

A

Minutes of a meeting of the Valley Community Forum held at Castle Donington Catholic Church, Castle Donington on Thursday 24 April 2008.

Present

Cllr T J Pendleton (North West Leicestershire District Council) – in the Chair

Members

Mr C Burton	Castle Donington Parish Council
Cllr G Dalby	North West Leicestershire District Council/Castle Donington Parish Council
Mr R Else	Castle Donington Parish Council
Mr M Hening	Long Whatton and Diseworth Parish Council
Mrs N Hening	Long Whatton and Diseworth Parish Council
Mrs L A S Pendleton	Leicestershire County Council/Kegworth Parish Council
Mr J Pike	Kegworth Parish Council
Cllr T Saffell	North West Leicestershire District Council/Castle Donington Parish Council
Mr A Sowter	Castle Donington Parish Council
Mr D Snow	Castle Donington Parish Council
Mr C Vaughan	Castle Donington Parish Council

In Attendance

Peggy Beddoe	Resident
A David Dawson	Resident
Rowena Dawson	Resident
Peter Duckering	Resident
Margaret Duckering	Resident
Gay Evans	East Midlands Airport
Julie Logan	Castle Donington Volunteer Bureau
John Lowing	Resident
Michael Shaw	Castle Donington Volunteer Bureau
David Taylor	MP, North West Leicestershire
M Taylor	Resident
Mary Wall	Castle Donington Volunteer Bureau
John Williams	Resident

Partner Agencies

Insp C Brown	Leicestershire Constabulary
Mrs S Cavill	Leicestershire County and Rutland Primary Care Trust

Officers

Kristy Ball	Community Engagement Manager, Leicestershire County Council
Victoria Bowers	North West Leicestershire District Council
Charlotte Burt	Rural Community Council
Auzra Flynn	North West Leicestershire District Council
David Halstead	North West Leicestershire District Council
Ian Hill	North West Leicestershire District Council
Beverley Ireland	Committee Officer, Leicestershire County Council
Rosie McConachie	Clerk, Packington Parish Council
Fiona M Palmer	Clerk, Castle Donington Parish Council
Tom Purnell	Group Manager, Policy, Research and Information, Leicestershire County Council

10. Chairman's Welcome.

Cllr Pendleton welcomed everyone to the meeting.

11. Apologies for Absences.

Apologies for absence were reported on behalf of Mr T Charsley (Kegworth Parish Council), Mr N J Rushton (Leicestershire County Council), Cllr D Stevenson (North West Leicestershire District Council), Cllr B Webster (North West Leicestershire District Council) and Ms J Wright (Breedon Parish Council).

12. Declarations of Interest.

No declarations of interest were made.

13. Minutes.

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 November 2007 were confirmed as a correct record subject to addition of Cllr B Webster to the list of members present.

14. Matters Arising from the Minutes.

Cllr Saffell noted that his concerns that the current name did not recognise a number of villages and parishes whose boundaries fall within the area covered by the Forum had not been recorded. It was noted that the name 'Valley' had been derived from name of the electoral division.

15. Funding of Hospital Transport Volunteer Scheme

Michael Shaw reported on the current state of funding for this scheme, which covered 6 parishes, 10 villages and around 13,500 people. The scheme had originally been funded by the Leicestershire Health Authority and had been available for anyone who a General Practitioner (GP) felt was too ill to use public transport. The journeys were not only

to hospitals but could be to other health professionals e.g. dentists. When the Health Authority had been replaced by Primary Care Trusts (PCTs), the area covered by this transport scheme had come under 3 different trusts. The North West Leicestershire PCT (NWL PCT) had only allowed patients registered at the Castle Donington GP Surgery to access the scheme, those registered at Kegworth Surgery had been no longer covered. The NWL PCT had since merged with the other PCTs in the County to form the Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT, which still offered funding to the scheme to cover patients registered at Castle Donington. Kegworth Surgery came under Rushcliffe PCT (Nottinghamshire), which did not offer any monies to the scheme.

Kegworth Parish Council had provided funds to enable patients registered at their village surgery to access the scheme and the Volunteer Bureau had made up the funds from their operating surplus. The Bureau was unable to maintain this in the long term and would be withdrawing their funding and, therefore, the service to the residents of Kegworth. It would be a major loss to the area as the village was not on a bus route allowing access to hospitals in Leicester.

Mr Shaw asked that the Community Forum make representations to recommend annual funding be found for the Kegworth element of the transport scheme.

During the discussion the following principal points were made:

- Drivers were paid 40p/mile and about £3,000 was required to fund the scheme for Kegworth.
- Fuel costs were becoming an issue.
- The service provided was excellent and, if the scheme did not exist, the PCT's would have to provide their own transport scheme for these patients.
- There was some confusion over how the LCRPCT funded the Castle Donington element of the scheme and whether the funding was to be expected for the current year.
- Kegworth Parish Council was prepared to continue to support the scheme from their precept, for as long as they were able.
- There were patients registered at Kegworth surgery who lived in other parishes and those Parish Councils could be approached for contributions.
- There was a general consensus, however, that the funding should be provided by the PCTs.

AGREED:

- (a) To ask Sue Cavill of the LCRPCT to verify their funding processes for the hospital transport volunteer scheme and the amount due for the current (calendar) year.
- (b) That funds be found to maintain the service for Kegworth for the current year, in the hope that a permanent funding solution can be found for 2009 onwards.

(c) That the Forum look at the scheme at a future meeting in the light of further information on the funding issues.

16. Choice and Priority setting by Leicestershire County and Rutland Primary Care Trust (LCRPCT)

Sue Cavill gave the Forum an overview of NHS Choices. Since April 2008, patients had a free choice of hospital (including some private hospitals) when referred by their GP for treatment. For example, a Castle Donington resident may wish to be treated in a hospital in Hampshire to be near family. Further information on the hospitals could be found on <http://www.nhs.uk>. Patients should research the varying waiting times, clinical outcomes, infection rates, etc.

In connection with Priority Setting in the NHS, Sue reported on how the LCRPCT had progressed since she had spoken to the Forum at its meeting on 22 November (Minute 5). There had been targets set for the PCT at national level e.g. access to GPs, stroke strategy. The PCT had then, following consultation, including with Community Forums across the County, agreed 16 local priorities (selected from a list of 64 produced by the Government); these could be seen by viewing the PCT's Operating Plan at <http://www.lcrpct.nhs.uk/>. (The Summary of the Operating Plan is attached to these minutes.) In response to a question, Sue confirmed that patients treated as an emergency e.g. picked up by an ambulance, are not offered a choice of hospital.

Sue also reported back to the Forum on an issue raised at the meeting on 22 November (Minute 5) in relation to patients treated at Derby Royal Infirmary (DRI). Patients who had been admitted as acute cases were now, following consultations between the patient, their family and medical staff, discharged to Coalville Community Hospital for rehabilitation.

Mr Saffell clarified the issue as originally raised. In the past, patients had been discharged to a hospital in Shardlow for rehabilitation and, when this had closed, the DRI had opened a ward, called Shardlow, to take these patients. It was now felt that, rather than use this ward for this purpose, the DRI was pushing patients to go to Coalville, a town which it was difficult for families based in the area to get to using public transport. Sue offered to take the concerns raised back to the LCRPCT.

Mr Lowing raised the issue of patients being able to see the same GP in relation to continuing care. He referred to a letter from Sue Locke of the LCRPCT to Castle Donington Surgery stating that, in relation to continuing care for an ongoing condition, a patient should be able to make appointments to see the practitioner of his choice. However, it was proving impossible, as the appointment slots were filled so quickly. In response to questions, Sue Cavill explained that GP surgeries functioned as independent businesses, albeit under clinical controls. There was a Professional Executive Committee, formed of local GPs and members of the PCT, which oversaw provision for the County and she offered to take the matter back to this body. It was noted that it was possible to make

appointments up to a year in advance with other health professionals, e.g. dentists.

Peggy Beddoe expressed concerns that, as the area was covered by more than one PCT, possible clusters of illnesses which might be attributable to the stress of living with the relatively high levels of noise and pollution to be found in the area, might be missed.

Angus Sowter noted that, during the consultations carried out to produce the Castle Donington Parish Plan recently, half of those who responded were concerned that the out-of-hours service was based in Woollaton, Nottinghamshire. He wondered if it was possible for the LCRPCT to pressurise the local surgeries into providing the service. Sue noted that the out-of-hours services in the County had recently been reorganised.

AGREED:

- (a) To request Sue Cavill raise the issue of making appointments with a practitioner of choice with LCRPCT's Professional Executive Committee and respond directly to Mr Lowing.
- (b) To request Sue Cavill raise the concerns over the discharge of non-acute patients from the Derby Royal Infirmary to Coalville Community Hospital with the Primary Care Trusts concerned and report their responses to a future meeting of the Forum.
- (c) To request Sue Cavill report to the Forum on any surveys done in the area, which might reveal clusters of particular illnesses.
- (d) To request Sue Cavill report back on the reorganisation of the out-of-hours service and where the future provision for the area will be based.

7.15pm: Members of Castle Donington Parish Council left at this stage to attend a meeting of the Parish Council.

17. Update on Ravenstone with Snibston, Long Whatton and Diseworth, and Castle Donington Parish Plans

Charlotte Burt gave a presentation of the main issues arising out of the work done recently to produce these Parish Plans. Charlotte began by explaining that the Rural Community Council Leicestershire and Rutland was a charity aiding parishes in carrying out community consultation, particularly with regard to developing parish plans. A copy of the presentation is filed with these minutes. It was noted that the plans could be found at <http://www.leicestershirevillages.com/northwestleicestershire/> and it was that each plan would have an Action Plan at the back. These were just the first 3 to be completed in the area and further parish plans were being produced.

The depth of consultation that had gone into producing the plans was welcomed and it was felt that it offered a sound basis to inform the policies of the District Council and the County Council. However, concerns were expressed that the wishes of the residents of the parishes

concerned would not always be taken into consideration, particularly in relation to housing developments when there was so much pressure from central Government to build new houses in the region. The similarity, in Castle Donington, between the plan now produced and the Village Appraisal produced 7 years ago was noted and concerns were expressed that the same issues were being raised having apparently not been dealt with. David Taylor explained that, although national government set targets for house building in regions, they did specify sites for development and local authorities did have autonomy to decide where development took place. It was noted that new developments did come to feel like part of the village and should not always be feared.

Victoria Bowers explained that she was responsible for co-ordinating the response of North West Leicestershire District Council to the issues raised in the parish plans. Kristy Ball explained that the lead on responses from the County Council was through the Community Engagement Team, based in the Chief Executive's Department.

18. District of North West Leicestershire Sustainable Community Strategy (NWLSCS).

Ian Hill gave a presentation on the North West Leicestershire Sustainable Community Strategy (NWLSCS), which was intended to set out a vision for the District and Parishes for the next 32 years. He explained that the NWLSCS would feed into the Local Area Agreement (LAA) and was the result of extensive research and consultation. A copy of the presentation is filed with these minutes.

It was noted that it was intended that the NWLSCS would be condensed into a more accessible North West Leicestershire Community Charter, which would be made widely available. The next stage would be to produce local plans for local areas (Place Plans).

During discussion the following principal points were noted:

- The NWLSCS contained a priority relating to the built environment and a focus on particular areas (e.g. Castle Donington's conservation area) would appear at the Place Plan level.
- Residents felt strongly that promotional activity for the area should not portray certain key features (East Midlands Airport and Donington Park) in purely positive terms as they also had negative impacts on the local environment.
- The Local Development Framework would be driven by the NWLSCS. It would attempt to build on the positive aspects of the key features in the area and work to negate the negative impacts.

AGREED:

To request the District Council to report to the Forum on the progress with the priorities of the North West Leicestershire Sustainable Community Strategy at regular intervals.

19. County Sustainable Community Strategy.

Tom Purnell gave an update on the County Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS), to which the Forum had contributed their key priorities for the area at the meeting held on 22 November 2007 (Minute 4). A copy of the relevant pages of the SCS was handed out at the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes.

The County Sustainable Community Strategy set out priorities for the County for the next 5 years and covered themes including health and the economy. Included within the County SCS were priorities for Community Forum areas. In order to meet the priorities of the SCS, the County Council and other partners and the government would develop a Local Area Agreement (LAA).

Arising from discussion the following principal points were noted:

- Residents did not feel that the local area felt the benefit of industrial developments on their doorsteps: for example there was no compensation for the loss of community amenities such as hedgerows. It was noted that industry paid rates directly to national government.
- If people did not see some benefits emerging from engaging in these consultations, they would lose interest.
- It was important that these processes were not approached with a negative attitude.
- The local priorities should be SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, Timely). Examples were given of successful, realistic priorities that had been attained, such as developing community speed watch schemes, setting up litter picks, providing youth activities over the summer.

AGREED:

To note the progress with the County Sustainable Community Strategy.

20. Question Time.

The Chairman invited all those present to submit any questions/s they wished to raise about the local area which he would endeavour to either provide either orally or via a written response within 20 days.

A total of 2 questions were received which are detailed below:

	<u>Question</u>	<u>Submitted by</u>	<u>Question to</u>
1.	A joint meeting of the Parish Council clerks in the Forum area should be held to enable more joined-up working.	Fiona Palmer Castle Donington Parish Clerk	Parish Clerks

2.	Ensure that Community Forums do not clash with full parish council meetings in the future	Fiona Palmer as above	LCC/NWLDC
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The Chairman thanked everybody who had submitted questions. It was noted that a written response from the relevant agencies would be provided within 20 working days.

21. Items for the next Agenda.

In addition to issues previously identified at the meeting, the following items were also discussed:

(a) Community Kitty Participatory Budgeting.

Kristy Ball offered to update the Forum on moves to set up Community Kitties.

AGREED:

That Kristy Ball be requested to report on Community Kitty Participatory Budgeting at the next meeting.

(b) Traffic Problems

It was noted that there were traffic problems, e.g. parking, speeding, pinch points, across the area.

In relation to a recent issue in Castle Donington, it was noted that it would take up to 2 years to complete the necessary statutory processes but the initial consultations had begun.

AGREED:

That representatives of Leicestershire Constabulary and Leicestershire County Council's Highways, Transportation and Waste Management Department be invited to attend the next meeting to discuss traffic problems.

22. Date, Time and Venue for next meeting.

AGREED:

That the next meeting be held at 6.00 p.m. on Monday 30 June, 2008, at a venue to be confirmed.