



**Minutes of a meeting of the Ashby, Measham and Moira Community Forum held at the offices of Ashby de la Zouch Town Council, Legion House, South Street, Ashby de la Zouch on Tuesday 2 March 2010.**

Present

Mr S D Sheahan – in the Chair

Mr F Bedford	Resident
Ms L Birtwistle	Woodfield Team of Churches and North West Leicestershire Homeless Project
Cllr F Fenning	North West Leicestershire District Council
Cllr J Hoult	Ashby Town Council
Mr C Keeley	Oakthorpe and Donisthorpe Parish Council
Mr R Merry	Oakthorpe and Donisthorpe Parish Council
Mr C Miller	Packington Parish Council
Mr T Neilson	Measham Parish Council
Mr L Ordish	Ashby Woulds Town Council and Ashby Woulds Parish Plan Steering Group
Mr P Pugsley	Swepstone Parish Council
Mr C Tandy	Ashby Civic Society
Ms P Thomas	Ashby Woulds Parish Plan Steering Group
Ms L Massey	MRC Community Action
Mr A Lester	The Hub, Ashby
Ms C Smart	The Hub, Ashby
Ms C Hunt	The Hub, Ashby
Ms L Pratt	The Hub, Ashby
Ms C Lindo	The Hub, Ashby
Mr B Walton	The Hub, Ashby
Mrs C Last	Hospice Hope
Mr B Magill	Junction 11 Youth Forum
Mr S Shepherd	Hospice Hope
Ms C Smith	Hospice Hope

Partner Agencies

Ms V Griffiths	NHS Leicestershire County and Rutland
Mr C Brown	Local Police Unit Commander, Leicestershire Constabulary.

Officers

Mr B Malley	Community Engagement Manager, Leicestershire County Council
Ms H Bell	Better Places Team, Leicestershire County Council

Ms V Bowers	Community Engagement Officer, Leicestershire County Council
Mr T Purnell	Acting Assistant Chief Executive, Leicestershire County Council
Mr D Goodwin	North West Leicestershire District Council
Mr A Davies	North West Leicestershire District Council
Miss W Jones	Sustainability Team, North West Leicestershire District Council (minute 61)
Mr G Cave	Committee Officer, Leicestershire County Council

55. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

Mr Sheahan welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for absence were reported on behalf of Cllr Bayliss, Cllr Allman, Mr J Coxon CC, Mr G Jones CC, Mr R Blunt CC, Ms V Elphick, Rev D Holmes, Ms D Owen and Mr D Thomas.

56. Declarations of Interest

Mr Sheahan declared a personal non-prejudicial interest as a Governor of Ashby Ivanhoe College and Moira Infants School.

57. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Forum held on 23 February 2009 were agreed as a correct record.

58. Matters Arising from the Minutes

(a) Minute 45(a) – Name of Forum

Bill Malley explained that, subsequent to the previous meeting, North West Leicestershire LSP, after consulting with directly affected stakeholders, had agreed revisions to the boundaries of the three Community Forums in its area. The parishes of Ellistown and Battleflat, Ibstock and Heather (previously covered by the Ashby, Measham and Moira Community Forum) were now part of the Coalville Community Forum area, and the area covered by the re-named Ashby, Measham and Moira Forum now included the parishes of Packington and Normanton le Heath.

(b) Minute 47(b) – Moira Fire Station

Mr Sheahan reported that, as agreed at the last meeting, a joint letter had been sent on behalf of the Forum and the Parish Councils to the Fire Authority expressing opposition to any closure of Moira Fire Station. A reply had been received and would be published on the Forum website. The Fire Authority

had submitted revised proposals that would include the provision of a new Fire Station at Castle Donington and an assurance had been given that Moira Fire Station would remain open until the opening of this new station.

(c) Minute 49(a) – National Forest Railway Line

Bill Malley informed the Forum of the following updated information received from Tony Kirk (Leicestershire County Council's Passenger Transport Unit) regarding the National Forest Line. The County Council's Cabinet at its meeting on 8 September 2009, had considered a report on the results of a study by Scott Wilson commissioned by the County Council on the possible re-introduction of passenger services to the Line. The Cabinet had resolved that: "*whilst it is accepted that the re-introduction of passenger railway services on the Leicester to Burton railway line is a valid long-term aspiration, no further action be taken by the County Council for the time being in view of the likely financial impact on the Council*". The reasons for the Cabinet's decision were: "*There is on-going interest in this proposal from many stakeholders and the County Council needs to make its position clear. The studies suggest that the capital costs needed to re-introduce passenger services to the Line will be in the order of £55m and there will be a revenue subsidy of £4m per year, which would have to be met locally.*"

Mr Sheahan added that a report had also been produced by the Association of Train Operating Companies that contained a more optimistic forecast of the passenger cost/benefit ratio than the Scott Wilson study. He said, personally, he would have favoured a comparative analysis being carried out of the two studies before the Cabinet had reached its decision.

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*Mr Sheahan vacated the Chair at this stage of the meeting.*

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59. Election of Chairman of the Forum

Nominations were sought for Chairman of the Forum and one nomination was made.

It was moved by Mr Sheahan, seconded and agreed that Mr Tom Neilson (a member of Measham Parish Council) be elected Chairman of the Forum for the next two years.

Mr T Neilson – in the Chair

60. Chairman's Announcement

Mr Neilson thanked members of the Forum for electing him Chairman and, on behalf of the Forum, thanked Mr Sheahan for his work as Chairman of the Forum since its inception in October 2007.

61. Environment Issues in the Forum Area

The Chairman informed the Forum that, in order to provide a more local focus on environment issues, a presentation would be given at the meeting by Wendy Jones, of the Sustainability Team at North West Leicestershire District Council, on the District-wide initiative 'Green Footprints Challenge'. This team worked closely with the County Council's ENABLE (Environmental Action for a Better Leicestershire) team.

Wendy Jones then gave a presentation on the work of the district-wide Footprints Challenge scheme. The following main points were made:

- Further information about the scheme could be found at: *footprints.nwleics.gov.uk*.
- The District Council had issued a "challenge" to families, individuals, groups, children and businesses in the district aimed at changing the way they all thought and acted about the environment in order to make the district a greener place to live, work and visit – both now and in the future.
- Attendees at the meeting were encouraged to join a Green Footprints County Network and those interested were requested to contact Wendy Jones.
- To date, 1,500 individuals had added their signatures to the Green Footprints Challenge.
- Copies of a leaflet about the scheme were available at the meeting.
- A tree planting scheme was operated in association with the National Forest Company and 3,000 trees had been provided to members of the public to date.

The Chairman thanked Wendy Jones for her presentation and then welcomed to the meeting Carl Benfield who provided details of the 'Ashby 2020' initiative as follows:-

- He was investigating the possibility of a community initiative scheme being established in Ashby de la Zouch.

- It was envisaged that the scheme would encompass six themes: food and water, waste, travel, commerce and finance, energy and the built environment.
- The aim would be for local people to engage under one of these themes and benefit from such measures as the use of buying power, shared use of allotments and car sharing schemes.
- A launch event for the project would take place on Thursday 15 April at 7.00 p.m. at Ashby Ivanhoe College. It was hoped that this would lead to six steering groups being established to decide upon how people can engage with the themes.

The Chairman then invited questions and comments and the following main points were made:-

- It was confirmed that engagement with schools would take place under the Footprints Challenge Scheme.
- Collective allotment associations were encouraged to join the Green Footprints Community Network which could, amongst other benefits, include the possibility of applying for funding for District-wide initiatives.
- In response to a query regarding the possibility of the allocation of land by developers for allotments, Wendy Jones stated that this matter would be raised with the relevant officers at North West Leicestershire District Council who deal with the Local Development Framework and a response would then be provided to the Forum. *[NOTE: The District Council officer (Danny Goodwin) will raise this issue with colleagues at the District Council who will provide a response.]*

AGREED:

That the issues arising from the presentations be noted.

#### 62. NHS– Priorities for 2010/11

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Vanessa Griffiths, Assistant Director (Strategic Partnerships), NHS Leicestershire County and Rutland, who gave a presentation on national and local NHS priorities for 2010/11. A copy of the presentation slides are filed with these minutes.

Vanessa Griffiths then provided NHS responses to a number of health care issues which had been raised by the Ashby Woulds Parish Plan Group. The Group was concerned about “the lack of access to health care or community transport access to health facilities for many residents in Moira, Albert Village, Spring Cottage and Boothorpe.” The Group was particularly concerned that “there was no GP or pharmacy available

locally (the nearest being in Ashby de la Zouch) and that only residents of Norris Hill and no other parts of Ashby Woulds could register with a Leicestershire GP.” Lawrence Ordish and Pat Thomas from the Parish Plan Group were present at the meeting and elaborated on these and other local health concerns.

A copy of a paper providing details of these concerns and the NHS responses is filed with these minutes and is also available on the Community Forum website.

AGREED:

- (i) that the contents of the presentation of NHS priorities in 2010//11 be noted;
- (ii) that the health care issues raised by Ashby Woulds representatives and the responses provided at the meeting by the NHS be noted and, in this regard, it be noted that (a) details would be provided to the Forum of the NHS's small grants fund, and (b) an NHS statement would be provided on the position regarding registration of Ashby Woulds residents with GPs for inclusion in the Ashby Woulds Parish newsletter.

### 63. Participating Budgeting – Update and Recommendations

Victoria Bowers provided an update on the work undertaken following the discussions at the Community Forum workshop, held at Ashby Ivanhoe College on 23 November 2009, at which ideas and proposals had been put forward on how best to use the £20,000 budget that had been allocated to the Forum. At the workshop, four projects had received the highest number of votes from community representatives and members of the public present to receive a proportion of the funding. Projects must be completed by 31 March 2011. The projects were as follows:-

- (i) “Junction 11” – activities for children living within 6 miles of M42 Junction 11;
- (ii) “Bring on the Hub” – development of The Hub which provides arts and craft activities for young people in Ashby de la Zouch;
- (iii) Oakthorpe Play Area – development of a play area in Oakthorpe;
- (iv) Hospice Hope – improvement of palliative care facilities in the district.

Since the workshop event, development work on the projects had been undertaken by County and District Council officers. The Forum was now invited to give its views on the funding to be allocated to each project and

to make recommendations to North West Leicestershire LSP to enable the funds to be released.

It was explained to the Forum that to allocate the full amount requested by each project would result in a deficit of either £668.50, or £3,219.00 if The Hub were to receive the larger of the two amounts it sought. Copies of a paper setting out these details were circulated at the meeting and a copy is filed with these minutes.

Representatives of the projects were present at the meeting and answered questions on their schemes and the funding requirements.

The general view of the Forum was that it would not be appropriate to recommend that the budget be overspent as no provision existed to fund any deficit.

It was moved and seconded that the LSP be recommended to agree that the £20,000 funding be allocated as follows:-

- (a) £8,026 be awarded to The Hub (i.e. the reduced amount sought by the project); and
- (b) amounts be awarded to the other three projects as indicated on the schedule circulated at the meeting, subject to the potential overall overspend of £668.50 being distributed equally across these projects.

The Chairman then invited elected members for the Forum area (County, District and Parish Councillors) and persons who lived in the Forum area (but excluding officers associated with the projects) to vote: 20 members voted for and one against the proposal which was, accordingly, carried.

AGREED:

- (i) that North West Leicestershire LSP be recommended to approve the allocation of: £5419.67 to Junction 11, £8026.00 to The Hub, £1777.17 to Oakthorpe Play Area, and £4777.16 to Hospice Hope; and
- (ii) to note that it would be the intention for the project groups to be informed in writing of the allocation of funds within one month of the LSP meeting on 18 March 2010.

#### 64. Third Local Transport Plan (LTP3)

For the Forum's information, copies of a briefing paper were circulated at the meeting providing an introduction on how Leicestershire County Council was developing the third Local Transport Plan and outlining the next steps. A copy of the paper is filed with these minutes.

It was noted that a wide range of engagement and consultation activities would be undertaken during 2010 to enable residents, businesses and organisations to express their views and help shape this area of work. Community Forums would be invited to comment on the draft delivery plans during the summer/autumn 2010 round of meetings.

NOTED: The contents of the briefing paper.

65. Grit Bins

For the Forum's information, copies of an information sheet for Parish Clerks in North West Leicestershire, prepared by the County Council's Environment and Transport Department, were circulated at the meeting. The paper included information on the supply, location and funding of salt bins. A copy of the paper is filed with these minutes.

Bill Malley undertook to discuss with Chris Keely after the meeting issues that had arisen about Oakthorpe and Donisthorpe Parish Council's request for the provision of 5 grit bins in its area.

NOTED: The contents of the briefing paper.

66. 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.

No questions were asked.

67. Items for Future Forum Meetings

It was AGREED that issues around Tourist Information in the Forum area would be included on the agenda for the next meeting. Consideration would be given to inviting representatives of Ashby Tourist Information Office, the District Council's Promotions Group and Heart of the Forest Initiative to attend the next meeting and that the issue of implications of the possible provision of a new Tourism Office in the new Tesco store in Coalville also be addressed.

68. Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting

AGREED:

That the next meeting of the Forum be held on Thursday 17 June 2010 at 6.00 p.m. at Oakthorpe Leisure Centre, Measham Road, Oakthorpe, (subject to availability).

6.00 p.m. – 7.55 p.m.  
2/3/10