



**Minutes of a meeting of the Hinckley Area Community Forum held at  
Westfield Junior School, Westfield Road, Hinckley on  
Thursday 11 February 2010**

Present

Cllr. D. C. Bill (Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council and  
Leicestershire County Council) - Chairman

Cllr. R. Camamile	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council and Leicestershire County Council
Cllr. A. Hall	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council and Burbage Parish Council
N. Robinson	Burbage Parish Council
Cllr. D. O. Wright CC	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council and Leicestershire County Council

Officers

Beverley Ireland	Committee Officer, Leicestershire County Council
Sabrina Malik	Community Engagement Manager

Partner Agencies

Sgt Gary Butterworth	Leicestershire Police
Edwina Grant	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
Alison Hassell	NHS Leicestershire County & Rutland PCT
Sgt Christine Huss	Leicestershire Police
Sgt Steve Durrant	Leicestershire Police
Michael Whitworth	NHS Leicestershire County & Rutland PCT

Residents/Groups/Organisations

Robyn von Bergh	Hinckley & Bosworth Youth Council
Harvey Brown	Scouts/Friends of Hollycroft
Joan Cobb	Pensioners Action Group
Ann Crabtree	Burbage Youth Project
D. Doheney	Voluntary Action Hinckley & Bosworth
Mr N. R. J. Green	Leicester Road Residents Group
M. Greig	Westfield Juniors
Annette Guerrini	North Warwickshire & Hinckley College
Ann Harris	Meadows Community Group
Ian Kirby	Leicester Road Residents Group
T. B. Kirby	Earl Shilton Neighbourhood Action Team and

Mick Langham	Campaign for Better Transport (Leicestershire)
Sue Langham	Resident
K. Milner	Resident
Eric Neal	Leicester Road Residents Group
Rod Parker	Cyclists Touring Club
Jackie Payne	Friends of Hollycroft Park
Stuart Pemberton	Hinckley Area Schools Partnership
Janet Rowe	Hinckley Road Residents Group
A. Sharpe	Hinckley Pensioners Action Group
Jenny Twisleton	Railway
Iolanda Vettesse	Hinckley & Bosworth Youth Council
Claire Weddle	North Warwickshire & Hinckley College
	Womens Aid Leicestershire

Apologies for absence were received from:

Cllr J C Bown (Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council), Earl Shilton Age Concern and Shirley Dudfield.

#### 16. Welcome and Introductions

Cllr David Bill welcomed everyone to the seventh public meeting of the Forum.

#### 17. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 November 2009, having previously been circulated, were agreed as a correct record.

In connection with the answers to questions asked at that meeting, circulated with the minutes, clarification was sought regarding whether or not a preliminary assessment had already been carried out of the junction of Ashby Road and Barwell Lane. Officers undertook to report back.

#### 18. Declarations of Interest

The Chairman invited those who wished to do so to declare any interest in respect of items on the agenda.

None were made.

#### 19. Reports and Feedback

##### a) George Ward Community Centre update

The following statement was read out to the Forum:

“Construction started in September 2009 on the new community facility in Barwell, which includes the relocation of the existing Library so that they can improve and enhance the services they currently provide. The building is due for completion May 2010.

The centre will enable access to a wide variety of activities and services from a range of organisations working in partnership, including training, child care, advice and guidance from professionals and more.

The building is owned by Leicestershire County Council and will be leased to the George Ward Company Ltd, which is currently setting up a Management Structure to manage the facility on a day to day basis.

For more information about the George Ward Centre you can contact Maureen Cook on 01827 712011 or visit [www.georgewardcentre.co.uk](http://www.georgewardcentre.co.uk).

Any queries in relation to the building contact Nicola Lees, Leicestershire County Council on 0116 305 7986 or email [nicola.lees@leics.gov.uk](mailto:nicola.lees@leics.gov.uk).”

In response to a question it was confirmed that library users would not have to pay to access the building.

b) Defending the Welfare State and Public Services

Jane Rowe drew the Forum’s attention to a March and Rally in support of the Welfare State and public services that was being held on 10 April 2010, assembling at Temple Place, Embankment, London. The Hinckley and Bosworth Pensioners Action Group would be taking a coach, if anyone wished to join them.

c) Participatory Budgeting update

Edwina Grant reported that offer letters had been sent out to the successful projects, which enclosed a form that the recipients needed to sign and return confirming that they agreed to the attached terms and conditions. Monies would be paid out on receipt of the signed form. Reports on how the monies were spent and outcomes would be submitted to the Local Strategic Partnership and to the Forum in the future.

Edwina highlighted the work being done to access other sources of funding for the projects that had not been successful in bidding for these funds and suggested that further projects could be looked at as part of this process if brought forward.

## 20. Items requested by the Forum

### a) Police update

Steve Durrant reported that he now had a new role supporting the Community Support Team in Hinckley and Burbage. He reported briefly on the latest crime statistics for the area since the last Forum

- burglaries from dwellings had fallen slightly and the issue regarding thefts from sheds and garages in the Desford/Thornton area was hopefully resolved following an arrest. Members were warned that spring often saw a rise in thefts of garden tools.
- There had been 3 recent cases of thefts from sports changing rooms.
- Thefts from motor vehicles were now declining, following a slight rise in January and there had been a rise in curtain side attacks (HGVs).

Results from the latest User Satisfaction survey were given for the following categories:

Hate crime confidence rate -	83%	(77% in 2008)
Treatment -	94%	
Initial contact -	87%	
Anti-social behaviour	72%	(58% in 2008)

It was noted that the police were working to put patrols in place at the right times to address problems with anti-social behaviour (ASB) in particular areas. ASB incidents were falling, although there had been a rise in January, when 86 snowball incidents had been reported.

Sergeant Christine Huss then spoke about the JAQUAL – Joint Action Quality of Life team. This was a multi-agency team (including police, youth workers, and housing) which focused on prevention through working with young people, families and communities.

She explained that when issues were raised with the Team, officers would talk to the young people concerned, neighbours and the community: youth workers might be brought in to help find a solution.

If there were a number of incidents, a warning letter was sent to the parents: in c. 80% of cases, this was an end to the matter. The next step would be to bring the young person and their parents to the police station and implement an Acceptable Behaviour Contract (ABC). This often gave the young person the opportunity to move away from peer pressure, perhaps because a curfew had been imposed. If the situation was still not resolved, the police could seek an ASBO or CRASBO (Anti-Social Behaviour Order or Criminal Anti-Social Behaviour Order). The former could be imposed for up to 5 years; the latter followed conviction of a criminal offence and had to be reviewed annually.

A question was asked regarding the television advertisements currently being shown for the Policing Pledge, asking when the public would be to see more police on the beat. Steve Durrant responded that beat officers aimed to spend 80% of their time on foot or on bicycles patrolling their areas. There would not be an increase in the number of officers but the force was making greater use of technology (e.g. computers in patrol cars) to enable them to spend more time away from the station.

It was suggested that the Community Forum could be used to bring the community and the police together to discuss solutions to community problems and build a rapport.

AGREED:

- a) that the information now presented be noted;
- b) that officers be requested to arrange for policing matters to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the Forum for round-table discussions to take place between representatives of the community and representatives of the Police.

b) Young People in Hinckley

Annette Guerrini and Iolande Vettesse gave a presentation on a programme being run by the North Warwickshire and Hinckley College, currently focused on Nuneaton, Bedworth and North Warwickshire, to get young people into education, training or employment. Iolande explained that young people aged 16-24 had been particularly affected by the recession nationally. Locally, Further Education (FE) Colleges were taking the lead, working with partners in the voluntary sector to tackle the problem.

The programme had been successful to date (with 65% of the young people engaged with in the Nuneaton area moving onto further learning or education) and they now wished to replicate the scheme in south Leicestershire. The model they used was based around local communities, recognising the reluctance or inability of the young people concerned to travel. Programmes were offered to help those young people gain qualifications, especially vocational qualifications.

It was noted that the level of NEET (not in employment, education or training) in Hinckley and Bosworth was relatively low (around 4%) but there were particular areas where numbers were higher, e.g. Barwell, Earl Shilton and Hinckley.

Iolande and Annette asked members of the Forum for their support for the programme and asked in particular for suggestions for suitable venues to hold courses.

**AGREED:**

That the Forum supported the intention to extend the scheme into south Leicestershire and encouraged Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council to work with North Warwickshire and Hinckley College to achieve this.

**21. Question Time**

The Chairman invited all those present to submit any questions/s they wished to raise about the local area, to which he would endeavour to provide an answer either orally or via a written response within 20 days. The complete set of responses would then be circulated together with the minutes of the meeting.

A total of 8 questions were received which are detailed below:-

	<b><u>Question</u></b>	<b><u>Submitted by</u></b>	<b><u>Question to</u></b>	<b><u>Answer</u></b>
1.	When will 42 Ashby Road be restored to full residential use	Stuart Pemberton	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council	Answer from Edwina Grant:-  As far as the Borough Council is aware, the property is now in residential use. An officer visited before Christmas and spoke with someone living there.
2.	What is the current state of play with works to improve the Ghia Factory in Ashby Road?	Stuart Pemberton	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council	Answer from Edwina Grant:-  Officers from the Borough Council are looking into this. The matter could become an enforcement issue.
3.	What steps are being made to make safe the narrow footpath round the Big Pit?	Stuart Pemberton	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council	Answer from Edwina Grant:-  Improvement works are intended to be associated with development and may only happen if houses are built.  Edwina agreed to investigate how long this would mean the current temporary solution would be left in place.

4.	Is there a new play area planned for Burbage Common, to be funded by 6Cs money?	Stuart Pemberton	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council	<p>Answer from Edwina Grant:-</p> <p>A £50,000 Play Builder Grant has been secured to pay for a play area at Queen's Park. The work will start next week and should be completed by March 2010.</p> <p>The bid for funding for a play area at Burbage Common was unsuccessful as it is not within easy walking distance of a residential area. Other sources of funding are being investigated and a bid has gone into 6C's for a sum of £100,000.</p>
5.	I am concerned that, over the last couple of years, so many of the core members of the Forum who should be attending are not turning up, or even offering apologies. How can we improve attendance at the Forum?	Stuart Pemberton	Leicestershire County Council	<p>Interim answer from Sabrina Malik:-</p> <p>We can write to parishes and individuals and explore why they are not attending. We do know that councillors have lots of meetings to attend and may not feel that one is a priority. However, this Forum does only meet 3 times a year.</p> <p>There may need to be work done on the agendas to provide more items that trigger interest among a variety of groups, e.g. young people.</p> <p>People do engage with the council in different ways: use the website, lobby meetings or attend these Forums.</p> <p>A suggestion was made that Earl Shilton Hilltop Radio be invited to do an outside broadcast from a meeting of the Forum.</p>

				<p>Edwina Grant pointed out that the Borough also had a Parishes Forum, that met twice a year and many parishes engaged with other bodies that way.</p> <p>A further suggestion was that future meetings should involve small round table discussion groups. People might feel more confident and involved in smaller groups.</p> <p>Publicity about the outcomes of the Participatory Budget process would help raise awareness.</p>
6.	What can be done to look in depth at the County's Plans to cut a number of bus services?	Terry Kirby	Leicestershire County Council	The Chairman agreed to take concerns back to the County Council, which would be meeting to approve the budget on 24 <sup>th</sup> February.
7.	Why are there still more houses and flats being built when important services like Policy, fire, Ambulance and Council Workers are being reduced? Surely with the increase of population in our area, these are important services for the future of our area.	Ian Kirby	All	A response will be sought from the partner agencies within 20 working days.
8.	Police – TV Advert. The Police Pledge: More police on the beat, you will see them – When?	Eric Neal	Police	Answered earlier in the meeting – minute 20a.

22. Items requested by Service Providers, Consultative items and updates on:

a) NHS Health Priorities 2010

Michael Whitworth, Deputy Director of Contracting, NHS Leicestershire County and Rutland Primary Care Trust (NHS LCR), gave a presentation on NHS LCR's local priorities for 2010. A copy of the presentation is filed with these minutes. It was noted that the information on slide 4 was incorrect and that hip replacements were effective procedures. A better example of a procedure now known to have only a limited impact and accordingly no longer carried out as often as in the past was the insertion of grommets in children's ears. He encouraged members of the Forum to access the questionnaire (see link below) and indicate their priorities for the current year, especially in the light of the current economic climate. It was noted that the consultation ended on 28 February 2010.

<http://www.lcr.nhs.uk/Gettinginvolved-Consultations-2010.cms#ourplans>

Janet Rowe highlighted the concerns of the Pensioners' Action Group that the NHS LCR priority 'improving services for people with dementia' could be undermined if day centres for people with dementia were lost when the County Council sold off its care homes. Michael responded that NHS LCR worked closely with the County Council to provide care for people with dementia and this would continue. Historically, the health profession were very good at diagnosing and then at providing care towards the end of a patient's life but very little happened in the intervening period. It was now recognised that it was better to assist sufferers to be independent for as long as possible, with specialist care and, perhaps, eventually residential care but such patients should not be cared for in hospital surroundings (unless required for other conditions). There was a commitment to continue to look at working with all partner agencies to provide a full care path for dementia sufferers. It was noted that, regardless of proposals emerging nationally for paying for care for elderly people, health care would remain free at the point of delivery.

In response to concerns expressed about health bodies moving to Foundation Trust status, Michael explained that the big benefit of this was that the trusts had a large membership (in the thousands), giving the local community a far greater say in the running of their local health services.

In response to a question regarding the Hinckley Community Hospitals, Michael reported that the NHS LCR Board had met that day and agreed that Hinckley was one of 2 priority areas for Community Hospital development. The next stage was the development of a business case.

b) Local Transport Plan (LTP3)

Sabrina Malik, from Leicestershire County Council, explained that there would be an opportunity for the Forum to get involved in the LTP before it was finalised in 2011. The input of members would be sought in the autumn on the transport system in the local area.

23. Date and time of Next Meeting

It was NOTED that the date of the next meeting of the Forum was yet to be confirmed.

24. Close

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.

7.00 – 8.45 pm  
11/02/2010

CHAIRMAN