

MARKET TOWN AWARDS 2007

MARKET TOWN: **HORNSEA**

PROJECT NAME: **'VOLUNTEER VIEWS'**

Partners: **The Holderness Volunteer Centre (HVC), and many local volunteer organisations**

Category: **Social and Community**

HVC investigated volunteering by inviting active volunteers to complete a questionnaire revealing their personal attitudes on doing voluntary work. About 70% responded in strong emotional and intellectual terms – on the enjoyment and satisfaction of the work itself to being involved in and valued for supporting and helping people.



The project 'Volunteer Views' was initiated in October, 2006 and publication of the findings followed in February, 2007.

It allowed volunteers to voice their personal reactions to voluntary work; answered the implicit question 'Why volunteer'; and gave them a voice. The project helped to publicise voluntary work in general, and also helped to enhance community awareness that volunteers work together with shared aims to benefit the whole community. A key finding was that the development of a community spirit is the greatest achievement.

The project demonstrated that voluntary work is an influential and powerful force in the community and that opportunities for voluntary work are wide-ranging.

'Volunteer Views' was innovative in two respects. There is public encouragement to become a volunteer, but publicity does not extend to what it is actually like to be an active volunteer.

Funding for the project came from the Rotary Club of Hornsea and the East Riding of Yorkshire Council. There are numerous ways in which the publication could be exploited in the future as more volunteers join HVC and more areas for in-depth research are identified.

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