



Vale Vision News

Issue: 1
January 2006

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Dates for Your Diary

Monday 9 January	7.00 pm
Sports Partnership meeting	
Thursday 12 January	10.00 am
Town Centre Meeting	
Thursday 12 January	7.00 pm
Friday 13 January	2.00 pm
Multi-use meeting	
Monday 16 January	7.00 pm
Meeting of new Board	
Wednesday 18 January	10.00 am
Littlecombe Liason Meeting	
Fri 20 January – Sat 21 January	
MCTi conference	
Tuesday 31 January	10.30 am
Tourism meeting	

Big change for Vale Vision

At the end of December Vale Vision became a company limited by guarantee. Its formal name is now Vale Vision Development Trust Ltd. This change in status, agreed after consultation with partner organisations and members, will enable Vale Vision to raise the funds necessary to implement the projects in the Community Strategic Plan,

The company Board will have representation from many local groups and organisations, with a standing invitation to attend to the District and County Councils, Gloucester Market Towns Forum, the South West of England Regional Development Agency (SWRDA), Stroud District Market Towns partnership and The Market and Coastal Towns Association.

If you are interested in joining Vale Vision Development Trust, either as a representative of a local group or as an individual with specific interests, please call at the Vale Vision shop, or see Contact Details.

We are looking for individuals who have an interest in working on some of the projects in the plan or generally day to day running of Vale Vision. If interested please contact us for an informal chat.

The Way Forward

Exciting times are ahead for Vale Vision. With the help of local people we have written the Community Plan and now is the time to make things happen to realise some of the projects in the plan and to have a say in the development of Dursley and the surrounding district. Funding is available but it will not just happen – we need local people to work on the projects in the plan, to write funding bids and seek funding for individual projects.

From Town Centre Design to Sport, from employment to skills development, from leisure to the environment, for all of these areas there are projects in the plan. You can help to make things happen for your children and grandchildren. All it takes is the determination and a small amount of your time.

Exciting Times

In late January Vale Vision Development Trust will move into shop premises in Long Street. Not only will this provide a centre for the company to work, it will provide a place where local people can find out what is happening in their area. It will provide a 'shop window' where information on project development, local information, Littlecombe development and opportunities for local people can be displayed.

Much more than this the shop will provide an opportunity for more community involvement. For those that do get involved, it will provide work experience and training, an opportunity for those who are seeking work to develop skills and confidence. We thank the Gloucestershire Community Trust for making this possible by paying the First Year's premises costs. We are seeking further funding for equipment and running costs.

There is a great deal to be done before the shop is open for business, in late February. We are looking to set up a rota for shop opening so if you feel that you could spare a half day a week, please contact Vale Vision Project Manager, Shirley, who will be drawing up the rota. Duties in the first instance are likely to include, supervising volunteers, preparation of this newsletter, preparation of displays and other Vale Vision documents, speaking to those who come to the shop with regard to the work of Vale Vision.

In collaboration with the Learning Community we are planning to offer skills development to our volunteers – this will generally take the form of office administration, customer relations, standard office software such as e-mail, DTP and preparation of displays, etc. We are currently researching possible accreditation for volunteers.

Dursley Town Centre

Funding has been agreed in principle from the SWRDA, Stroud District and Dursley Town Councils to employ a design consultant to draw up a Town Centre Design Masterplan. The object of this is for the consultant to put forward ideas for improvements to the town centre working to an overall plan and for some benefit to come out of the developments in and adjacent to the town centre. Any recommendations will not happen overnight, but will be a guide to development and suggest improvements to make the town more attractive to shoppers and visitors.

Vale Vision is working with Stroud District Council, Dursley Town Council and Dursley Chamber of Trade. Vale Vision are not expecting this survey to hold up planned development or agreed project spending.

Shop Local Scheme

The Creating Wealth syndicate at Stroud have offered Stroud Market towns £500 to agree a shop local scheme. A condition of this was that each area find an equivalent sum in matched funding. Vale Vision has agreed the matched funding and Stroud District Council has matched this, the total available for Cam, Dursley and District being agreed at £2000.

A meeting has been organised for January to agree the details of the scheme. Vale Vision are collating a list of all traders in Cam, Dursley and District who wish to take part and will be writing to them after the January meeting to agree involvement.

'Watch this space for further details'!

Littlecombe St Modwen Development

Drake House refurbishment has now been completed and units are being marketed by Ash & Co.

There is insufficient interest for The Towers to be marketed as a hotel but there is an interested purchaser for a Care home. Approval is now being sought for this development.

Planning detail and approval is ongoing with regard to opening up the culvert on the rivers Cam and Ewelme. Finer details are still being discussed with regard to outline planning.

Cleansing of the foundry sand at the Cam end of the site is now in progress.

St Modwen have been working with the Severn Wye Energy Authority to ensure energy saving initiatives will be incorporated into the development.

Projects in the Plan

Although Vale Vision have been busy setting up the company, we have not neglected the projects in the plan. These are being promoted in order of priority and funding sought from relevant bodies. This newsletter will highlight just a few and add more as they are developed.

Construction Skills Training Centre

There is a shortage of skilled workers in Gloucestershire and nationally, equally there is a shortage of training places in our local colleges. For the past year, Vale Vision has been working with Stroud College and other partners to set up a Construction Skills Training Centre in Dursley. The Centre will provide skills training for opportunities on local construction sites, certification for those in the profession who have no formal qualifications, supervisory and management training and training for those who would like to qualify as assessors. At the end of last year the partnership were successful in their bid for £164,000 esf funding, against stiff competition from Somerset, Devon and Cornwall and two other bids in Gloucestershire. This is a half a million pound project and a fantastic opportunity for local people and we are awaiting final approval for the rest of the funding, which has been agreed in principle. This is a great achievement – thanks to all who assisted in making this happen.

Tourism

We live in a beautiful area and many walkers on the Cotswold way pass through our town, some stopping to eat, some to shop, whilst some do stay in B & B, campsites or cottages. We do not want to be overwhelmed by Tourists, but we would like to ensure that those who come to the area find it attractive and feel it is an area where they would like to stop to use local facilities. To do this, it is important that the town is clean, there is sufficient parking, information is available and there is quality food and a welcoming service from our traders. Some of these issues are being dealt with by the Town Centre project group.

The Tourism project group are looking at other issues such as provision of information, research on who walks the Cotswold Way, where they stay and what they like to do and how we can make sure that they spend some of their money locally. The group need to collate information for a What's on, Where to eat and Where to stay leaflet. Please contact Vale Vision if you can help with provision of information, would like to sponsor the brochure or would like to advertise in it.

Sports Partnership

Many of our young people are becoming involved in sport through school, some continue out of school hours and when they leave and there is a growing interest. This can lead to difficulties in club resources. Access can also be an issue for some clubs. A sports partnership has been developed to look at needs, to share facilities and to bid centrally for funding. An all-weather pitch is on the wish list for many clubs and schools, a central bid may fund resources which could be used by all clubs.

Multi-use Community Facility

Some of you will have already filled in questionnaires as to what should be included in a community facility on the Littlecombe site. We do not want to duplicate existing facilities but the new homes will bring more residents to the Dursley area and we already have needs that cannot be filled by existing providers.

Vale Vision have been successful in a funding bid to the SWRDA for a needs/demand study for community facilities to ensure that any provision is well researched, will be used and will be sustainable.

Other projects not included in this newsletter are being developed by other local partners, including GL11, The Learning Community, Rednock School, Cam Parish Council, Dursley Town Council and Stroud Valleys Project. An update of these will appear in other issues of this newsletter.

Vale Vision have been working diligently to ensure that the projects in our plan are not just words on paper but a reality. Vale Vision have been preparing bids to attract funding for the first projects that were prioritised. Congratulations to all who contributed to making this happen! It does not stop there – as well as setting up the shop Vale Vision are working on further funding bids for the projects in the plan.

Vale Vision Sponsorship

Vale Vision are seeking further funding through funding bids but there is an opportunity for sponsorship of individual projects, newsletters, etc. If you or somebody you know would like to offer sponsorship for a particular aspect of the Vale Vision work, it would be acknowledged and in return Vale Vision would offer recognition of you or your company in the shop, in publications and in media releases with regard to the work of Vale Vision.

Promotion in this newsletter

An excellent opportunity for local people to promote an event or your business at low cost. If you would like to take a page or half a page in this newsletter to advertise your business or promote an event, please contact Vale Vision to discuss details and book the space.

Details

All advertising must be in this newsletter format and two colour only (black and one other colour). Entries will be restricted to a maximum of two pages and will only be for local business or local events.

Full Page - £20 per entry

Half Page - £10 per entry

Circulation:

e-circulation to all those involved with Vale Vision, Parish, Town, District and County councils
Copies in our shop, in participating newsagents, in town and parish council offices

Current Newsletter and back copies will be posted on our website when it is established (predicted date for completion, April).

Contact Details

Vale Vision can be contacted: By Post: Please use the address below

Telephone: Shirley Hill Tel: 01453 549208, e-mail: shirley @act2.demon.co.uk
 Geoff Wheeler Tel: 01453 545583, e-mail: geof.wheeler@btinternet.com

Note: Details with regard to shop telephone, e-mail etc will be notified as soon as these are operational