

Bacup Neighbourhood Forum

Have you got a Big Idea for Bacup?

When Bacup Leisure Hall was sold, it was agreed that the proceeds from the sale would be used to support a lasting legacy for Bacup and the surrounding area. Rossendale Council agreed that the Bacup Neighbourhood Forum would consult with the local community and make a recommendation as to how the funding from the sale should be used.

Following consultation at the end of 2010, Bacup Neighbourhood Forum agreed to recommend that £100,000 of the funding be put towards the development of a Vocational Training Centre at Stubblelee by Rossendale and Accrington College. Plans for the Training Centre are now progressing well.

£50,000 from the proceeds remains and the Bacup Neighbourhood Forum is again asking for ideas and suggestions for how it could be used. All projects must meet the following criteria:

- **Address a key priority in the Bacup Neighbourhood Plan**
- **Benefit the whole community**
- **Leave a lasting legacy for the Bacup area**
- **Suitable for capital funding** (Capital spending is expenditure on new buildings, improvements to existing ones, land purchases or any additional expenditure on fixed assets.)
- **Be worked up into a viable project and costed to be fully delivered within a budget of £10,000 - £50,000**

If you would like to submit a project idea, please complete the details below and return by **Monday 30th April**. *All Bacup individuals and organisations (including public sector) are eligible to submit an idea.*

Bacup Neighbourhood Forum will consider all ideas submitted and will ask for shortlisted projects to develop a full business case.

Name:	David Presto
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Organisation (if applicable):	Rossendale Borough Council

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Brief description of project	<p>We are seeking match funding to support our Bacup Townscape Heritage Initiative bid which has now been approved to go forward as a £2 million improvement bid.</p> <p>The Bacup Townscape Heritage Initiative's main aims and priorities are to secure a viable economic future for Bacup town centre by investing in the built heritage and so helping to preserve and enhance the historic character and make Bacup a better place to live in and to visit and to prevent any further decline in the built fabric, townscape and retail quality of Bacup by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> working in partnership with owners to restore the key historic buildings; replacing unsympathetic shopfronts; upgrading facades; and reinstating architectural details bringing vacant historic floorspace back into use infilling gap sites in key frontages carrying out complimentary Public Realm works including pavement surfaces introduce interpretation, events, educational and community activities delivering heritage construction and maintenance skills training for owners/tenants, contractors/sub-contractors, and the general public <p>This activity will bring back the traditional life and vitality to Bacup, stimulate the introduction of a cafe culture and higher quality niche retailing and re-establish Bacup as a bustling, busy market town on a par with other market towns in the area such as Ramsbottom and Hebden Bridge which have undergone similar transformations.</p> <p>Within the proposed THI area there are a number of site features that have a significant negative impact upon the character of the conservation and are highlighted in the Conservation Area Character Appraisal including Shops and Shopfronts, Public Realm, Rear views, Satellite dishes and Vacant Premises: The main opportunity to improve the key negative features would come in the form of financial uplift from grant funding. This will provide the necessary boost to support repair and reinstatement of lost traditional features in shopfront and buildings including fenestration, shutter removal, improved signage and relocation of satellite dishes. Grant support for public realm improvements will aid highway authority land projects as well as unifying the THI area connectivity on privately owned land through a more unified and sympathetic streetscape. Through the improved external appearance of premises within the proposed THI area it is hoped that shop leases will be taken and residential premises above them let at reasonable rates as the premises become viable. Furthermore, aesthetic improvements in the area provide a stronger sense of place and pride building confidence for commercial operators and those living in and visiting Bacup.</p>
Who will benefit from the project and how? How many people approximately will benefit?	<p>We have an opportunity to make a massive difference to Bacup and it's 15,000 residents through this THI scheme and complimentary initiatives, to which the council have already committed. Bacup is small enough for this initiative to be transformational, so breaking the negative economic cycle and putting the town on a path to a much better future.</p> <p>The scheme will encourage confidence and private investment in the area, improve its appearance and longterm sustainability. Public realm and streetscape improvements taken together with complementary regeneration initiatives will increase tourism and visitor spending as well as</p>

	<p>increase pride, aspiration and self image. The local community will better understand and value the heritage of Bacup for its intrinsic quality, and will be aware of its historic development, through a programme of interpretation and community involvement.</p> <p>The impact of the THI programme, adopted Management Proposals Plan and public realm strategy will minimise the negative impacts of incremental development in the Conservation Area. The provision of high quality shopfronts, restoring facades and architectural features will restore confidence in the area and lead to new businesses being attracted in to provide the niche shopping experiences that you would expect in a historic market town. We envisage that the THI, which will seek to improve between 50-60 properties over the 5 year period and this will enable the following people to benefit from improved skills;</p> <p>some 54 owner/occupiers who, as a result of a grant, and direct involvement with the project will be better equipped to maintain their specific building and others in future</p> <p>another 30 owners/occupiers within the Conservation Area who will be better informed about the issues and seek advice, guidance, training and potentially grants to upgrade their own property</p> <p>6 local contractors (and 25 employees) who will have received specific continuing professional development training as part of the scheme which will enhance the quality of their work in the long term</p> <p>40 students will have obtained work experience with local contractors on the project and will have a clear idea as to whether heritage skills is an area they want to become involved with</p> <p>30 volunteers will obtain work experience with contractors on the job recommended by Accrington And Rossendale College from their yearly course intake</p> <p>20 students will receive work placements as part of an accredited training scheme leading to employment and apprenticeships</p> <p>some 1000 members of the public will have benefited from direct contact with the THI Project Manager through events, taster days, outreach programmes etc which will make them more aware, informed and equipped to be able to tackle projects which involve aspects of heritage skills in the future</p> <p>We envisage that through the work of the THI Project Manager and in conjunction with our Community Engagement Officer we will also engage with: the Bacup Neighbourhood Forum and seek innovative ways of involving them in the planning and management of the project local schools in relation to the work they will be carrying out using the educational resources we produce. We envisage some 10 school groups will have undertaken curricula related learning activities based on the Bacup THI (which will lead to a proportion becoming interested in heritage in later life) Rossendale Museum who will stage exhibitions, talks, events etc in partnership with this project.</p>
<p>Please indicate which Neighbourhood Plan key Issues and actions the project will help to achieve.</p>	<p>Town Centre:</p> <p>Road safety, traffic management issues / roundabout in centre – poor layout; Rear of buildings – problem – drugs / anti-social behavior; Grot spots in the town centre / derelict buildings; Development of Bacup Market e.g. Art Market and other specialist markets; Explore options for maintenance and preservation of buildings in town centre - (English Heritage – Bacup example of a preserved Mill Town “); Look into the possibility of creating a band stand in Bacup centre; Greater use of Section 215 powers in relation to empty / derelict buildings - based on an agreed priority list drawn up by the Neighbourhood Forum and through the Empty Property Strategy</p>

	<p>Strategic Objective: Residents will agree that Rossendale has clean and well maintained town centres providing the leisure, retail and cultural services they would expect to access locally; Rossendale will protect and enhance its natural and built heritage which will be recognised as an outstanding resource by visitors and residents;</p>				
<p>Please list the partners who would be involved in delivering the project.</p>	<p>We have established a small multi-disciplinary project team who will act as a Steering Group for the project until completion comprising of: David Presto - Economic Development Manager Phil Hollows - Renewal Initiatives Manager Stephen Stray - Planning Unit Manager Stephen Jackson - Head of Health Housing And Regeneration Cllr. Andrew MacNae - Portfolio Holder For Regeneration Rachel Fletcher - Assistant Conservation Officer Andrew Coombe - LCC Highways</p> <p>The decision to put in an application for Bacup THI was made by Cabinet in October 2011 and officer time was allocated to work on this in November 2011. Reports on the progress of the THI will be made back to Cabinet on a regular basis. A Bacup THI Partnership Board will be set up which will include the following: Cllr. Andrew MacNae - Ward Councillor and Portfolio Holder for Regeneration Cllr. Judith Driver - Ward Councillor Cllr. James Eaton - Ward Councillor Cllr. Peter Roberts - Heritage lead for Council Real - Community rep Bacup Consortium - Community rep Morrisons - Business rep Co-op - Business rep Peter Boys - Business rep Stephen Carlisle - Accrington & Rossendale College Civic Trust - rep Daniel Herbert - LCC Highways Stuart Sugarman - Director Of Business Rachel Fletcher - Assistant Conservation Officer</p> <p>The role of the Bacup THI Partnership Board is to support the work involved in the THI development stage and, if successful, to provide advice and guidance to the Rossendale Borough Council, who will promote and deliver the THI scheme on the partnership's behalf, allocate third party grants to individual projects and activities and provide performance management for the programme. It is also likely that some members of the Partnership Board will be more directly involved in training initiatives and community engagement.</p>				
<p>What is the expected overall cost for the project? Please provide a brief breakdown of costs.</p>	<p>A: Categories of work</p>	<p>B: Total estimated eligible costs inc reserve projects(£)</p>	<p>C: Proposed common fund (£)</p>	<p>E: Lottery Funding (£)</p>	<p>F: Proposed split of common fund (%)</p>
	Building repairs	£1,446,666	£1,085,000	£1,000,000	54
	Restoring architectural features	£120,000	£90,000	£90,000	5
	Bringing vacant historic floor	£240,000	£156,000	£100,000	8

	space back into use				
	Public realm works (up to 25% of the common fund)	£419,000	£419,000	£200,000	21
	Complementary initiatives (training, evaluation, community consultation)	£50,000	£50,000	£10,000	2
	Staff costs and overheads	£200,000	£200,000	£100,000	10
	Total	£2,475,666	£2,000,000	£1,500,000	100
	<p>To take our lottery bid forward for Bacup THI we have to create a common fund for the scheme of £2 million of which the lottery will contribute £1.5 million. We are therefore seeking a contribution of £50,000 from the Bacup Neighbourhood Forum towards the creation of our common fund</p>				
<p>Do you have any funding towards the project or if successful do you intend to seek match funding? If yes please outline.</p>	<p>Yes the Lottery will fund 75% of the total cost and provide £1.5 million. We also have an amount of around £100,000 allocated in principle via the Section 106 monies for Morrisons in Bacup and are seeking further contributions from Rossendale Borough Council and our partners in the private sector and LCC to help us raise the rest.</p>				

Please return the form by **Monday 30th April** to:

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