



The Oswaldtwistle Lamp – The heart of the community

The Idea

The idea behind 'The Oswaldtwistle Lamp' is to bring the library back into the hands of the community to meet the needs and aspirations of the community. The building is a fantastic resource right in the heart of the town with a busy street of shop to one side and a large residential area on the other side. Its easy access makes it ideal for people of all ages to come and visit, its light, airy and recently refurbished which makes it welcoming. Its floor space is perfect for a number of uses, with smaller side rooms and a large room where the books are currently displayed.

The Oswaldtwistle Lamp must be a beacon of good in the community, I envisage significant interaction with the neighbours both residential and business to include them in the project. By uniting residents with businesses we would encourage both to work together to further strengthen trade and encourage new business to come to the town. Entrepreneurs with new business ideas may well use a table top set up in The Oswaldtwistle Lamp to test the market for their products.

The Oswaldtwistle Lamp must utilise local volunteers. This will encourage people to mix within the community, build confidence for those perhaps needing to get out of the house, be of assistance to people finding work by using their experience to gain new skills that boost their employability.

Ideas for use

- Social centre for small groups to meet, friendship groups, toddler groups, Local history talks
- A coffee shop serving locally produced and or sourced products (possibly run by local businesses)
- A book exchange / Library facility
- A centre for advice, help and support for the community
- Run by the people, for the people
- Locally produced handicrafts for sale perhaps a nest for individuals starting up small businesses
- A facility that can be replicated with other disused libraries
- A food bank

Structure

- A company limited by guarantee with charitable status run by
 - A board of directors / TrusteesSupported by
 - Community champions
 - Volunteers
 - Entrepreneurs
- A trading company to cover all commercial activities

Community Involvement opportunities

- Volunteering
- Presenting talks
- Producing handicrafts, food items, art etc.

Business community opportunities

- Advice
- Contributing funding / services
- Cookery / craft demonstrations

Funding

- Proceeds from the sale of items, café etc.
- Contributions from the business community
- Room hire fees
- Community grants
- Lottery funding
- Donations from the community