

The Heart Beats On

For many people, change is a worry. Few of us are strong enough to face the challenge of change head-on. It is so much more comfortable to live with the 'devil you know' and not risk failure.

But - having the courage to take a risk and make a difference is what the Heart project is all about. We have been truly inspired by the energy and commitment the idea has generated.

We now have evidence of strong overall support for a new café, shop and green space on Morgan's field. To date, over 200 Heart questionnaires have been returned with over 80% of people in support of a new Heart. And the really great news is that 50% of respondents said they would be willing to volunteer on the project and over 80% confirmed they would buy shares. We also have £15,000 of finance pledged by local people to pay for an ecology study, planning submissions and to compensate the tenant for giving up the agricultural lease on the field.

We still have many phases to complete before we are able to create a new Heart for local people. But through the process we are learning about orchards, community funding, the planning process, marketing, retailing and staff recruitment. We are also discovering the value of great teamwork and how a combination of strengths and talents can bring people together.

We are confident that the knowledge and experience we have gained can be invested in our local area's future - and are now looking forward to positive change... with relish.

Talk to any of us to find out more about The Heart or keep up with the latest news at www.heartofthevillage.co.uk

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