

MLA EAST OF ENGLAND LEARNING NETWORK PROJECT

Background Information

Service name	St Edmundsbury Heritage Service
Description of activity / project	Haverhillians – oral history of expansion of the town.
Timescale (or ongoing)	March 2007 – November 2007
Main audience / user focus	Indigenous residents of village before ‘London overspill’ development
Partners	Haverhill Local History Group. Haverhill Town Council
Project / programme objectives	Collect information about changes brought about by the expansion of the town; supplementing Haverhill Now and Then exhibition running concurrently.
GLO and GSO piloting objectives	GLO and GSO. To see if the Haverhillians understood why the heritage service was eager to collect their histories / memories. Whether they had enjoyed the time spent on the project.
Contact details	Peter Jones, Heritage Officer, Moyse's Hall Museum, Cornhill, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk. pjones@stedsbc.gov.uk

1. **What** were the key outcome(s) measured: GLOs: Knowledge and understanding, Skills Attitudes and values, Enjoyment Inspiration, Creativity, Activity and progression. GSOs: Community cohesion, Understanding between groups, Inter-generational understanding.
2. **How** you measured the extent to which the outcome / outcomes were met (Include any of the following developed for your project: questionnaires; interview or focus group guides; observation schedules): tea and cakes session at end of project. Heritage / History / Culture placed as titles on flipcharts. The Haverhillians were asked what they personally thought the words meant to them, and if they had enjoyed the oral history sessions.
3. **Who** you collected evidence from: members of Haverhillians that had participated in the oral history recollection sessions.
4. **Who** collected the evidence; heritage and community development Officer, Heritage Officer and Town Council community worker.
5. **How** you analysed the evidence. Discussions with heritage and community development Officer and heritage officer
6. **How** you presented the findings. (Include a summary of the findings)

Planned presentation to project management group. Presentation to fellow heritage staff at all heritage service sites.

The majority of the members of the group enjoyed their times, treating the sessions as an opportunity for a social gathering. Others felt that it was their duty to leave their history and did not enjoy the oral history sessions at all. Culture and History all attracted words such as Culture: lost / attitude / History: disappointing when it is lost / necessary / ... whilst Heritage did not get one!

7. **How** you used, or plan to use, the findings

(For example to inform service development or for advocacy) To look at redesigning future projects and events based upon what we learnt from this. To involve partners in this process. To plan GSOs that are there when people arrive and depart from future community led events.

8. Comments on the piloting process

(Including what you learned, what went well and any challenges or problems)

Need to plan GLOs and GSOs within all programmes, so that it becomes part of the 'package'

Time given to project away from 'office' very useful and productive.

Meeting with other professionals from other companion fields to see from another perspective.

9. Finally, give details of anything that surprised you about the piloting process.

The fact that developing GSOs and GLOs are an obvious combination, and a valuable tool which does not have to be difficult to set up or facilitate.