



**Minutes of a meeting of the Ashby Area Community Forum held at
Oakthorpe Sports and Leisure Centre, Measham Road, Oakthorpe on
Thursday 27 November 2008**

Present

Mr S D Sheahan CC (Leicestershire County Council) – in the Chair

Mr D P Bates	Resident
Cllr A Bridges	North West Leicestershire District Council
Mr G Brown	Resident
Mr K J Colver	Appleby Magna Parish Council
Mr J Cooper	Ashby Woulds Town Council
Mr J Coxon	Leicestershire County Council/North West Leicestershire District Council/Ashby Town Council
Ms C Chave	Andrew Martin Associates
Rev V Elphick	Local Churches
Mr K Grove	Oakthorpe, Donisthorpe and Acresford Parish Council
Cllr J Hoult	North West Leicestershire District Council
Mr P Hyde	Leicestershire County Council and Leicestershire Police Authority
Mr R Jones	Resident
Mr T Neilson	Measham Parish Council
Mr L Nester	Ashby Woulds Town Council
Mr R Merry	Oakthorpe and Donisthorpe Parish Council
Mr C Tandy	Ashby Civic Society
Mrs S Tandy	Ashby Civic Society
Mr T Tann-Waston	Resident
Mr R M Warwicker	Resident

Partner Agencies

Mr C Brown	Local Police Unit Commander, Leicestershire Constabulary
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Officers

Ms K Ball	Community Engagement Manager, Leicestershire County Council
Ms H Bell	Better Places Team, Leicestershire County Council
Mr A Davies	North West Leicestershire District Council
Mr I Nelson	North West Leicestershire District Council
Mr A Robinson	Assistant Chief Executive, Leicestershire County Council
Mr G Cave	Committee Officer, Leicestershire County Council.

32. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited those present to introduce themselves.

Apologies for absence were reported on behalf of: District Councillors R Blunt, F Fenning, G Allman, R Bayliss and G Jones; Cllrs J Bridges (Moiria Parish Council); C Keeley (Oakthorpe Donisthorpe and Oakthorpe Parish Council) and P Pugsley (Sweepstone Parish Council); Mr C Davies (Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT) and representatives of Ashby Health Centre.

33. Declarations of Interest

The Chairman invited members of the Forum to make any declarations of interest.

Mr Coxon declared a personal non-prejudicial interest (as a member of the Ashby Canal Trust) in respect of the item on the Ashby Canal (minute 36(b)).

(Later in the meeting, during the presentation on the Local Development Framework, Mr Sheahan declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in respect of the proposed Measham site allocation (minute 39).)

34. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Forum held on 8 July 2008 were agreed as a correct record.

35. Matter Arising from the Minutes:
Minute 27: Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT Issues

Kristy Ball reported that the PCT had provided written updates on a number of issues discussed at the previous meeting, including NHS dentistry services in the Forum area and the future of Ashby Community Hospital. Papers providing these updates were circulated at the meeting and copies are filed with these minutes. The Forum was informed that a representative from the PCT would be attending the next meeting to provide a full report on current issues.

36. Updates and Feedback

(a) Proposed Change of Name of the Forum

The Chairman referred to minute 26 of the previous meeting and reported that a letter had recently been received from the Chief Executive of North West Leicestershire District Council advising of the view of the North West Leicestershire LSP on the

proposal that the name of the Forum be changes to the 'Forest Community Forum'. (A copy of the letter is filed with these minutes.) The LSP had requested the Forum to seek to identify a different name in order to represent the areas it serves.

It was moved, seconded and carried that the name of the Forum should be changed to the 'Ashby, Ibstock, Measham and Moira (AIMM) Community Forum' and the LSP be requested to agree to this name change.

(b) Ashby Canal and the National Forest Railway Line

The Chairman referred to minute 28 of the previous meeting under which progressing the extension of the Ashby Canal to Measham and the re-opening of the National Forest Railway Line to passenger traffic had been identified as two of the priorities for discussion by the Forum.

The Chairman reported that the County Council's Community Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting on 3 November 2008, had received a report on progress with the restoration of the Ashby Canal. The Committee had noted the contents of the report and had also noted that it would be important to commence Phase 1 of the project by October 2009 to comply with the terms of the Transport and Works Act Order. A copy of the report and minutes of the meeting are filed with these minutes and are available for inspection on the County Council website.

The Chairman then reported that the County Council's Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be considering a report on the National Forest Line at its meeting on 9 December. The report would be publicly available from 2 December. It would then be published on the County Council website and paper copies would be available on request.

NOTED:

the updates provided on the Ashby Canal and the National Forest Line.

(c) Feedback on Priorities – Action Plan

Kristy Ball referred to the list of priorities for the Forum identified by members at the previous meeting and circulated a paper summarising the issues raised and suggesting a timetable for consideration of the top priorities by future meetings. A copy of the paper is filed with these minutes.

AGREED:

the timetable for consideration of priorities for the Forum area by future meetings of the Forum.

(d) Community Forum Budgets

Further to minute 24(i) of the previous meeting, Alan Davies reported that a sum of £20,000 had been allocated by Leicestershire Together (LSP) to each of the 27 countywide Community Forums for spending on projects in the Forum areas between 2008 and 2011 and that a group had been established to determine the expenditure criteria. A report would be presented to the next meeting of the Forum explaining the approach to be followed by Forums in this regard.

(The Forum agreed that the order of business be changed to enable the subjects listed under item 5 on the agenda to be considered in the following order: (b), (c) and (a).)

37. Local Policing

Chris Brown, Local Police Unit Commander, gave a presentation at the meeting on policing in the Community Forum area. Copies of the slides are filed with these minutes and are available on the Forum website. The following main points were made in the presentation:-

- Four Neighbourhood Beats were policed from Ashby Police Station and each Beat had specific priorities set by their communities through a consultation process.
- Ashby Police Station building was used as the base for Neighbourhood Police teams, Police Beat officers and Police Community Support officers. The building was not open to the public but was manned 24 hours a day. The Police Station had been closed to the public as part of restructuring measures. It had been little used and was unlikely to re-open.
- The Police could be contacted at any time on 0116.222 2222 or on 999 in an emergency.
- Daily, the Police had to decide on the prioritisation of resources to tackle incidents reported to them.

The following main points arose in questions and comments:-

- Attention was drawn to the work carried out through Community Speedwatch to tackle problems of speeding traffic in villages and built-up areas.

- The proposals in the North West Leicestershire LDF for increased housing provision in Ashby may require increased police numbers.
- Cllr Nestor commended the local police officers who had dealt with a recent local disturbance caused by a mentally ill person.

Chris Brown indicated that he would investigate and take the necessary actions on the following issues that were raised:-

- Complaints regarding non-compliance with the flashing speed limit sign on Moira Road, Donisthorpe.
- Arranging for a local police officer to attend appropriate meetings of Oakthorpe and Donisthorpe Parish Council.
- A follow-up to the response given by the local police officer who recently attended the Parish Plan launch event to the request to establish a youth club for the parish.

Chris Brown said any policing problems should in the first instance be reported to the local sergeants and then, if necessary, to himself or to his deputy Sergeant Gerrard for investigating.

In conclusion, the Chairman thanked Chris Brown for his presentation and responding to the Forum's questions and comments.

NOTED:

the contents of the presentation and that the specific points raised at the meeting would be addressed by the Local Police Unit Commander.

38. Influencing the 'Big Budget' in Leicestershire

Andy Robinson invited everyone present to take part in a voting exercise related to the budget of the County Council. The priorities for the County had been agreed through the Sustainable Community Strategy (on which community forums had been consulted) but there would be opportunities to increase spending in certain areas and the voting exercise (which was being carried out at all 27 community/area forums across the County) was an opportunity for communities to influence what the additional priorities in those areas should be. The views of the forums would be reported to Leicestershire Together and the results of the voting exercise would be reported to the next meeting of the Forum.

39. North West Leicestershire Local Development Framework (LDF)

Ian Nelson, Planning Policy and Sustainability Manager at North West Leicestershire District Council gave a presentation on the proposals contained in the Core Strategy that was now subject to further consultation. A copy of the presentation slides are filed with these minutes.

The following main points were made in the presentations:-

- The LDF would replace the current District Local Plan.
- The Core Strategy was the first and most important in a series of LDF documents to be produced that would set the overall planning framework (initially) to 2026.
- The Core Strategy consultation document contained a series of options upon which no decisions had yet been taken by the District Council.
- The LDF was required to comply with the provisions in the East Midlands Regional Plan (Regional Spatial Strategy). The Core Strategy consultation document identified more housing than was potentially required by the draft Regional Plan in order to provide flexibility in case the housing requirement is increased through the Partial Review of the Regional Plan that was currently underway.
- The proposed focus for new development would be Coalville and the rural towns of Ashby de la Zouch, Castle Donington, Ibstock, Kegworth and Measham. Development outside these settlements would be limited to local need and infill in "sustainable villages" and local needs only in other smaller settlements.
- Four housing distribution options were considered, the favoured being Option 1 which included the allocation of 500 new homes in Ashby, 100 in Ibstock and 50 in Measham. In these regards, developers had suggested 5 sites in Ashby, 6 in Ibstock and 3 in Measham.
- Gypsy and Traveller sites needed to be provided for 43 permanent pitches, 20 transit pitches and 10 pitches for travelling show-people in the District.
- Proposals to secure new economic opportunities in the District were put forward.
- There was a priority to revitalise Coalville Town Centre but also to maintain and improve other town centres.
- The impact of new development sites on existing infrastructures would be addressed.
- The District Council was pursuing the reopening of the National Forest Line.
- Public meetings to discuss the proposals would be held in Coalville, Castle Donington and Ashby at the end of January. Public consultation on the Core Strategy proposals would end

on 13 February 2009 – responses could be submitted on-line. The District Council would then consider the proposed document which would be submitted to the Secretary of State in late 2009 and there would be a Public Inquiry in mid-2010 before the Core Strategy was adopted.

The following main points arose out of questions and comments:-

- The consultation period was too short.
- Regard must be had to land drainage issues when deciding on the location of new housing developments.
- The definition of Donisthorpe as a "sustainable village" was queried in view of the shortage of community facilities provided there.
- The relationship between the location of new housing sites and local employment needs required further consideration.
- Adequate affordable housing provision must be ensured.

In responding to the points raise, Ian Nelson undertook to take the following specific actions:-

- To discuss in more detail with Mr Warwicker the contact details of representatives of gypsy communities in the area.
- To reconsider the community facilities issue in the Donisthorpe area.
- More work was needed to address local employment issues; however, there was a lack of guidance on this matter in the Regional Plan in this regard.

NOTED:

the contents of the presentation and that the specific issues raised at the meeting would be addressed by the District Council.

40. Question Time

The Chairman invited all those present to submit any questions they wished to raise about the local area on which officers would then endeavour to provide an oral response at the meeting or, otherwise, would supply a written response within the next 20 days.

The following two issues were raised and responded to at the meeting:-

- (a) Mr R Perry requested the Forum to consider if it wished to make any comment on the proposal for the closure of Moira Fire Station that was contained in the North Division Review commissioned by the Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Fire Service. It was noted that the deadline for comments was 8 January 2009.

AGREED:

that a letter be sent to the Fire Service stating that the Forum was opposed to the proposed closure of Moira Fire Station.

- (b) Mr Hyde reported that he was aware that questions had been raised about which organisation was responsible for ensuring the effectiveness and efficiency of the police force operated by Leicestershire Constabulary. In his capacity as a member of the Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Police Authority, Mr Hyde informed the Forum that this was the Authority's responsibility and that the local Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) were involved in this task. In order to keep the public better informed it might be necessary to provide further information on the Police Authority's roles with future Council Tax leaflets.

The Chairman reported that he was aware of a proposal for a new open-cast coal mine in the area but that a planning application had not yet been submitted. No-one was present at this meeting from the Action Group to ask any questions on this issue.

41. Items for Future Forum Meetings

The following issues were AGREED for consideration at the next meeting:-

- (a) Local Transport Issues) (as identified in the list of
) priorities – minute 36(c)
- (b) Update on National Forest Line) refers)
- (c) Health Issues – further report by the PCT
- (d) Community Forum Budgets.

42. Date, Time and Venue for Next Meeting

AGREED:-

That the next meeting be held on Monday 23 February 2009 at 6.00pm at Ashby Ivanhoe Community College in Ashby de la Zouch.

6.00pm – 8.05pm
27/11/08