**Planning students visit Trentham community – video transcript 4/10/12**

**Narrator:**

Students from La Trobe University’s Master on Community Planning and Development and Bachelor of Urban, Rural and Environmental Planning courses recently travelled from Bendigo to the beautiful central Victorian town of Trentham to assist the community to develop ideas for an urban structure plan. It is hoped the plan will assist residents to determine the type and scale of growth they envisage in their town.

**Assoc. Professor Trevor Budge:**

The township of Trentham was really keen for a group of La Trobe University students to come here and talk with them and hear about their town, but also to work with them in developing a new structure plan for the town. The students are doing a very specialized subject in statutory planning so they’ll be taking those ideas and turning them into parts of the planning scheme or proposing them to the council as how they could use those ideas on the development of the town and I think the students have realized what a wonderful beautiful setting the town has and that’s really important to the local community.

**Narrator:**

The first of many consultations by students with locals, council planners and relevant statutory authorities has begun. Over the coming months students will develop ideas and with the input of the Trentham community, draft proposals for the development of their urban environment.

**Amy Lanfranchi – Student:**

We came to Trentham to understand the town and what locals want and need, how the town is changing, and what they might need to look at in development in the future.

**Narrator:**

Andrew Butt, Lecturer in Planning at La Trobe University in Bendigo says that there is a sense within the town that there are about to be some major changes due to population growth and economic development.

**Andrew Butt – Lecturer:**

Well, I think Trentham is a good example of a place for a long time being of out of the spotlight, and now its probably seen as being connected to some really hot tourist and development places like Daylesford and the Macedon Ranges, and so for a place like this the unique thing is that’s its ‘flown under the radar’, but I think there is a sense here that its on the cusp of change and development and that’s both obviously exciting but also be quite concerning for people.

**Narrator:**

For local resident Barry Elliot, the hope is that students can help the town determine its own future.

**Barry Elliot:**

We’re hoping that the support from La Trobe will help us to develop a town plan which is owned by the local community, points at where we should be heading and hopefully confirm some of the things we’re trying to do, but also gives us some new ideas.

**Narrator:**

Mr Butt says that urban development plans are far more important than simple directives denoting where and why a building can be constructed, rather the implications of such plans go the heart of housing affordability and availability, the type of commercial and employment development it champions and the implications of development in various areas of towns and surrounding farm land.

**Andrew Butt – Lecturer:**

We want the students to think about things inventively; in some ways we’re walking a fine line between being pragmatic and being exploratory. Often of course, a local council or even a consultant that they pay is probably constrained in those ways, this sought of project can really bring a breath of fresh air, but at the same time we obviously temper that with some reality.

**Narrator:**

At the end of this year Professor Budge and Mr Butt will present this project at an education conference as a case study demonstrating how to implement fieldwork exercises and bring elements of planning courses to life.

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