



Minutes of a meeting of the Markfield, Ratby, and Groby Community Forum held at Thornton & District Working Men's Club, on Thursday 12 March 2009.

Present

Mr D A Sprason (Leicestershire County Council) – in the Chair

In attendance

Cllr Stuart Ball	Bagworth and Thornton Parish Council
Andy Brettle	Resident
Mrs Joanne Brown	Bagworth & Thornton Parish Plan Group
Mr Malcolm L Brown	Bagworth & Thornton Parish Plan Group
Dawn Dudding	Resident
G Fox	Resident
K Fox	Resident
Ifor Jones	Resident
Jo Leadbetter	Resident
Mr Tony Lockley	Resident
Lee March	Resident
M W D McCausland	Resident
C J Miles	Resident
R Miles	Resident
Lesley Mortimer	Resident
Mick Mortimer	Resident
Cllr O O'Shea	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
J Sault	Resident

Officers

Insp Martyn Ball	Local Policing Unit Commander, Leicestershire Police
Keith Gibbs	Assistant Director of Information and Corporate Performance, NHS Leicestershire and Rutland
Edwina Grant	Strategic and Community Planning, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
Ron Grantham	Community Safety Manager, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
Maggie Haddon	Age Concern, Hinckley and Bosworth
Judy Handford	Age Concern, Hinckley and Bosworth
Helen Harris	Team Leader, Better Places, Leicestershire County Council
Beverley Ireland	Committee Officer, Leicestershire County Council
Sabrina Malik	Community Engagement Manager, Leicestershire

Jane Neachell	County Council Environmental Coordinator, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
Juan Pardo	Community Engagement Officer, Leicestershire County Council
Hetal Patel	Development Officer, Environment Action, Leicestershire County Council
Donna Worship	Climate Change Manager, Leicestershire County Council

Apologies for absence were received from Pat Crane (Desford Parish Council), Cllr M Cartwright (Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council and Groby Parish Council), Ms Merle B Joyce (Ratby Parish Council), Cllr S Sprason (Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council) and Cllr M Lay (Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council and Markfield Parish Council).

38. Welcome and Introductions

Mr Sprason welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Thornton and District Working Men's Club for its hospitality in hosting the meeting.

39. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 November 2008 were confirmed as a correct record.

40. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

41. NHS Leicestershire and Rutland (NHSLCR) Primary Care Trust: Local Operating Plan

Keith Gibbs gave a presentation on the development of the priorities for NHSLCR for the coming year. A copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes. Copies of the consultation, which would close on 18 March, were available at the meeting.

It was noted that Mr Gibbs had had to stand in a short notice for a colleague. Unfortunately, he had not been passed the responses to questions raised by the Bagworth and Thornton Parish Plan Group in advance of the meeting. These would be passed to the Group as soon as possible.

During discussion, the following were among the points raised:

- There were no medical facilities in Bagworth and Thornton Parish (see Question from Stu Ball raised under Question Time)

and residents without access to a car had to use 2 buses to reach GP surgeries. It was noted that NHSLCR's decision to withdraw from a plan to provide a local facility had been made before the Darzi Review had begun and there was a now an increased emphasis on moving the provision of care back into communities. Keith Gibbs undertook to report the Forum's concerns back to the relevant part of NHSLCR.

- The area was recognised as deprived and was perceived by residents as a forgotten community when it came to healthcare. Not only was there no GP surgery but residents with out of hours needs were referred to Leicester Royal or Loughborough.
- The commitment to providing more satellite clinics in communities was welcomed and, in the light of this, concerns were expressed that Coalville Hospital was not going to be developed as had been originally proposed.
- The role of NHSLCR, especially in relation to GPs and the local hospitals was not fully understood and surprise was expressed that the PCT seemed unable to insist on primary care providers extending services and provision in the area.
- Attention was drawn to recent advertising about how well hospitals in the East Midlands were doing in relation to infection control and questions were asked as to the necessity and advisability of undertaking such an expensive campaign.
- It was explained that NHSLCR does monitor and carry out on site inspections of the hospitals, etc from which it commissioned services.

42. Climate Friendly Communities

Hetal Patel and Donna Worship gave a presentation on climate friendly communities. A copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes.

The short 'quiz' during the presentation revealed that:

- The majority of those present believed in climate change.
- Areas where the effects of climate change might be felt included health, weather, taxes, waste collection.
- The highest living bills, aside from mortgages/rents, were: council tax, fuel, children and food.
- It was believed that between 10% and 20% reduction in bills could be achieved by changing consumption habits. (Hetal reported that a 20% reduction was easily achievable.)
- Only one person present was aware of the Climate Change Pledge.
- Three people present knew of the Eco-School project. (It was noted that there were 3 Eco-Schools in the Forum area: Ratby Primary School; Brookvale High School; and Elizabeth Woodville Primary School.)

Copies of the Climate Change Pledge were circulated for members of the Forum to sign and Hetal pointed out that it was estimated that £13m was wasted in Leicestershire through leaving equipment on standby rather than switching off.

Donna reported that three communities had taken part in the first year of the Climate Friendly Communities scheme: it was hoped to run the scheme for a further 2 years and they were now looking for communities to take part. Communities did not have to be geographical entities; they could be organisations such as the Women's Institute, or a collection of schools, or members of a particular age group looking to work together.

The Forum had the opportunity to inspect a resource box that would be offered to schools, along with suggested lesson plans, and some examples of energy saving devices for the home.

In response to concerns raised that some of the items on the Climate Change Pledge (e.g. switching to a condenser boiler) were not easily affordable it was noted that there were funds available from: ENABLE¹ through the Climate Friendly Communities scheme; and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform's Low Carbon Buildings Programme householder stream. In addition, many utility companies also had grant schemes, although these were mainly aimed at those on benefits or the elderly.

43. Climate Change

Jane Neachell reported on the production of Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council's Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan, which had been published that day and copies of which were not yet available. The Strategy covered the whole of Hinckley and Bosworth and was not just a Borough Council plan but also covered businesses, parish councils, etc. Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council had pledged to reduce its carbon emissions by 20% by 2011 and partnership working had an essential role to play in reaching this target.

Jane went on outline some key features of the Strategy and Action Plan, as follows:

- Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council were planning to hold workshops on how communities could produce plans that linked into the Borough Council's Plan;
- The Council was installing data monitoring equipment in its buildings that would provide information every half hour on energy and water usage;

¹ Environmental Action for a Better Leicestershire – a countywide forum, consisting of almost 150 partners (including organisations, businesses and individuals), for the protection and enhancement of the environment.

- A cover would be installed on the swimming pool in the leisure centre, potentially saving 40% of energy usage for the Centre;
- There would be annual external audits, following which a statement of the Council's performance would be published;
- The Council had developed a Green Procurement Plan;
- Guidance for developers would be produced to ensure that climate change was taken into account and development was carried out sustainably.

It was noted that the East Midlands had been the first region to get all the local Councils to sign up to the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change and that Mr Sprason was one of three Regional Climate Change Ambassadors.

44. Question Time

	<u>Question</u>	<u>Submitted by</u>	<u>Question to</u>
1.	Why are solar panels so expensive – are there any grants available, especially for the elderly?	Stu Ball	Sustainable Development Officers, Leicestershire County Council and Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
2.	The Hinckley & Bosworth PCT, before its demise, worked closely with Bagworth & Thonrton Parish Council to develop a medical facility in the Parish. The Leicestershire & Rutland PCT [now NHSLCR] pulled the plug on this initiative – the Parish, which includes a large traveller population, has no medical facilities whatsoever, so residents have to travel by bus to visit a doctor. We would like support from the PCT to open a full time surgery or a part-time one.	Stu Ball	NHSLCR

1. No discussion.
2. See first bullet point under Minute 41.

45. Community Safety Partnership Priorities

Ron Grantham, together with Martyn Ball, gave a presentation on the new priorities for 2009/10 to the Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Community Safety Partnership. A copy of the presentation can be seen on the Forum's web pages <http://www.leicestershireforums.org/markgro> (in the meetings section).

The key priorities would be: Anti-Social Behaviour; Substance Misuse Harm Reduction; Acquisition Crime; Violent Crime.

It was noted that Hinckley and Bosworth Borough was not an area with particular problems with knife or gun crime.

Ron reported on the Partnership's recent success in being awarded a Beacon Award "After Dark" for its work on managing the night-time economy. It was the first instance of an Award going to a partnership.

Martyn Ball drew attention to the continued fall in the number of crimes reported, which, building on the success of the previous year, had resulted in approximately a 20% fall over two years, resulting in 1500 fewer victims. He also highlighted the importance of the unseen work being undertaken by officers on issues such as domestic violence (which was considered an emerging threat in the light of rising unemployment). Generally, crime figures had fallen for the last 10-12 years; however, the public confidence had not risen to reflect this.

It was noted that the Neighbourhood Watch Superstrength scheme had been expanded to include Newbold Verdon, Desford and Peckleton. It provided a cohesive, joined up approach to crime prevention, using adult education to get safety messages across. Bagworth and Thornton Parish Council had expressed a desire to get involved.

Martyn Ball also drew attention to the Policing Pledge and Crime Maps that were now available on the website http://www.leics.police.uk/campaigns/95_crime_mapping_launched/. It was noted that some of the figures involved were very small and care should be taken in looking at them, e.g. a 100% increase may mean an increase from 1 to 2.

During discussion, the following were among the points raised:

- An "adult caution" for a first offence was classed as a detectable crime. With juvenile offences, where "local disposals" (forms of restorative justice, undertaken with the consent of, and the light of the views of, the victim) were used, they were not classed as a detectable crime. The numbers were, however, monitored.
- Officers did visit the Costelot Site as necessary in the course of their duties, as they did any other community within the area.
- Low level crime e.g. speeding, trespassing, etc, did generate fear of crime and affected the quality of life of individuals exposed to it.
- Bagworth and Thornton was a Neighbourhood Action area, however, it was not possible to provide a constant police presence on the streets. The police would respond to and deal with any concerns raised with them.

- Staffing levels for the Bosworth neighbourhood area had been doubled since September (to 8 officers, including 4 Police Community Support Officers).
- The police were very good about providing crime figures, e.g. when they attended parish council meetings, but there was never any context on how the number compared with other areas, or information on how many were solved. It was reported that Hinckley and Bosworth was a relatively safe area to live in, with a lower than average number of crimes per head of population. For the current year there had been c. 6,000 crimes (with only 2 more weeks to go) within the Borough and this included everything from pub fights, shop thefts, domestic violence, etc.
- An incident was recorded as a crime if that was how it was reported, regardless of whether the police believed that a crime had in actual fact been committed.

46. An introduction to Participatory Budgeting

Edwina Grant gave an update on the plans for participatory budgeting. She reported that Leicestershire Together² was making £20,000 available to each Community Forum to be spent by March 2011. It would be for Forum members to decide on priorities, carry out shortlisting and make a final decision on how to spend the monies.

There were a few rules that had been laid down. The Forums needed to take account of existing evidence for the priorities of an area (e.g. Local Area Agreement, Sustainable Community Strategy, Priority Neighbourhoods, etc). There would need to be robust evidence that the Forum had consulted in reaching its decision, which would probably require them to go out to reach people, rather than expect the public to come to the Forum.

It would be possible to spend the funds on one key project or on a number of things. A Forum might opt to put the funding alongside other funding to finance a larger project, or to pool resources with another Forum from the Hinckley and Bosworth area to tackle a common problem.

Edwina reported that the Local Strategic Partnership wanted to make the process as simple and straightforward as possible to get bids in. It was suggested that each Community Forum might wish to establish a task and finish group to decide how to achieve consultation and bring forward proposals.

² Leicestershire Together is the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) for Leicestershire. It brings together numerous partnerships all seeking to deliver improved services for the people of Leicestershire. Its Sustainable Community Strategy outlines the issues that local people see as a priority and its Local Area Agreement sets out how those issues are being tackled.

AGREED:

- a) that a Task and Finish Group be established to decide how the Forum will consult on funding decisions and bring forward proposals to do this;
- b) that the Task and Finish Group consist on one County or Borough Councillor, one Parish Council representative and 2 others;
- c) that the County or Borough Councillor be Ozzy O'Shea;
- d) that Stu Ball be requested to consult with the parish councils to select a Parish Council representative;
- e) that Andy Brettle be appointed to the group; and
- f) that Beverley Ireland be requested to contact residents who had attended meetings of the Forum to ask for a volunteer to serve as the fourth member.

47. Date of next meeting

It was NOTED that the next meeting of the Forum would be on Thursday 12 November at 7.00 p.m. at a venue to be confirmed.

48. Close

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance. He then closed the meeting.

7.05 – 9.00 pm
12/03/09

CHAIRMAN