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Sponsor of the Month

Bennett Jones Partnership

Dates for Your Diary

Wed 8 November	10 am
Littlecombe Liaison Meeting	
Wed 8 November	2 pm
Tourism Meeting	
Mon 13 November	7 pm
Energy Meeting at The Old Spot, Dursley	
Wed 22 November	7 pm
Vale Vision Board Meeting	
Thu 23 November	1.30pm
Vale Vision Walking Festival Meeting	
Mon 4 December	7.15 pm
Sports Network Meeting at Rednock School	
Wed 6 December	6.30 pm
Healthy Living Meeting at May Lane Surgery	

All meetings will be at the Vale Vision shop unless notified otherwise

NEW VISION FOR DURSLEY TOWN CENTRE



Dursley is experiencing change and as is generally the case change does not come without some initial problems. Rednock School is to be rebuilt; the Littlecombe site development is now commencing with development of industrial units at the Cam end, Drake house is being renovated as business units, the Towers is being developed as a Care Centre which will bring changes to the whole area between Long Street and Church Road in Cam; and currently supermarket negotiations are underway which will change the Town Centre.

To ensure that the town gains some benefit from the change, Vale Vision together with Stroud District Council and Dursley Town Council, have commissioned a visionary new long-term masterplan for the town centre from urban designers, Roger Evans Associates. People in Dursley, Cam and the surrounding area will have the chance to comment on imaginative plans for Dursley town centre. Designs for improving and enhancing the street scene will be shown for public comment on Thursday 2nd November, 2006, at the Dursley Methodist Church Hall, Castle Street, from 3.00pm – 8.00pm and after in the Vale Vision premises in Long Street.

“The design proposals have already been seen by people with a close interest in the town such as traders and businesses there, and their comments taken on board”, said Geoff Wheeler, Chair of Vale Vision. “Now it’s time to invite the public in the area to view the draft ideas and to make their views known to the design team and the project steering group. The comments will help to determine the final proposals”. Although the plans are imaginative and long term, there has been interest and excitement from some of those invited to the meeting.

The designer’s brief made it plain that there should be a clear link between the supermarket proposed for Castle Street and the existing shops and businesses so that they are all seen as one unified area. At the same time this could lead to Castle Street becoming a proper town street instead of being considered by some as a ‘by-pass’.

In taking account of the views of members of the public, it is intended that the plans will be Dursley’s own vision of how the town will benefit from changes over the next generation and beyond, such as the new supermarket and the development at Littlecombe.

REDNOCK SCHOOL PROGRESS

Outline plans for rebuilding Rednock School are now at an advanced stage. With the exception of three or four buildings around the current main entrance the whole site will be renewed so that the front of the School will face Kingshill Road. The latest plans were on display for the public on 23rd September, where the architect, Jane Lock-Smith (Cube Architects), gave a comprehensive and compelling description of the designs for the school. There were valuable comments from members of the audience, who were generally impressed by the new look for the school.

Plans for the new buildings can be seen on the Rednock School website, www.rednockschool.com, where you are invited to post any comments. Besides the new buildings the plans also show the position for an all-weather sports pitch that will be available for the public outside school hours, and new grass pitches. The planned opening time for the new school is September 2009.

LITTLECOMBE DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

After to and froing on outline planning for many months, agreement has now been reached on the general site detail. This means that the groundworks can now commence in earnest. As those of you who live close by know, there has been clearance of the land at the Cam end, the foundry sand and old gas works area has been cleansed and work has now begun on the layout of the site for the industrial units. Other work that is in progress involving a great deal of earthmoving is the opening up of the river and the new river bed is starting to take shape.

Drake House has been separated into office units and some of the units have already been let. The Towers have received planning permission for a care home and the current owners Ivybank Care Ltd have visited the Vale Vision premises to introduce themselves. A further plan has been submitted to planning for the first two industrial units.

On a more frivolous note, care has been taken not to disturb natural habitats and a new 'Bat Hotel' has been built for the relocation of the bats from their current habitat, an old building which was falling into disrepair.

Site plans can be viewed in the Vale Vision window, 28 Long Street, Dursley.

CONSTRUCTION SKILLS

Good News for Construction Skills. After months of looking for a replacement venue to begin the Dursley Construction Skills project, a suitable location has now been found.

Vale Vision has worked tirelessly to establish a Construction Skills Centre in Dursley to enable local people to develop skills in Bricklaying, Plastering or Painting and Decorating to take advantage of any opportunities that may arise from construction developments in Dursley and in Gloucestershire. The first money to establish this was realised last year in a successful bid to regional European social funding in competition with others from Gloucestershire, Somerset, Devon and Cornwall. A further funding bid to the South West Regional Development Agency realised sufficient funding to begin training, but hopes of the location were dashed in May of this year and Stroud College were in danger of losing the funding unless other suitable temporary accommodation could be found.

Stroud College has begun work on a disused and run down part of Dursley Education Centre to house the much needed training. The building's interior and exterior are being re-modelled and tidied up to create a welcoming and functional teaching space. Bricklaying will be the first construction skill offered. "It has been a frustrating time but we are thrilled to bring part of the centre back to life offering training of real value to local people" says Dursley Centre Manager, Emma Clark.

The first course to start at the Dursley Education Centre will be bricklaying, start date planned for 20th November. This will be a 22 week course, covering the development of skills and Health and Safety aspects of working onsite. This will be followed by a work placement and NVQ certification with onsite assessment. For further details or to enrol, contact Stroud College, 01453 763424

SPORT AND RECREATION FOR ALL

The Sports Network for Cam, Dursley and district is now underway. With its first chairman, Paul Winterbottom, in place, the network will be looking to promote the development and use of sport and active recreation facilities throughout the area.

Members of the network include schools, clubs, societies and local authorities, in fact any organisation can join that aims to foster the benefits of sport and active recreation in the area. Members of the Network are automatically members of Vale Vision.

As well as assisting collaboration between its various members, the Network will help clubs and societies with funding applications to make sure benefits are spread across the area. The Network is committed to helping all individuals, through the efforts of its members, to have open access to an expanding range of suitably equipped facilities across the whole range of existing and required sports and recreational facilities. To join or for more details of the Network contact Vale Vision by e-mail (valevision@btconnect.com) or via the shop at 28, Long Street, Dursley.

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

How far can the energy we consume be generated locally in a sustainable manner? It's a question that's been asked at all levels, nationally, regionally and in the county. To help provide some answers for Cam, Dursley and the surrounding district an Energy Group has recently been formed within Vale Vision to stimulate the deployment of sustainable energy schemes in the area. Its members include people with strong professional interests in energy generation and saving.

Methods for up to date energy conservation and generation can be introduced most readily in new building developments, and, with this in mind, the group have met the developers of the Littlecombe site, St. Modwen, to find out about the sustainable energy measures that will be incorporated in the development.

The major energy aims for the site include good energy conservation in the building designs to reduce substantially energy use (and therefore carbon emissions), and the development of a biomass district heating scheme, for which the fuel includes wood chippings. 50% of the dwellings will include provision for electrical connections for photovoltaic panels to be mounted on the buildings, and buildings will be oriented to offer the best opportunity for solar energy use, either photovoltaic electricity generation or thermal solar heating for hot water. For more details on the Energy Group contact Vale Vision.

WALKING FESTIVAL

To celebrate the launch of the Cotswold Way as a National Trail, a walking, food and craft festival including a beer festival is planned for the Spring Bank Holiday 2007. This exciting two day event will incorporate the following:

- ⇒ local guided walks for all ages and ability including local schools
- ⇒ guided walks from places along the Cotswold Way
- ⇒ limbering up on the recreation ground
- ⇒ farmers market of local foods and craft (Sunday)
- ⇒ a display of rural crafts
- ⇒ beer festival of local breweries along the Cotswold Way
- ⇒ Saturday evening meal by Cam fm, walking awards and Barn Dance
- ⇒ Sunday morning cookery demonstration by Robert Rees
- ⇒ Sunday afternoon concert and teas in the tent
- ⇒ Stalls for traders and local groups
- ⇒ Bouncy castle and children's rides

If you are a local group and would like to book a stall or suggest an event, or a trader who would like to sponsor this event, contact Vale Vision. The event will be advertised in the media, in the Event programme and on a range of websites in towns along the Cotswold way.

SPONSOR OF THE MONTH

Each month this newsletter is delivered to you courtesy of our sponsors. This month, the newsletter is sponsored by Bennett Jones who have now relocated to bigger and better premises in Parsonage Street. We wish them every success in their new premises.

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HEALTHY LIVING

Vale Vision working in partnership with local GPs recently arranged a meeting of those involved in Healthy Living, ideas and initiatives. The main purpose of this meeting was to share ideas and to gain awareness of the many initiatives going on in Cam, Dursley and surrounding areas. It was recognised that although there was interest and ideas from many of those present, there were many groups who were not able to be present who were also involved in local initiatives and projects.

A decision was made that there were opportunities for funding but prior to investigating these, it was considered important to share ideas and disseminate information through a series of meetings, topics are outlined below:

Discovering health - Including: Knowledge in health, Learning, Empowerment

Provisional date 6th December 06, May Lane Surgery, Led by - Viv Jones, Hugh Van't Hoff

Joining In - Including: Social opportunities, Community, Belonging

January 07, Cam Everlands School, Led by - Sarah Birch, Bill Church, Ian Dixon

Active Recreation - Including: Physical activity

March 07, - Rednock School, Led by - Geoff Wheeler, Shirley Hill, Matt Pearce, Dilys Warren

Emotional well-being - Including Creative arts

May 07, GL11 or Orchard Medical Centre? Led by - Simon Opher, Marilyn McKechnie

Where do we go from here - Including future plans, a general discussion

July 07, Led by: Dr M Freeman and Shirley Hill

Each meeting will aim to: improve **communication**, enhance **further thinking**, promote **participation**, be non ageist – consider needs and opportunities of **all age groups**, consider **self help** and **develop independent living**, **consider qualitative** outcomes/anecdotal results and a brief “**news**” item for sharing information. Meeting dates will be announced in the new year. If you would like to contribute to any of the above meetings, please contact the volunteers leading the sessions.

Vale Vision Sponsorship

Sponsor this newsletter: £25 ½ page, £15 ¼ page
(charities and community groups – please ask for reduced rates)

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Only two advertisements per copy.

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Current and back copies will be posted on our website.

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