

Sugar's Apprentice favours Highworth

Highworth Community Partnership Group are the proud owners of a new laptop computer thanks to the efforts of Keith Smith, their Chairman.

Keith recently attended a course in Wisbech organised by Action for Market Towns. The course was run as a competition entitled 'You've been fired up'. Together with team members from Norfolk, Suffolk and Kent, Keith had to barter and learn from building surveyors, architects, DDA experts, fire officers, planners and conservation experts. He had to face the local media, test 37 of the most basic regeneration skills, including project management, leadership and research skills. A dilapidated landmark building in Wisbech's conservation area, a building very similar to the Mechanics Institute in Swindon, was the source material for the competition.

After two exhilarating and exhausting days the team had to give a final presentation to none other than Katie Hopkins, last year's winner of the BBC programme 'The Apprentice'. In a no holds barred session 'the mouthy blonde', Katie declared that the team's plan was 'superb'. Out of five teams we were declared the overall winners and each member received a laptop computer for our organisation.

Keith said that, "despite the intense pressure and the hectic pace it was a most enjoyable two days and the icing on the cake was to bring a laptop back to Highworth. Katie Hopkins despite her reputation was a feisty but very fair judge and a pleasure to talk to."



Keith Smith receiving his laptop computer from Katie Hopkins, last year's winner of the BBC TV programme 'The Apprentice'.

Yoof newz – HYPER update

HYPER links directly with the Highworth Community Partnership Group. In April we asked young people from 10 to 19 years what activities they wanted to see in Highworth and Blunsdon and what they wanted from the Rec.

We got lots of answers, thanks to support from all the local schools, the local youth faith group workers and the youth service. Skate still has a high place as a preferred activity, alongside a Multi-use Games area. The Skate issue was followed up by a mobile Skate facility being available at Westrop in April, where over a 100 individuals signed in to skate over the 4 afternoons. More mobile Skate Parks were planned to test interest and support skaters. This issue is being taken forward by a community interest group. The

Multi Use Games Area and other activities identified in the questionnaire are being explored by a group chaired by the Highworth Town Council. The Rec is to raise awareness of what is already on offer.

One question asked for volunteers 13+ years old to join a Youth Action Group where young people can be consulted and actively influence what is going on in Highworth. 45 young people asked to join this Group. A group is currently involved in refurbishing the Newburgh Place, Youth and Community building with exciting new plans for using this space. Who says young people in Highworth and Blunsdon aren't motivated and interested in having their say on the issues that really concern them?

Contact the HYPER group 07885 520575