



**Minutes of a meeting of the Blaby South Community
Forum held at Huncote Community Centre,
Denman Lane, Huncote on Wednesday 11 June 2008.**

Present

Mr. Mike Lee – in the Chair

In attendance

Cllr R Dixon	Sapcote Parish Council
Mr F Gent	Stoney Stanton Parish Council
Cllr N Gilson	Blaby District Council
Mr A Ingles	Voluntary Action Blaby District
Ms A Timson-Jones	Sharnford Traffic Action Group
Cllr A Knight	Huncote Parish Council
Ms J Melville	Huncote Parish Council
Mr. R. K. C. Neal	Stoney Stanton Parish Council
Cllr G Thurlow	Croft Parish Council
Cllr R Whelband	Thurlaston Parish Council
Cllr E F White	Leicestershire County Council and Blaby District Council

Officers

Mr J Adsley	Locality Partnership Co-ordinator, Blaby District Council/Leicestershire County Council
Ms K Ball	Community Engagement Manager, Leicestershire County Council
Mr. T. Brooke	Locality Partnership Co-ordinator, Oadby and Wigston Borough Council/Leicestershire County Council Blaby District Council
Ms S Davies	Planning Assistant, Leicestershire County Council
Mr G Clark	Planning Policy Manager, Blaby District Council
Mr J Leach	Head of Community and Neighbourhood Services, Blaby District Council
Mr M Lugg	Director of Highways, Transportation and Waste Management, Leicestershire County Council
Ms J McKay	Blaby District Libraries, Leicestershire County Council
Mr S Macintosh	Group Manager, Policy, Research and Information, Leicestershire County Council
Mr R P Steffens P.C. 936 Vadnia	Committee Officer, Leicestershire County Council Leicestershire Constabulary

Mr J Wells

Environmental Protection Manager, Blaby District
Council

Ms S Whiles

Chief Executive, Blaby District Council

21. Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, which was an opportunity for Councillors, service providers and the public to discuss issues within the area that could help improve the local area and its services.

22. Declarations of Interest

The Chairman declared a personal non prejudicial interest in the item discussed under minute 28 below as Chairman of Sharnford Traffic Action Group.

23. Minutes

The Chairman reported that it had not been practicable to include all the items on the agenda for this meeting which had been identified for discussion during the previous meeting. The Chairman explained that items would be included on the agenda for the next meeting on travellers and 11-16 education although Gary Clarke would comment briefly on travellers at this meeting (see Minute 24 below).

Discussion took place on the accuracy of some of the statements recorded in the minutes.

AGREED:

- (a) That the minutes of the meeting held on 19 February 2008 be signed as a correct record;
- (b) That in future the minutes would be more succinct and would include a note of actions to be taken, by whom and when.

24. Travellers

Gary Clarke, Planning Policy Manager, Blaby District Council reported that establishing criteria for travellers' sites would be undertaken through the Local Development Framework process. However, the Development Control Committee on 28 February 2008 had agreed an interim policy statement which, amongst other things, set out 7 criteria for the assessment of gypsy and traveller accommodation as shown on the schedule attached to these minutes.

Action by:

AGREED:

That the provision of gypsy and traveller sites be considered at the next meeting.

BDC/LCC*

(The matter was also discussed under Minute 31 (a) below.)

25. Blaby Local Development Local Development Framework

Gary Clarke reported on progress with the Blaby Local Development Framework (LDF) on which the Forum had received a presentation at its previous meeting (Minute 17 refers).

The Core Strategy issues and options paper had been published in March 2008 and, although the closing date for comments had been 10 April, comments were still welcomed. It was noted that this was not a policy document but was intended to set out the key issues facing Blaby District Council to 2026. The next step would be to produce a Preferred Options document which would be followed by a consultation period during June and July.

It was noted that the Secretary of State had not yet produced changes to the regional plan and the LDF process would be altered by the Planning Bill when it became legislation. The officers of the Council were prepared to revise the LDF in the light of any changes when they became clear. In the meantime, a valuable evidence base was being developed.

It was noted that a further round of consultation would be undertaken in October 2008 when there would be a further opportunity for discussion by the Forum.

AGREED:

To note the update on progress with the Local Development Framework.

* BDC = Blaby District Council. LCC = Leicestershire County Council

26. District of Blaby Sustainable Community Strategy

Sandra Whiles reported on progress with the Blaby Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS). She tabled a copy of the summary 'Our Vision for 2026', a copy of which is filed with these minutes. She stressed that the priorities set out had been identified by local people. The SCS would link into the Blaby Local Development Framework, and discussions were presently being undertaken with partners to enable them to sign up to the SCS.

Action by:

Forum members were asked to comment on the SCS either at the meeting or later. No comments arose at the meeting.

27. Extended Services and Children's Centres

John Adsley and Tim Brooke, Locality Partnership Co-ordinators for Blaby District Council/Leicestershire County Council and Oadby and Wigston Borough Council/Leicestershire County Council respectively, gave a presentation on proposals to introduce extended services for children in Blaby and Oadby and Wigston. A copy of the presentation is filed with these minutes.

John Adsley explained the purpose behind the proposal was to bring together practitioners in health, schools, social care, housing, voluntary bodies and others who provided services to children. He hoped that The Pavilion in Huncote would become the administrative hub for the service. He also hoped that South Leicestershire College could provide some facilities.

A discussion took place on the facilities available to young people in the area and on the availability of public transport to access those facilities.

AGREED:

- (a) That the presentation be noted;
- (b) that Parish Councils and voluntary groups would be invited to submit suggestions to John Adsley (email:ja1@blaby.gov.uk) or Tim Brooke (email: tim.brooke@oadby-wigston.gov.uk) suggesting the services which needed to be provided to young people in their area.

28. Traffic Measures in the Area

The Chairman welcomed Matthew Lugg, Director of Highways, Transportation and Waste Management to the meeting.

Action by:

Matthew gave a report on the routing of lorries in the area and on some general traffic management issues. The general policy of the County Council was to channel lorries on to 'A' and 'B' roads. Traffic Regulation Orders restricting the weight of vehicles were in force on a number of roads in the area and any changes to current restrictions would need to bear in mind the effect on other communities. In terms of Sharnford the only long term solution would be the construction of a by-pass although this would take many years to achieve as it was necessarily a protracted process. A study was currently underway with a view to building a business case for a by-pass. The study report would be submitted to the Highway Forum at its next meeting.

Matthew then described the range of measures available to slow traffic down. A Community Watch scheme could be introduced to monitor traffic speed and then action taken arising from the Speed Watch findings, such as: interactive speed signs; road safety cameras, speed humps and other measures.

The Director agreed to supply a copy of the criteria which needed to be satisfied when speed cameras were being considered.

LCC

A number of issues were raised by individuals, including:

- Winter salting of Croft Road, Thurlaston.
- Introduction of measures to reduce high speeds identified through the Community Speed Watch Initiative.
- Progress on a request for a 20mph speed limit on the B581, Stoney Stanton.
- The development of a footpath between Stoney Stanton and Sapcote.
- Obscured visibility due to parked cars in Main Street, Huncote.
- Poor visibility at the exit from Huncote Road on to Narborough Road, and the speed of traffic on Narborough Road.

- Progress on the scheme to introduce some mini-roundabouts in Huncote.
- Consideration of introducing safety kerbs in Sharnford.
- Possible introduction of interactive speed limits signs in Sharnford.

Action by:

A number of these issues were discussed in detail with Matthew Lugg at the conclusion of the meeting. Matthew agreed to follow up the issues raised.

LCC

29. Air Quality Project, Sharnford

Jon Wells, Environmental Protection Manager, Blaby District Council gave a presentation detailing the pioneering work being undertaken to improve air quality in Sharnford. A copy of the presentation is filed with these minutes.

Jon explained that on contact with the NOx-reducing chemical nitrogen oxides became an inert chemical which then washed out without polluting the water table.

The Chairman thanked Jon for the presentation and wished him success with the project.

30. Question Time

(a) Footpaths

The Chairman referred to the health benefits of walking and hoped that a footpath could be constructed next to Sharnford Road (B4114). Although there were a number of public rights of way in the area it was not always practicable to use these after bad weather.

The Director of Highways, Transportation and Waste Management explained the process for the submission of such schemes, which were normally initiated through the Parish Council.

Discussion also took place on maintenance of footpaths and the Director indicated that he was willing to enter into discussions with Parish Councils about delegating certain duties to them.

LCC

- (b) Leicestershire County Council Customer Service Centre Action by:

A question was raised about the County Council's Customer Service Centre and the teething troubles which are currently being experienced. The Director explained the issues which had given rise to the current performance of the Customer Service Centre and the work which was being undertaken to improve that performance.

31. Items for future Forums

- (a) Travellers (see minutes 21 and 24 above)

A presentation to the next meeting should include the location of sites in the whole County and should set out the obligations of Blaby District Council and Leicestershire County Council.

BDC and
LCC

The Chairman invited Sapcote Parish Council to give a short presentation to that meeting setting out the Council's point of view.

- (b) 11 – 16 Year Old Education

A presentation was requested from the Leicestershire County Council Children and Young People's Service on the likely future pattern of education locally following the review of education in Melton Mowbray and the Vale of Belvoir.

LCC

32. Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held at 7.00 p.m. on Wednesday 1 October 2008 at a venue in Thurlaston, Sharnford or Sapcote.

7.00 p.m. – 8.50 p.m.
11.06.08

CHAIRMAN

BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL

**CRITERIA FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF
GYPSY AND TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION**

**INTERIM POLICY STATEMENT AGREED BY THE
DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE – 28 FEBRUARY 2008**

1.	Type of Site/Scale	Relationship of size and type of site to nearest settlement capacity. Ability to provide for transit pitches from time to time in scale with host population.
2.	Location	Distribution of sites across district and relationship to demand. Concentration of sites in area (economies of scale). Geographic spread of sites. Identified need.
3.	Accessibility	Need to be realistic about availability of non-car accessibility. Suggest up to 0.8km very sustainable (within easy walking and cycling); up to 1.6 km reasonably sustainable (max walking and within cycling distance), over 1.6 limited sustainability (beyond walking, within cycling distance). Distance to shops/Post Office (0.8km). Distance to GP/Dentist (0.8km). Distance to Hospital/Health Centre (up to 8km). Distance to Primary School (0.8 km). Distance to Secondary School (up to 8km). Distance to bus stop (0.8km).

4.	Highways	<p>Potential for safe and convenient access and to not interrupt safe and free flow of traffic.</p> <p>Closeness to main road/motorway network.</p> <p>Safe access for vehicles and pedestrians.</p> <p>Parking space.</p> <p>Turning Space.</p> <p>Potential to cope with business use.</p>
5.	Residential Amenity	<p>Potential for Integrated and peaceful co-existence with local community.</p> <p>Neighbouring Use Complimentary – no nuisance to or from adjacent uses.</p> <p>Existing of Potential Availability of Services;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water - Electricity - Sewerage - Refuse Collection <p>Potential for Noise Nuisance.</p> <p>Potential for Flood Risk.</p> <p>Likelihood of Contamination.</p> <p>Levels of Land – Suitability as gypsy site.</p> <p>Potential for safe Play Area.</p> <p>Potential for Clothes Drying Area.</p> <p>Potential for Work Area.</p>

6.	Landscape	<p>Potential for site to be accommodated without adverse effect on environment.</p> <p>Avoid best and most versatile land.</p> <p>Landscape Designation (if any).</p> <p>Existence of well defined/effective boundaries.</p> <p>Potential for further screening.</p> <p>Use of Previously Developed Land.</p>
7.	Local Plan Designation	<p>Confirmation that No Site Specific Local Plan Designation.</p> <p>Confirmation that No Conflict with Strategy of Plan.</p>