

Barnard Castle VISION

MEETING: Barnard Castle Vision Day

DATE: 30th November 2007

VENUE: The Bowes Museum, Barnard Castle

TIME: 9.30am

PRESENT:

Deborah Jenkins	-	Chair, Barnard Castle Vision
Dr Anne Allen	-	Assistant to Barnard Castle Vision
Sue Berresford	-	Regeneration Manager, Teesdale District Council
Pat Graham	-	Strategic Planning Manager, Teesdale District Council
Andrew Walker	-	Strategic Projects Team, Durham County Council
Kirsten Francis	-	Market Towns & Services Specialist Advisor - One NorthEast
Shaun Stuart	-	The Enterprise Agency for Wear Valley & Teesdale
Nick Swales	-	UBS Wealth Management (UK)
Esther Salamon	-	Chair, A-N and Waygood
Mary Greenwood	-	Director, GreenWood Housing
Martin Roberts	-	Historic Buildings Inspector, English Heritage
Dr Rob Young	-	NE Historic Env. Archaeology Adviser, English Heritage
Ivor Stolliday	-	Chair, GreenWood Housing, ex CEO Dartington Hall Trust
Simon Owens	-	Chair, Teesdale Local Strategic Partnership
Sue Kennedy	-	Independent Leadership Consultant
Tim Bailey	-	Principal Architect, XSite Architecture
Ruth Robson	-	Marketing & Development Manager, Bowes Museum
Gill Branch	-	Administrator, Barnard Castle Vision

PRESENT (AFTER LUNCH):

Charlotte Stowe	-	Marketing Advisor, Barnard Castle Vision
Trevor Watson	-	Director of Regeneration, Teesdale District Council

APOLOGIES:

Adrian Jenkins	-	Director, Bowes Museum
David Farrington	-	Historic Areas Advisor, English Heritage
Lionel Joyce	-	Area Chair, Legal Services Commission

Deborah welcomed guests to the event and introductions were made.

Introductions were followed by DJ's presentation of the Barnard Castle Vision – 'Where we are now.'

Guests were then taken on a coach tour of several of the Vision's proposed development sites which included:-

- The Bowes Museum greenhouses/grounds
- Richardson Hospital site
- Stainton Grove
- Shaw Bank
- Auction Mart
- Woodleigh/Scar Top/Castle approach
- Startforth Park
- Hole in the Wall
- Newgate garage site

returning to The Bowes Museum for lunch.

Lunch was followed by a presentation on progress to date, including concept visuals for the Vision Information Point, by Anne.

This was followed by a feedback and discussion session – a brief outline of which is set out below:

Issue	Comments
Heritage	Should be a theme in its own right
River	Should be considered for inclusion – either green riverbank or more urban theme. Ref Durham City's Necklace Park development – conduit for country walks
Lighting strategy	Opportunities to change ambience / use of spaces through light and dark
'Invisible' Castle	Need to improve the visibility of one of the town's major assets. Look at improving access – potentially from Market Place?
Consultation (Participation) – Young People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Theme needed ▪ VIP – consultation opportunity ▪ Contact every child in Teesdale (through schools, groups etc) for their views, in an interactive way, not referring to it as 'consultation'. ▪ Presentations to schools ▪ Consultation must not be too specific – look at what can be taken away to make things possible.
Place Shaping / Empty Space Strategy	<p>Need to look at, question and encourage use of empty spaces (land, buildings or rooms etc) within the town or may lose connections to the centre of town for visitors. This should continually improve the vitality of the town centre.</p> <p>Plus look at connecting places – use of ginnels. (Open Spaces Audit already underway in Barnard Castle.)</p>

Issues	Comments
Inclusion Agenda	<p>Race, gender, wealth/non-wealth – could link into inclusion funding opportunities. Look at minorities in Teesdale – rural residents – lack of accessibility, isolation and services.</p> <p>Live-work opportunities, relocation of units from Stainton Grove eg Spice House</p>
Hotels	Lack of hotels in Barnard Castle – very limited conference facilities available.
Business Friendly	Lack of role for private sector, dominated by public sector. Could be perceived as having an anti business cast.
'Making things'	Tie in with manual skills. Could link all Vision themes in a balanced way.
Live here, work here	Creation of 'live/work' units – development of town centre sites (hole in the wall?) as mixed use sites. 40% home workers.
Artisan Wall	Using boundary wall of Hole in the Wall car park to showcase what's on offer in artisan part of town and to attract visitors to it.
Website	Include basic maps – O.S. maps indicating footpaths, rights of way, open spaces etc.
Connectivity	New technology evolving – hand held internet facilities in the future.
Linkage	Look at how people link in with the geography of the area – how they get into town and once in, how they get around?

Guests then divided into two groups to discuss the following issues:

Community Engagement	<p>PARTICIPATION not CONSULTATION</p> <p>Work heavily with all existing networks - TCR, YMCA, Schools, UTASS to contact and discuss project ideas with individuals. Aim to include as many people as possible in workshops Ideas exchanges - events that physically take people out of their environment and to a site or area for discussion. Share new perspectives e.g. get a cross section of school groups together to look at the Greenhouse site</p> <p>COOL BARNEY Create 'cool' projects</p>
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**Community
Engagement (cont'd)**
EXEMPLAR EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

Research other projects that do well what we aim to do and work with them, create workshops where they can share their knowledge and be asked to input ideas.

Develop exchange links so we can visit them and experience their activities

PRIVATE SECTOR INVOLVEMENT - COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Private Sector friendliness

We have an active Tourism team, but little inward investment activity. Inward investment needs a serious sales campaign with commercially minded people of the right level involved.

Propose making it a theme rather than a perspective on the website and developing a strategy

Create a profile to sell Teesdale schools, golf, spa, leisure, location etc.

POPULATION STRATEGY

Might it be the case that the critical mass of the population of Barney is too small and we ought to put in place a population growth strategy. A population of 12,000 people in Barnard Castle rather than the current population would make a substantial difference to the economy.

Research vibrant market towns and understand numbers of people / profile to support and sustain a rural town centre.

The current planning development strategy includes scope for just 78 new houses per year in Teesdale to 2021.

A bigger view on a population strategy might see a really ambitious development plan for a large scale level 5 (i.e. highest rating) affordable sustainable housing development on which young people could be encouraged to train and work to build, a large scale housing development aimed at senior executives designed with elegance and affluence in mind.

The riverside development linking to the 'cool' concept aimed at attracting knowledge based, IT and media companies but a development with an old world feel - traditional houses modern.

Places & Spaces

Make more of alleyways/vennels

Establish a concordat between English Heritage and Barnard Castle Vision to maximise use of the Castle as an asset to the town

Explore possibility of archaeological museum within the Castle grounds (county collection at The Bowes Museum is being removed – there is no large archaeological museum/finds repository in the County)

Opportunities to promote Castle during National Archaeology Week

Capacity Building grants available through English Heritage

Butter market – issue of access and lighting

Need for agent for Barnard Castle / Teesdale artists and craftspeople to get products to market

Need for travel agent to work with English Heritage, other attractions and accommodation providers to bring tourists in to Teesdale

Organise Vision design open day/competition for architects and developers

Vote on priorities – car parking and Scar Top/Woodleigh including Castle and walks

The Bowes Museum Craft College could be virtual initially

Deborah extended her thanks to Ruth Robson for the magnificent venue, lunch and refreshments and to all guests for their contribution.

