

Bishopthorpe Millennium Trust

Results of the Ideas Day held on 28th September 2002

Some forty local people gathered together at St Andrew's Church Hall to plan the ways to use Trust funds for the village of Bishopthorpe. John Bettridge, Chair of the Trust launched the proceedings by identifying the work the Trust has carried out to date, and the other major developments taking place in the village. He said that the day was intended to let people develop ideas for new projects, and engage them in taking the next steps. He then introduced fellow trustee Martin Dudley who had prepared the rest of the session.

He explained that today's workshop was part of a longer process that would lead to bids being submitted to the Trust from groups of interested people. Because time was short, we would spend it playing a 'game' that allowed us to start with a blank sheet and develop our ideas.

The audience then discussed

- (S)The strengths of the village
- (W)Its weaknesses
- (O)Opportunities that might arise
- (T)Threats to the village

The results are shown overleaf.

Martin then divided everyone into five groups that were now given a set of cards showing the sort of projects that might be used to benefit the community. Each project card indicated its cost to run. Each group was first asked to indicate on a sheet the relative stability of the local community, environment and economy; then, in the light of the SWOT, asked to select the projects that would benefit the village. These were then placed on a planning sheet to show their relative priority and urgency. Finally, groups marked the sheets to show how their chosen projects would affect the village.

After a break, during which Trust members and helpers Malcolm Bricklebank, Ian Hodson and Nigel Pendleton analysed the selected projects, the audience was asked to consider five high priority schemes comprising a number of related projects, and begin the process of identifying resources and people that would be involved.

The Trust Objectives

To use village Millennium funds (and any other additional funds that can be raised) for general charitable purposes for the inhabitants of Bishopthorpe, particularly but not exclusively for the benefit of the young people of Bishopthorpe.

The Trust is composed of eight local people, and meets monthly to consider village needs. It's funding comes from the Millennium events, and from the more recent Jubilee weekend. So far it has installed village boundary signs (with Ward joint funding), researched the provision of community venues, established the Youth Award scheme, and helped four village activities. The Trust is a registered charity that can raise funds on behalf of village

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Plans take shape...



SWOT Results

Strengths:

- Caring, friendly community spirit
- Good facilities- schools, sports, shops and services
- Village and rural feel with mix of people
- Good communications
- Safe
- Supportive community groups
- Palace and river as assets

Weaknesses

- Lack of young people's facilities
- Traffic
- Fragmented sports facilities
- Poor inter-generational links
- Unattractive areas- riverside, around old school/library
- Unattractive buildings
- People don't get involved
- No café and toilets
- Poor bus information and shelter provision
- Little low-income housing

Opportunities

- Land use: junior school, church land, other public land
- Re-cycling initiatives
- Lottery and Ward funding

Threats

- Building development on green belt
- Increased car ownership
- Floods
- Increased village size, urbanisation and vandalism

Next Steps

The Ideas Day was judged a success, but it is only the start...



If you want to get involved with the people and projects highlighted in blue below, contact the Trust on 01904 701078.

The Trust will be holding an open planning day at 7.30 on 6th November at the junior school.

Bids for funding should be considered before Christmas.

Priorities for action

People working in groups had to select those projects from the cards that fitted best to the picture they had painted of village life. They were also able to suggest their own ideas for action.

These fell into five main groups and the audience was asked to start the planning process by looking at the objectives, asking what resources and actions might be needed, and forming a small team to start the process. These were as follows:

Community Facilities

Developing a focal point for the village around the Pinfold area: with seating, a village history board and other amenities.

Bishophorpe Lottery

Establish a Trust lottery scheme to raise funds for selected projects: take on existing lottery from Golden Jubilee group.

Bishophorpe Environment Improvements

Keeping the village attractive and encouraging environmental enhancement: identify eyesore sites as first step, consider village in bloom and tree planting.

Youth into the Community

Accommodate and empower young people in the village: map provision, involve young people in planning, and consider networking opportunities and links to agencies.

Better Information

Set up improved web site and develop welcome packs for newcomers: research into best practice.