

**Minutes of a meeting of the Markfield, Ratby, and Groby Community  
Forum held at The Social Centre, Markfield Court, on Thursday  
12 November 2009.**

**Present**

Cllr Martin Cartwright  
(Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council Groby Ward / Groby Parish Council)  
In the Chair

**In attendance**

Cllr Stuart Ball	Bagworth and Thornton Parish Council
Andy Brettle	Resident
J Batty	Groby Parish Councillor
Cllr P Batty	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council/Groby Parish Council
Mrs Joanne Brown	Bagworth & Thornton Parish Plan Group
Mr Malcolm L Brown	Bagworth & Thornton Parish Plan Group
Mrs Susan Cartwright	Resident
A Cook	Markfield Parish Council
N Cossa	Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust
Mrs P Crane	Rural Community Council
M Gardiner	Resident
Mr R Fraser	Leicestershire County Council
Mr R James	Ratby Action Group
Mr Tony Lockley	Resident
Glenn Marriott	Resident
Oliver Marriott	Resident
Cllr O O'Shea	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
J Rayne	Resident
Alex Ritchie	Resident
D Ritchie	Resident
Liam Ritchie	Resident
E W Sammiman	Resident
Cllr S Sprason	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
L Talbot	Resident

**Officers**

Graeme Chilvers	Sport, Health and Wellbeing Manager, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
Mr J Fargher	Groby Parish Council Clerk
Edwina Grant	Strategic and Community Planning, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
Helen Harris	Team Leader, Better Places, Leicestershire County Council
Sam Harrold	Youth Development Worker, Leicestershire County Council
Sgt Huss	Leicestershire Constabulary

Beverley Ireland	Committee Officer, Leicestershire County Council
PC K Kelly	Leicestershire Constabulary
PCSO Leech	Leicestershire Constabulary
Sabrina Malik	Community Engagement Manager, Leicestershire County Council
S. Mitchell	Earl Shilton Community House
Juan Pardo	Community Engagement Officer, Leicestershire County Council
Noel Singh	Policy Officer, Leicestershire County Council

Apologies for absence were received from Ms Merle B Joyce (Ratby Parish Council) and Mr D A Sprason (Leicestershire County Council).

1. Welcome and Introductions

Cllr Cartwright welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that, as Vice-Chairman of the Forum, he would be chairing the meeting in Mr Sprason's absence.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2009 were confirmed as a correct record.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Participatory Budget Update and Recommendations

Cllr Cartwright reported that he was pleased to be able to announce the 7 projects that had been successful in their bids for funding following their pitches at the Participatory Budgeting Workshop held on 1 October 2009. Cllr Cartwright explained that, following the Workshop, the projects had been ranked according to the number of votes and then taken away and worked on to ensure that they were feasible and that the monies would be allocated appropriately. A report listing the successful projects and providing detail about the status those bids were now at was circulated at the meeting and a copy is filed with these minutes.

Cllr Cartwright reported that the sums would be allocated over a period of time, to suit the timescales of the individual projects. The monies would be spent by December 2011.

It was noted that the 5 projects which had not been successful in bidding for funds under this scheme were being supported to access alternative funding streams.

AGREED:

- a) That the update on the outcome of the Participatory Budget Workshop be noted;
- b) That the congratulations of the Forum be passed to the projects that had successfully bid for funds at the Workshop.
- c) That the officers involved be thanked for their work on ensuring the viability of the bids.

5. Update from the Police

PC Ned Kelly introduced himself as the Beat Officer for Groby, Ratby, Markfield and Stanton and invited questions from members of the Forum, resulting in the following issues being raised:

**Anti-social behaviour (ASB)**

Sergeant Huss explained that, in addition to Halloween patrols, there had been extra late shifts in those areas over the preceding 10 days focussing on ASB. ASB was being taken increasingly seriously, with greater numbers of dedicated and targeted patrols. A new joint police/council anti-social behaviour team, know as JQUAL, has been established based in Hinckley and would follow-up all incidents reported to it and respond to all complaints. PC Kelly reported that more officers were being put in place at the times when trouble was being reported. It was noted that, although a major incident had taken place that day, officers had not been pulled away from ASB patrols to cover it.

In response to a resident's concerns regarding an incident reported in October, which did not appear to have been followed-up, Sergeant Huss took further details and offered to report back to the resident concerned.

**Horses**

PC Kelly confirmed that there had been problems with a number of horses being put to graze on private land without permission, some of whom had escaped onto the roads. It had not proved possible to identify the owner(s) but the investigation had resulted in the animals being moved. He was not aware that of any law that was broken as a result of the horses wandering onto carriageways.

**Car Sales at Fieldhead**

PC Kelly confirmed that selling cars at the side of the road was not a police matter but was a matter for Trading Standards (a function of the County Council). The details of the earlier problem had been passed to Trading Standards and he had hoped this had resolved the problem. If cars were again being left at the road side for sale, he would report the matter again to Trading Standards. The police would only get involved if the vehicles were causing an obstruction to the carriageway.

Leicestershire County Council Trading Standards website:  
<http://www.leics.gov.uk/index/business/tradingstandards.htm>, email:  
[tradingstandards@leics.gov.uk](mailto:tradingstandards@leics.gov.uk).

Consumers with queries should call [Consumer Direct](#) on 08454 04 05 06. If further advice and information was needed, details would be referred to Leicestershire Trading Standards advice team who would be happy to help.

## 6. Funding Support for local communities

Noel Singh, a Policy Officer at Leicestershire County Council, provided members of the Forum with an overview of the information that the County Council offered to community and voluntary groups on funding opportunities. Noel explained that he managed the Leicestershire Funding Toolkit, which was an online research aimed at helping community organisations to access funding, via a Funding Database. The website address is [www.fundingtoolkit.org](http://www.fundingtoolkit.org) and could be accessed from the following webpage:

[http://www.leics.gov.uk/index/community/community\\_grants.htm](http://www.leics.gov.uk/index/community/community_grants.htm).

Grants listed within the Funding Database were primarily aimed at formally constituted voluntary organisations. The site therefore also contained guidance on how to set up a community organisation.

In addition, Noel reported that Leicestershire County Council was facilitating a new funding programme – Inspire Leicestershire – especially for projects in rural areas, with funding from the Council and from the East Midlands Development Agency (EMDA). It was aimed at capital infrastructure projects, e.g. refurbishing redundant buildings, small tourist attractions, extensions for retail or workplaces, shop improvement grants and equestrian-related developments. Grants of up to £50,000 could be made, providing the bidders could supply 50% match funding. The Council was also launching a new grants programme ‘Communities Together’, aimed at projects which played an active role in building bridges and promoting dialogue between different community groups. There was £10,000 available, to be allocated in grants of up to £500.

In relation to a comment that Parish Councils frequently found that grants budgets were fully subscribed within a few weeks of the new council financial year beginning and that Shire grants were fully committed until well into 2011, Noel explained that the timetable for grants administered by Leicestershire County Council varied, depending on which department was responsible for the grant, how much money was available, and how popular the grants scheme was. He indicated that Leicestershire County Council programmes generally had very limited pots of money; however, the Toolkit had information on a number of other local, as well as national grant schemes, which were able to consider funding requests throughout the year and which Parish

Councils could investigate as alternative funding streams.

7. Physical Activity Programme

Graeme Chilvers, Sport, Health and Wellbeing Manager, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, reported on the campaign to raise physical activity across the Borough. Members noted that ill health costs NHS Leicestershire and Rutland PCT c. £5m a year. This could be reduced if people could manage 3 lots of 30 minutes' worth of exercise in a week, or 10,000 steps a day. Graeme explained that the Borough Council had produced a booklet signposting many activities being offered around the Borough, such as walking clubs, dance classes and free swims for under 16s and over 60s. Further information could also be found on the Active Together website, at:

<http://www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk//pp/Gold/viewGold.asp?id=596>.

It was noted that Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council had a target to get 3,000 more people involved in regular activity by 31 March 2011 and Graeme urged members of the Forum to register with the Active Together scheme. He indicated that the Borough Council would be willing to work with groups to develop new and additional activities if there was demand.

In response to questions, the following points were noted:

- Activities were happening all over the Borough.
- Activities for young people were largely dealt with through school sports programmes. This included holiday schemes.
- There was a waiting list to access physical activities tailored for the disabled. Funding for these was from NHS Leicestershire and Rutland: it was hoped that the funding could be increased in the future.
- Access for the general public to school swimming pools was at the discretion of individual head teachers.
- Currently many of the activities listed were during the day in the week: additional activities were included when the Borough Council were notified of them.

AGREED:

- a) That the report be noted;
- b) That Graeme Chilvers be requested to supply copies of the leaflet to all Parish Council Clerks in the Forum area.

## 8. Credit Union

Edwina Grant, from Strategic and Community Planning, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, reported on the Borough Council's intention to set up a credit union to operate in the Borough, in conjunction with Clockwise Credit Union. Edwina explained that a credit union was a non-profit-making financial co-operative offering safe and ethical savings and loans products. The credit union would use the savings deposited to provide affordable loans and savers would receive a dividend on their savings. Loans would be assessed on ability to repay and it was noted that interest rates would be low compared to those offered by many other lenders, particularly door-stop lenders and loan sharks. It was hoped to have the scheme in place before Christmas 2009.

The first phase would be based in Earl Shilton Community House (a priority neighbourhood area where there was known to be a problem with unethical lending). The credit union would be open to everybody and could also be accessed via Clockwise's central office at 20 Pocklington's Walk, Leicester. If the first phase was successful, outreach offices would be established across the Borough.

Edwina highlighted the fact that the project would be reliant on volunteers, able to offer anything from 2 hours a week of their time, coming forward to make it viable. It was hoped to be able to open the office during the day and the evening. Volunteers would receive full training (attendance at which did not commit attendees to anything). Edwina asked that, if anyone was interested in helping with the scheme, they contact her c/o the Borough Council offices in Hinckley or by email: [edwina.grant@hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk](mailto:edwina.grant@hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk) for further information.

During discussion the following points were raised:

- There would be a small core of paid employees. Volunteers would be expected to contribute to promoting the scheme, helping to steer people away from less ethical lenders, information gathering and form filling. The information would be passed to Clockwise for underwriting and decision-making.
- The scheme should be extended to other priority neighbourhoods, e.g. Bagworth and Thornton.
- Investments in credit unions were regulated by the government and were likely to remain more lucrative than many other savings options for the time being.
- The scheme had had unanimous support at a meeting of the Borough Council.

AGREED:

That the introduction of a Credit Union in the Borough be welcomed.

## 9. Ratby Action Group

Robert James, of Ratby Action Group, reported on the results of a recent questionnaire. He explained that the Action Group had arisen following the Local Development Framework (LDF) consultation. The Group had sent out 1,700 questionnaires to Ratby residents to find out their main issues of concern.

The following results had been noted:

- 89% of respondents had answered 'Yes' when asked if there should be crossing on Groby Road to allow children to cross safely to the Community Centre. This was being progressed via Highways at the County Council, following advice from Rob Fraser, the County Councillor.
- Only 27% of respondents were registered at the local GP. A suggestion had been made to explore the possibility of a Medical Centre being built in the village.
- The Group were exploring solutions to the problem of dog fouling in the village and would like to learn from the experiences of others.

Mr Fraser welcomed the desire within the village for people to come together and take an interest in their surroundings.

## 10. Question Time

The Chairman encouraged people to complete the question cards which had been circulated at the start of the meeting - questions could be tabled immediately or submitted later in the evening for a written response.

The following questions were put:

	<u>Question / response</u>	<u>Submitted by</u>	<u>Question to</u>
1.	As the PCT [NHS Leicestershire County and Rutland] is unable or unwilling to attend the Community Forum, could the Forum insist on a written report for each meeting in future?	Anon	NHSLCR
2.	Is there a process or agenda for helping our local young people into work? Out of work youths link to anti-social behaviour and possible criminal activity.	Glenn Marriott	Leicestershire County Council / Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council

3.	Speeding on Forest Road and London Road, Markfield, due to the fact that double-yellow lines have been put down. The cars, when allowed to park, were a natural form of traffic calming.	Rob Fraser	Leicestershire County Council / Police
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*(note: answers attached to the minutes)*

11. Items for future meetings

It was AGREED that the following issue be considered at a future meeting of the Forum:-

- Planning – the proliferation of development in rural villages.

In response to a query regarding the fact that the publicity for the meetings does not mention all the villages the Forum covers, it was explained that the name of the Forum could not be changed, except by the Local Strategic Partnership but it should be possible to add the names of the relevant villages on the posters.

The following venues were suggested for future meetings:

- Methodist Church Rooms, Ratby
- Bagworth.
- Groby

12. Date of next meeting

It was NOTED that the next meeting of the Forum would be on Thursday 4 February 2010 at 7.00 p.m. at a venue to be confirmed.

13. Close

The Chairman congratulated all the successful bidders on achieving all or part of their funding bid for and reiterated the funding sources open to those who failed in this instance for further advice. Cllr Cartwright thanked everyone for their attendance at the forum and closed the meeting.

7.15 – 8.45 p.m.  
12 November 2009