potential and costs with Highways and Transportation. Check position re the installation of Gateway signs with River Colne Project
- MM met with Highways re village centres. Further meeting to be arranged with Regeneration Directorate and Design and Property Services to discuss brief and way forward. Further meeting to then be arranged with TL, MB and SH from YF. Suggested dates 29<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> July
- Broadband (5) GM has set up website colnevalleyfibre.net and is actively seeking project steering group members with a view to getting a group together end July/early August. There could be potential funding for feasibility work through Leader and it is possible that the Community Broadband Network could access funds to help GM with development costs. To try and meet with KMC towards end July. JMG also outlined discussions he had

been involved with internally with InTech colleagues about getting better than BT offer broadband services to future business unit development utilising the Council network, Feasibility work is being commissioned. GM to meet with KMC.

### 3. **Mbed Support; 12 month Co-ordinator Plan**

LM has now agreed how she is able to meet the demands of the 12 month plan and her allocation of hours will now support the activities identified in the 12 month plan. Thanks to YF, Cida and LM for clarifying the position

**Agreed: Noted**

### 4. **Housing Strategy and Action Plan**

A number of interesting developments on this topic

- Connect Housing Association – Public Consultation **on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2008 2pm to 8pm United Church Marsden**, regarding potential development of low cost housing in Marsden specifically for older people (a priority group identified in the strategy) There will be an opportunity to discuss other Housing related issues. Refreshments and children's activities also available. Post cards are being distributed widely in the village but all asked to make friends and family aware.
- TL (in role of CAGE advisor) has also spoken with Connect at their request in relation to site and dwelling design. TL likely to do some design review work and so will step back from any RMT involvement in reviewing a response to the Planning Application. The Planning Application will involve an application for a change of use (this site is described as an Exception Site – that is, can only be developed if there is considerable community benefit – generally this means affordable housing) as the current Unitary Development Plan (Legal document that categorises land uses) designates this land as Urban Greenspace formerly used as allotments . Steering Group will use small working group to look at plans, review and respond to Planning Application accordingly.
- Empire Works site. The Planning Application is not proceeding at the moment and those who have made personal representations in response to the application have been informed. Led to wider discussion about Planning processes and how they can help/hinder the regeneration activity in the Valley. Group want to have a debate with senior Planning Services officers to raise concerns
- Housing Action Plan – A further workshop day, facilitated by Julie Kennedy/Andrew Petrie, had enabled a wide group of officers and Housing Ambassadors to meet and review the draft Action Plan and determine levels of relative spend on identified activities, relative priorities, timescales and lead organisations. The document is now an excellent guide to the investment in Housing actions in the Valley. It was agreed that a project steering group might be difficult to sustain and that Governance and scrutiny of the Action Plan would come through the established routes of the Area Committee and the RMT Steering Group. Hope was expressed that a Champion would soon be found to concentrate on this project delivery. CG expressed thanks to those KMC officers and others involved in progressing this work

**Agreed: JMG to raise concerns with Jonathan Barrett, Head of Planning Services and/or Andy Rushby, Asst Head. MB to write and request meeting.**

#### **5. Leader**

- Draft Delivery Plan – circulated for comment; should be finalised after meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2008 meeting with YF. Still time to add further comments
- South Pennine Local Action Group – Discussion about importance of representation on this group

**Agreed: HC to nominate herself for place on the Local Action Group. MM to send nomination documents**

#### **6. Arts and Culture Project**

Community consultation event on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July at the Community Centre, Slaithwaite. About 30 people signed up to attend. The day will include a presentation about co-operatives. HC has organised with support from JM. Expenses will include Room Hire and Crèche though food was subsidised by the Croft family

**Agreed: All to note. HC thanked for organising the event.**

#### **7. Future Operating Funds**

CW raised the issue of the need for operating funds for expenses/room hire/newsletters etc once the YF £3k had run out. It was noted that the group had been spending at a modest rate meaning that the matter did need addressing but was not 'critical' for the moment. An application to the Area Committee was considered a good suggestion.

**Agreed: All to consider further possible funding sources**

#### **8. St James Church/Community Centre**

This is but one example of community assets that are falling into disrepair and are demanding many hours of volunteer time and resources to keep them open as community facilities. Some, like the Community Centre, provide valuable services to the community (Playgroup/After school club) and all seem to experience difficulty recruiting new committee members etc. Needs to be an audit of community spaces including condition and 'strength' check to help ensure adequate and suitable meeting spaces are available to the community

**Agreed: To invite Keith Melbourne (Community Worker) to the next meeting (September 08) to discuss the issues and potential for solutions**

#### **9. Forward Meeting Plan**

Dates for remainder of 2008 and for 2009 now added to end of minutes for regular inclusion.

**Agreed: August – no meeting planned. Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> August held in reserve in case meeting for those who can attend is found necessary. Otherwise, small groups will meet as necessary**

#### **10. Statement of Expenditure**

Circulated – no comments

**11. AOB - Newsletter**

JH circulated a demo newsletter for comment. All were pleased with the design and idea. JH asked for comments and for short items (100 words) about priority projects/developments/items of interest and photos of Steering Group members asap. Discussion about print run and circulation

**Future meeting dates**

**DATES FOR 2008**

Following the pattern of second Thursday of the month, **at 7.00pm**

**11<sup>th</sup> September**

9<sup>th</sup> October

13<sup>th</sup> November

11<sup>th</sup> December

**DATES FOR 2009**

Following the pattern of second Thursday of the month

8<sup>th</sup> January

12<sup>th</sup> February

12<sup>th</sup> March

9<sup>th</sup> April

14<sup>th</sup> May

11<sup>th</sup> June

9<sup>th</sup> July

10<sup>th</sup> September

8<sup>th</sup> October

12<sup>th</sup> November

10<sup>th</sup> December