



Yorkshire Forward

# Bedale Renaissance

## A Vision Statement

29th March 2004

Final Report

Spawforth  Associates



## Please Read This First

Can you spare 30 minutes to consider Bedale's future for the next 25 years?

This document should take around 20 to 30 minutes to read. It contains an outline of how Bedale could be in 25 years time and contains some challenging and thought provoking ideas (as well as some more obvious and less controversial projects) that have arisen from meetings and discussions held in the town over the last 6 months. If you can spare a few minutes, please read on.....

### What is the purpose of this document?

This document is a vision of what Bedale may be like in 25 years time. It is not a development plan of what will be, it is a statement of what could be. The intention of a long term vision statement is to allow communities to think outside the constraints normally associated with shorter time frames and existing land ownerships and current local authority policies and government guidance.

### Does a vision have any real value?

The value of a vision is that its scope is broad and long term. It is not limited to the activities of a single government agency or local authority. It draws together areas covered by Yorkshire Forward, Hambleton District Council, North Yorkshire County Council, the health authority and local parish and town councils. It also covers issues that are typically outside or on the periphery of local government such as local clubs and societies, and aspects of business promotion and marketing.

### But who will pay for the delivery the vision?

Many of the projects contained in this document may require long term commitment from the County Council, District Council or Yorkshire Forward. Others may be fundable wholly by the private sector or through lottery grants and other funding sources. None of these organisations can reappraise their long term spending priorities if they do not know what the community is aspiring to achieve; the vision statement communicates that ambition.

### How was this vision arrived at?

Since last August there have been posters around the town that have advertised Renaissance meetings, and letters have been sent to parish councils, local stakeholder organisations and individuals who have attended the public meetings and who have asked to be more involved. Topic workshops have then been held on a variety of subjects and different elements of the vision have been discussed in more detail. The Renaissance Team (attendees and consultants) have then compiled all the ideas from these meetings into a single statement, i.e. this document.

### What should I do with this document?

Please read it carefully and reflect on the projects and changes that are described. Please bear in mind that many of the changes will take a few years to achieve and may not happen until some of the affected land and property owners have chosen to relocate

### What if my land and property is mentioned in the vision? What can I do to stop it?

No one is about to be evicted or compulsory purchased as a result of this document. If you do not like what has been suggested then let us know. However, do not dismiss the ideas in the vision too readily. Spend a while reflecting on what benefits they could bring to you personally (financial and social), and what the wider benefits to the community could be in the longer term if you ever choose to move house or relocate your business elsewhere.

### Why are there no pictures in this document?

Pictures can often detract from the message. In other words, people look at the graphics and ignore the text! Therefore the images and plans associated with this vision are to be released separately at a public meeting.

### Why can we not just leave Bedale as it is?

All communities are constantly changing whether we like it or not. Compare Bedale today with the Bedale of 25 years ago. Consider the impact the car has had on how the town centre is now used, and how shopping, commuting and leisure activities have changed. The next 25 years will bring equally significant change. This document is about trying to anticipate some of those changes and plan ahead.

### What do I do after I have read the vision?

Come to our public meeting in April (the details are at the end of this vision statement). Fill in the form on the back page and consider engaging with one of the delivery groups that have supported this process. These are Bedale and Villages Community Forum and Bedale Chamber of Trade and Tourism.

<p><b>Introduction</b></p>	<p><b>This vision statement represents the collective thoughts of the residents, businesses, stakeholders and Renaissance Consultant team and does not represent the views of Yorkshire Forward, Hambleton District Council, North Yorkshire County Council or any other statutory body or landowner. The purpose of this statement is to articulate to all the stakeholders and residents of Bedale and its hinterland the tremendous potential and opportunity that lies within the town. It is meant to be thought provoking, challenging and the basis for ongoing discussion.</b></p>	
<p><b>Bedale is a Destination</b></p>	<p>Think ahead to the year 2030. Bedale is no longer the gateway to the dales, or anywhere else for that matter, but is now a destination in its own right. Clear signposting on the A1 clearly indicates Bedale as a place worth visiting, and the new A1/A684 interchange north of Leeming Bar has been completed for many years now.</p>	
<p><b>Arriving at Bedale From A1</b></p>	<p>Motorists leaving the A1 at this point are greeted by brown tourist signs that direct drivers along the new access road to the Eastern Dales that now runs north of Aiskew. A simple junction configuration at the A1 interchange allows residents of Aiskew to enter the village from the East, whilst encouraging the majority of heavy goods vehicles to bypass Bedale Town Centre altogether.</p> <p>Cars emerging off the A1 that are heading west, are almost immediately greeted by open countryside. The relief road, heavily screened by maturing landscape creates a green access corridor that leads to the northern end of Bedale, terminating at a large, landscaped roundabout with a seasonally changing floral welcome message. Drivers, forced to reduce speed as they approach the roundabout, are given the opportunity to view the picturesque town of Bedale that lies immediately to their left.</p>	<p>Tourist Signs on A1</p> <p>New Relief Road</p> <p>Floral Display</p>
<p><b>Gateway To Bedale</b></p>	<p>A few hundred metres before arriving at the new roundabout, drivers passing along the relief road cross the northern end of Bedale Beck, clearly identified by an elegant sign in Bedale's relatively new Town Livery. Beyond the Beck, to the drivers left, another brown tourist sign, sitting in front of a backdrop of mature deciduous trees, informs the casual observer that they are about to reach the gateway to Bedale. On offer, the sign explains, are places to eat, places to shop and attractions to visit including such delights as Big Sheep Little Cow, Thorp Perrow Arboretum, Aerial Extreme at Camphill, St Gregory's Church and the Wensleydale Railway. Just beyond the sign a heavily landscaped car and coach park is laid out in such a way that small pockets of parking are separated by grass sitting areas, picnic spots with wooden benches and tables, hedgerows and copses of trees.</p> <p>Drivers tempted to break their journey, even just for a few minutes, finds access to the new car park from the roundabout both obvious and direct. A simple but effective one-way system connecting the small parking areas ensures all first time visitors are made aware of the toilets and tourist information graphics that are available near the entrance. Once parked, signage within the car park directs the vehicle occupants to a Beckside seating area. For energetic youngsters, an adventure playground strategically located between the car park and water's edge and securely fenced to protect younger children, serves the dual function of providing space for excess energy to be dispersed, as well as drawing parents way from their cars and in the direction of the new Beckside walkway.</p>	<p>Bedale Entrance Sign</p> <p>Bedale Town Livery</p> <p>Tourist Sign on Relief Road</p> <p>Gateway Car Park</p> <p>Gateway Coach Park</p> <p>Gateway Picnic Area</p> <p>Gateway Toilets</p> <p>Tourist Information Graphics</p> <p>Signs from Car Park</p> <p>Beckside Seating Area</p> <p>Children's Adventure Playground</p>
<p><b>Beckside Footpath</b></p>	<p>The Beckside path is a new and important link between the gateway car park, Bedale Railway Station and Bedale Renaissance Park; a maturing public park built on the site of the Aiskew allotments following their relocation to a new, much larger site with enhanced facilities to the South of Bedale. The Beckside path, surfaced in high quality natural materials, is a well-lit route, with frequent areas where the paving widens out to accommodate seating and pockets of public art. Initially the</p>	<p>Beckside Footpath</p> <p>Beckside Seats</p>

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	<p>path passes through Bedale's new Pocket Nature Reserve; a woodland area with a rich diversity of plant and animal life. Sensitive designed timber fencing constrains the walkers and their dogs to a carefully defined route, until the path finally reaches the water's edge. Once at the Beckside, the path then remains next to the water diverting only for the occasional mature tree or important ecological or landscape feature.</p>	<p>Bedale Nature Reserve</p>
<b>Bedale Heritage Trail</b>	<p>Since the route forms part of the now well established Bedale Heritage Trail, information boards, public art in the form of both free standing items of sculpture as well as items incorporated into seating, the paving, signage and even litter bins, adds a richness to the waterside experience. Indeed the busy Heritage Trail, which incorporates all of Bedale's structures of historic and architectural significance, now provides the essential linkage and connections that for so long the casual observer may have failed to realise. Bedale Hall, St Gregory's, the Leech House, Bedale Harbour, Bedale Station and the Market Place are now drawn together to make an enjoyable, stimulating and logical circular walk for residents and visitors alike.</p>	<p>Heritage Trail Signage Heritage Interpretation Boards Public Art Outdoor Seating</p>
	<p>Returning to the Beckside path and approaching Bridge Street from the direction of the gateway parking area, the walker starts to notice that by the time they reach the electricity substation adjacent to the Riverside Club, movement along the path has intensified, as residents from Bedale and Aiskew, who also regularly use the path, increase in number. A cycle track running parallel with the path also brings activity with it, ensuring natural surveillance and an enhanced sense of security and well-being for those who use the route alone.</p>	<p>Beckside Beck Cycle Track</p>
<b>The Riverside Club</b>	<p>The Riverside Club, located as it is on one of the town's most important sites between the Market Place and Bedale Station, has been redeveloped and the new building has opened its doors to the east, south and west, with a sun terrace that welcomes residents and visitors alike throughout the day. The three storey building, conceived as a way of bringing increased revenue to the club as well as a capital injection of funds from the waterside apartments on its second floor, is hard to distinguish from the traditional architecture of the town and many members of the coach parties that now use its café, restaurant or bar facilities during the day remark that they had assumed it had been there for a hundred years or more. It is only the brightness of the striped awnings that hang over its large ground floor windows and freshness of the paint on its traditional timber shop fronts that give any clue as to its recent pedigree.</p>	<p>Riverside Club Cafe, Bar and Apartments</p>
<b>Emgate</b>	<p>As the waterside walker reaches the Riverside Club, the full extent of the changes that have occurred in this area over the last 25 years start to become apparent. Emgate, a picturesque and intimate street of two and three storey cottages, curves gently uphill towards Bedale Market Cross, and is now virtually devoid of cars and heavy goods vehicles. Facilitated by the reduction in through traffic arising as a consequence of the northern relief road, the pedestrian orientated environment has been created by the replacement of the old Tarmacadam carriageway and footpaths with natural materials, appropriate street furniture and lighting that is more in keeping with the environment's conservation area status. Over the years, inappropriate claddings, window styles and materials have gradually been replaced as a result of the design guidance created by local residents, businesses and local authority. The hardness of the walling and paving materials has been softened by the introduction of trees and hanging baskets, and any vehicle now entering the Emgate zone is intentionally isolated and alienated by the dominance of the pedestrian. Consequently they move extremely slowly and limit their activities to essential access only. Parking in this area is limited to residents only in dedicated areas, identified by changes in the paving material.</p>	<p>Emgate traffic calming Emgate repaving Emgate seating Emgate lighting Emgate property enhancement Emgate landscaping and hanging baskets</p>
<b>Public Square</b>	<p>Emgate now provides one of three, much needed links between the Market Place, Bedale Beck, and most importantly, Bedale Station. The second of these links</p>	<p>New car park/public space</p>

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	occurs where Emgate meets Bridge Street. The site formerly occupied by Kitching's Furniture and Dawkins' Honda dealership has now been cleared to create a new public square and car park. Kitching's and Dawkins' have in turn relocated to the ground floor of a new three storey building built on the car park that was originally to the rear of the Black Swan public house. The new building with the car-park and multi-use space in front, has now created a reception area for residents and visitors who may approach from the direction of Aiskew and Bedale Station.	
<b>Gateway Centre</b>	As well as being occupied by Kitching's and Dawkins', the ground floor of this new "gateway building" also includes the reception area and "shop front" for Bedale's One Stop Shop. As well as providing access to the full range of local authority services, the "Gateway Centre" as it is now referred to by local residents, provides library, information services, training facilities, accessible space for voluntary services and refreshment, internet and meeting space for young people. Light, bright and airy, with a modern café/bar atmosphere, the welcoming character of the centre extends out onto the terraced seating area to the front with its outdoor seating, canopies and brightly coloured umbrellas. Once within the centre, a lift provides access to the main activities of the centre which are located on the large open-plan first floor. Apartments on the second floor provide much welcomed affordable, town centre living and natural surveillance of the new public space as well as views out across to the Beck and Renaissance Park beyond. Glazed links now connect the existing alleyways to the market place, and the old toilets are now incorporated into the new building.	Relocated retail development  One-Stop Shop and Information Centre  Voluntary Services Centre    Town centre apartments  Enhanced alleyway links  New public toilets
<b>Bedale Renaissance Park</b>	Returning to the Beckside path, the walker and cyclist now reaches the junction with Bridge Street and is faced with a number of choices. To the left, in the direction of Aiskew, lies Bedale Renaissance Park; a public open space stretching from Bedale Station down to the waters edge and south to Big Sheep Little Cow. The former allotment site has now been softly re-contoured to create areas for sitting, picnicking and general recreation. There are no formally laid out sporting areas as these are generously provided for elsewhere in the town, and the emphasis here is on gentle, passive relaxation. A circular footpath route has been provided around the park that takes in the water's edge and the perimeter of the site as far as the Mill Race. The Mill Race itself has been reopened and during the summer months, rowing boats now make the journey from Bedale Bridge to Big Sheep Little Cow adding activity, colour and life to the area. Safety concerns relating to boating too close to Bedale Harbour have been addressed and boats are prevented from travelling too far down stream.	Public park       Picnic area in park    Reopening of Mill Race Boating on Bedale Beck
<b>Leech House</b>	Within the park, a number of buildings add historic, recreational and visual interest. The Leech House has been illuminated at night and its landscape setting enhanced through careful planting. Interpretation boards close by explain the history of the Leech House and its past role, and seating introduced in the vicinity allows the weary walker to rest for a moment and experience the building in its waterside setting, enhanced by a backdrop of mature landscaping.	Leech House illumination  Leech House interpretation boards  Leech House seating area
<b>Renaissance Park Cafe</b>	Moving away from the Leech House and back up Bridge Street towards Aiskew, the second building that commands attention is the former office building for Kerfoot's and the coal yard to the rear. Both businesses, having flourished and developed over the last few years have realised the potential of their sites and relocated to other parts of the town. The now vacant sites, with their south west aspect towards the beck and views over the Renaissance Park have been developed as a family orientated Café Bar and Restaurant, filling a hole in Bedale's hospitality offer. A west facing terrace attached to the facility offers open air drinking and dining opportunities during late spring and summer, whilst a new conservatory offers all year round views of the Park and Bedale.	Redevelopment of Kerfoot Offices and Coal Yard

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<b>Access to Big Sheep and Bedale Station</b>	The existing access to Big Sheep Little Cow and the Leech House that ran to the west of the coal depot has now been closed to traffic and repaved in natural materials. Bollards in Bedale's Town Livery at the junction with Bridge Street still allow pedestrians and cyclists to access the park but direct traffic to an enlarged and enhanced, combined junction with Bedale Station.	New footpath and cycle link to Renaissance Park and Big Sheep
<b>Bedale Station Area</b>	<p>Bedale Station, the third of the three key buildings within the park, has now developed a high quality public space around its entrance and associated public facilities. With a South West orientation, this area also offers a bright and welcoming space for new arrivals and waiting passengers alike. Public art, quality paving materials, directional signage, a clear tourist information map and pockets of seating orientated towards the town with views across the Park, provide Bedale with the public transport Gateway it has long needed. With an improved combined access onto Bridge Street came the opportunity to develop more comprehensive car parking facilities within the site, and these now serve the station, Big Sheep and the Renaissance Park. A coach drop-off point, waiting area and turning facilities have also been provided. At peak times of the year, shuttle services connect Bedale's hinterland attractions such as Thorp Perrow, Aerial Extreme and the newly opened "Henges" at Nosterfield with the frequent all year round train services that connect Bedale with Northallerton, Leyburn and Aysgarth Falls. Joint ticketing arrangements with online booking between all the Bedale attractions and the Wensleydale Railway have proved to be highly successful and an affordable, manageable and effective way for visitors from outside the region to plan their day to the area.</p> <p>For local residents, Bedale Station now makes commuting to Northallerton, Darlington and York a viable alternative to car travel. The frequent early morning and early evening trains have been scheduled to connect with the main line services, whilst competitive pricing has made shopping excursions to Northallerton a popular and sustainable option. Indeed, inward commuting by Northallerton residents has been stimulated by the quality and frequency of the rail services and the decision to develop a range of service and craft manufacturing based employment opportunities on the land to the east of the station has proved attractive to businesses wanting an alternative, more relaxed environment in which to carry out their day to day activities. The buildings that now provide the necessary space have been sensitively designed to accord with Bedale's strong architectural heritage, and the emphasis on their layout has been on the creation of a new "high street" of business users and a small public space where employees and managers have the opportunity to network on a casual and informal basis.</p>	<p>Bedale Station reopening</p> <p>Bedale Station Square</p> <p>Public Art at Bedale Station</p> <p>Tourist Information Point at Bedale Station</p> <p>Coach drop-off and waiting area at Bedale Station</p> <p>Combined and enhanced car park facilities for Big Sheep and Bedale Station</p> <p>Bedale tourist attractions shuttle</p> <p>The Henges</p> <p>Joint Ticketing/Online Booking</p> <p>Commuter train service to Northallerton</p> <p>Bedale Station Employment Cluster</p>
<b>Bedale Station link with Town</b>	New arrivals at Bedale Station now pass through a welcoming and brightly lit ticket and reception area with essential tourist information provided through a collection of high quality graphics and informative leaflets produced by the coordinated efforts of the Bedale business community. Exiting the Station building, new arrivals, having been greeted by the quality landscaping of the Renaissance Park, are directed towards the town by a footpath that heads directly from the Station entrance, across the park to a new bridge in the vicinity of the Leech House. This bridge, regarded by many as being not just a functional crossing across the Beck but as a piece of high quality art in its own right, was constructed following an open competition that invited innovative suggestions from residents, businesses, local artists and designers. Providing a much needed additional pedestrian crossing, the bridge delivers both walkers and cyclists to the western bank of the Beck and the recently redeveloped area around the auction building. Having realised the opportunities presented by the increased interest in the Beck and Bedale Renaissance Park, the auction building proprietors have now opened its eastern elevation. A newly created glazed extension to their activities also provides a limited range of drink and snacks, offered in a comfortable seating area that overlooks the Leech House, the water, the park and the Station building beyond.	<p>Facilities within Bedale Station</p> <p>Signage from Station to Town Centre</p> <p>Design competition for Bedale Bridge</p> <p>New footbridge over Bedale Beck</p> <p>Enhancements to the auction building</p>

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<b>Bridge Street</b>	<p>Behind the auction site, the length of Bridge Street that connects the Beck with the Market Place has also enjoyed its own mini-Renaissance. Having suffered for years with the problems of heavy traffic and narrow pavements, the environment had been an unappealing setting for attracting and growing businesses. As a result of the relief road development to the north of the town however, fresh thinking has led to the demolition and development of many of the buildings that originally lined the road edge. New three storey, brick and stone terraces of shops, offices and flats have been erected two metres back from their original locations, creating breathing space for pedestrians, cyclists, prams and wheelchair users. The interest and activity associated with the shop frontages of the premises of Market Place, now extends into Bridge Street creating an almost continuous extension of vibrant ground floor functions from the Beck to the Town Centre. As a direct consequence, the much needed links between Aiskew, the Station and Bedale Town Centre have been restored and reinforced.</p> <p>Pedestrians walking into Town from the Beck and beyond therefore now have three choices; a revitalised Bridge Street, a pedestrian-orientated Emgate, or the enhanced alleyways and gateway building that now backs onto the Black Swan and faces up towards Aiskew.</p>	<p>Pavement widening</p> <p>New retail, office and apartment development</p>
<b>Cycling</b>	<p>Cyclists too are well catered for on two of these three routes, with Emgate being virtually car free, and Bridge Street, as a result of the redevelopment of the buildings along part of its length, now having a dedicated cycle route down to the new bridge over the Beck.</p> <p>The cyclists' experience of Bedale has not been limited to this area however. As Wensleydale Railway has developed and prospered, so the cycle route along part of its length and created on a section of the existing track bed, has resulted in a low gradient link between Bedale and Northallerton. Passing through semi-urban areas as well as open countryside, the attractive and varied route has created another sustainable gateway into the Town giving resident cyclists and visitors from the communities along its length a realistic alternative to the private car.</p> <p>Cycle hire and repair facilities at Bedale Station have been provided for those who live outside the area, and clear signage and cycle maps are provided at key points along the track's length to enable informed decisions to be made about onward connections to the Eastern Dales. Wensleydale Railway's policy to promote the carriage of cycles to allow people to enjoy a return trip by train has proved popular, and one-way cycle trips to Thorp Perrow, Aerial Extreme and the Henges with a cycle collection service, has encouraged more people to make the journey.</p>	<p>Cycle routes into Bedale from Aiskew</p> <p>Cycle route to Northallerton</p> <p>Cycle hire at Bedale Station</p> <p>Cycle collection and delivery to tourist attractions</p>
<b>Bedale Market Place</b>	<p>Bedale Market Place has also seen changes in its character with the overwhelming impact of the relief road being felt in the significant reduction of heavy goods vehicles and the removal of those cars that were simply passing through and never had any intention to stop. This reduction in traffic volume in turn enabled the carriageway width through the market place to be reduced down to an absolute minimum, slowing traffic down to far safer speeds and enabling valuable space to be reclaimed in front of the shops and other businesses. Retailers are now permitted and encouraged to extend their sales areas onto carefully defined areas of the widened footpaths, with the increased pavement activity promoting greater visual interest for shoppers and enhanced sales for the proprietors.</p>	<p>Market Place carriageway narrowing</p> <p>Market Place pavement widening</p> <p>Market Place pavement retailing</p>
<b>Dining Out</b>	<p>The old planning restrictions limiting the number of café and food uses around the Market Place have been relaxed, and in line with many market towns throughout the region, pavement eating and drinking areas have become commonplace all year round, with heaters providing warmth and outdoor activity on all but the coldest and wettest days of the year. As the pedestrians and businesses have</p>	<p>Pavement Seating Areas</p>

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	reclaimed more of the Market Place as their own, the motorist has been compensated by a coordinated car parking strategy that has retained short stay parking in the town centre, with longer stay provision in the new gateway parking area that has been constructed to the North of town. Strict enforcement of the waiting and parking times has ensured that the right car park is being used by residents, employees and visitors alike.	Revised short stay parking layout and enforcement
<b>Retail</b>	The mix of retailers in the Market Place has also evolved over the last 25 years. Northallerton has remained people's first choice for the big weekly food shop, but Bedale has built on the success of its more specialist retailers and encouraged complementary businesses to locate in the town. A range of shops offering arts and artists materials, books, jewellery, antiques and other specialist and leisure orientated goods, are interwoven with a range of high quality, added value food and convenience goods providers. Demand for retail space has steadily increased in the town over the years, and additional space has now been provided for in the newly pedestrian orientated Emgate and redeveloped stretch of Bridge Street.	Expansion of retail into Emgate and Bridge Street
<b>Market Cross</b>	Remaining within the Market Place, other changes that have occurred are more subtle but nonetheless highly significant. The Market Cross has now been linked with the pedestrian areas due to the reduction in the levels of traffic now passing along Emgate and has become a key meeting area for families and visitors alike. Hanging baskets continue to flourish and the range and number has been significantly increased over the years. Every building in the centre now has at least one basket, and this is complemented by the co-ordinated lighting scheme that has been introduced on all the buildings. Soft "accent" lights introduced at eaves level, combined with gentle uplighting, the absence of any back lit or neon signage, and more appropriate highway lights giving a crisp white light have made the centre of Bedale "twinkle" and entice. The introduction of CCTV cameras around the town centre and on the quieter parking areas and footpath links has increased the sense of personal well-being and security, and contributed to the general reduction in the already low crime levels that Bedale experiences. The resulting effect, associated with the extended opening hours of many of the businesses, has resulted in a vibrant early evening economy for the town, with young families and the elderly from the community using the revitalised eating and drinking facilities to levels unimaginable 30 years ago.	Market Cross linked to pedestrian areas Market Place hanging baskets Market Place lighting CCTV Cameras Extended opening hours
<b>Bedale Market</b>	Bedale's market has also reawakened after a long period of slumber, having finally moved its activities to a Sunday to capitalise on the national changes in people's shopping habits. The stalls are now more specialist in nature and work well alongside the diverse quality of many of the town's shops. Themed markets are held regularly throughout the year and these attract visitors from further afield than the traditional markets of neighbouring towns. Joint co-ordination and promotion with Bedale's dedicated marketing group, ensures that all attractions and businesses receive maximum economic benefit from the regular influx of potential new customers.	Changes to Market Day Speciality Market Joint promotion and marketing activities
<b>Bedale Special Events</b>	The renewed energy in the Market Place and Beckside has also led to new enthusiasm for the annual Bedale Festival and this has led directly to the creation of the "Bedale Harbourmaster". A strictly honorary post created as a fun promotional vehicle for the town and drawing its inspiration from Bedale's unique harbour, the harbourmaster's annual appointment culminates in the traditional tug of war in Bedale Renaissance Park, where, much to the delight of residents, press and visitors alike, on a warm summer evening in June, the harbourmaster ends up with his annual bath in the Beck.	Bedale Festival Bedale Harbourmaster

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Whilst much of Bedale's Renaissance has occurred in its public areas and to the

		Projects
<b>Allotments</b>	north and east of the town centre, other quieter initiatives have been implemented in the residential areas to the south and west. To facilitate the creation of Bedale Renaissance Park and meet the high demands for allotments in Aiskew and Bedale, a much larger allotment site has been created to the south of the town. Screened by a now mature landscape belt, the 50 allotments are popular and constantly in demand; partly due to the well drained soil, as well as the excellent on site parking and toilet facilities.	Relocated allotments
<b>New Housing</b>	The old allotment site off Masham Road has now been redeveloped to provide a mix of affordable housing and larger properties for young growing families keen to stay in the town. Built in the local vernacular style, the houses reflect the Georgian and Victorian architecture of the town and follow a traditional terraced form either side of a quiet pedestrian orientated street dominated by safe play areas for young children and good connections for cyclists to adjoining routes through the town. Limited new housing has also been introduced at the Masham Road gateway to the town with the community's insistence that the buildings reflect the traditional character of the town's older architecture helping to create a changed perception of those arriving at Bedale from the south west. The terraced form, with walled front gardens and natural materials and landscaping, screen the more generic and anonymous housing developments built in the 1970's and 1980's. An impressive stone gateway sign, set in a sea of colourful planting and created in the Town's livery, welcomes residents and visitors to Bedale and makes a stunning first impression.	New Housing at Masham Road  Masham Road gateway housing  Gateway signage on Masham Road
<b>Bedale High School</b>	Bedale High School continues to excel, and the now well established Sixth Form has gone from strength to strength. Links with the adjacent college continue to draw students from a wide catchment area, assisted and promoted by the scheduled train services of Wensleydale Railway.	Sixth Form College
<b>Health Centre</b>	The primary care centre which opened its doors nearly 20 years ago, still looks as good as the day it was opened in 2009 and offers a high quality and comprehensive range of services to local residents, reducing the need to travel to Northallerton for many treatments that would traditionally have involved a trip to hospital.	New Primary Care Centre
<b>Bedale Leisure and Recreation</b>	Bedale's numerous specialist clubs and societies have retained their diversity, and new groups have been formed in response to the constant changes of information technology. Membership of the organisations has continued to grow as Bedale's centralised, internet based information service keeps the towns residents and stakeholders informed of meetings, venues and special events.  Scout and Guide membership, assisted by the new facilities completed in 2006, have continued to flourish and another extension is currently being contemplated to cope with increasing demand. The youth cafe, an integral part of the gateway centre referred to earlier, has proved a popular alternative evening destination for many teenage members of the community, and its variety of both planned activities and relaxed, informal seating areas have proved popular.	Central information hub  New scout and guide facilities  Youth Cafe
<b>Summary</b>	The Bedale of 2030 is very much the same as the Bedale of 2004. The strong community values still permeate every aspect of the town and the distinctive architectural identity still shines through. But something has been added. The town has confirmed its role as a place in its own right. It is not a suburb of Northallerton or somewhere you pass through to get to The Dales. The uniqueness of Bedale has been recognised and its economy has been strengthened by making the town attractive for both residents and people from outside the immediate area to visit and spend their money. The paint is now fresher, the town is now greener and the people stop longer.	

Delivery

And how did this Bedale of 2030 come into being? It started with a vision of what was possible. The Bedale and Villages Community Forum, Bedale Chamber of Trade and Tourism and Bedale Forward took the initiative and recruited enthusiastic supporters from the community to drive the delivery. Working Groups of individuals interested in specific aspects of the vision drove their own projects to completion before disbanding to form new Groups with new projects and renewed energy.

Yorkshire Forward, North Yorkshire County Council, Hambleton District Council, and Bedale Town Council, informed by the vision, lent their support where necessary and adjusted their long term spending plans to accommodate those projects that could be delivered and justified within their own areas of responsibility. The private sector and local businesses, understanding the strategic aims of the town, invested time and money in promotion, marketing, networking and new development in the knowledge that everyone was moving in the same direction. There were problems along the way and not everyone agreed with everyone else at every stage of the process. There were tensions created between the community's expectations and the ability of other people to deliver in short and often unrealistic time frames. But the ambition, enthusiasm, commitment, and determination of the community overcame the obstacles along the way. And where did that community drive initially come from? It all stemmed from a single moment in time, in 2004, when the residents, stakeholders and businesses of Bedale finally agreed, "*We are definitely no longer a gateway!*"

## Finally, please fill this bit in

Having now read the vision, if you would like to have your say and get involved, please make a note of those things you like and dislike on the form below and forward your comments to Bedale and Villages Community Plan Forum, c/o Lisa Bennington at Hambleton District Council, 01609 767212 or [communityplanning@hambleton.gov.uk](mailto:communityplanning@hambleton.gov.uk)

1 thing I **really like** about the vision:

.....

3 things I **like** about the vision:

1. ....

2. ....

3. ....

3 things I **dislike** about the vision:

1. ....

2. ....

3. ....

1 thing I **really dislike** about the vision:

.....

