

**Minutes of a meeting of the Coalville Community Forum**  
**Marlene Reid Centre, Coalville**  
**on Monday 9 March 2009**

Present

Cllr. T. Gillard (Chairman)	North West Leicestershire District Council
Mr. J. Legrys CC (Vice Chairman)	Leicestershire County Council
Dave Allen	Member of the Public
Julie Everitt	
Cllr. D. Howe	North West Leicestershire District Council
Mr. D. O'Neil	North West Leicestershire District Council
Cllr. T. Purver	North West Leicestershire District Council
Mrs K. Siddals	Member of the Public
Mr. P. Siddals	Member of the Public
Mr R Woodward	North West Leicestershire District Council

Officers and Requested Attendees

Carolyn Abel	Snibston Discovery Museum
Kristy Ball	Leicestershire County Council
Steve Bambrick	North West Leicestershire District Council
Heather Bell	Better Places Team, Leicestershire County Council
Victoria Bowers	Leicestershire County Council
Sue Cavill	NHS Leicestershire County & Rutland
Louise Hall	Committee Officer, Leicestershire County Council
Nigel Leigh	Stephenson College
Tom Purnell	Leicestershire County Council
Louise Ross	Connexions
Nigel Skea	NHS Leicestershire County and Rutland
Elizabeth Wilson	North West Leicestershire District Council

Apologies

Apologies were received on behalf of Ms. M. Havers, Charley Parish Council, Cllr. I. Meller, North West Leicestershire District Council, Cllr. G. Partner, North West Leicestershire District Council, Cllr. P. Purver, North West Leicestershire District Council and Mr. C. A. Stanley CC Leicestershire County Council.

49. Declarations of Interest

Mr J. Legrys CC declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in the item PCT update on local priorities (see Minute 53).

50. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2008 were taken as read and confirmed as a correct record.

51. Question Time

**Questions**

The following question was submitted before the meeting:-

**a) *What is the current situation with regard to the Local Development Framework and in particular the three development proposals for the Town Centre? (Mr P. Siddals)***

Mr S. Bambrick, North West Leicestershire District Council's (NWLDC) Director for the Environment, advised that two planning applications for Town Centre developments had now been received, one from ASDA and one from Park Ridge, with a third proposed but not yet submitted from the current owners of the precinct – the Zurich Insurance and Pearson (Media) Group pension funds. This application was expected in April 2009. It was hoped that all three applications could be considered on the 7 April at the NWLDC Planning Committee Meeting. There were various issues still unresolved regarding the proposals, and in particular NWLDC awaited advice from Leicestershire County Council as the local Highways Authority.

The ASDA application was a full application and should it be approved building would start shortly; the Park Ridge application, however, was an outline scheme only and more detail would be needed before work could commence. It was not yet known if the third application would be a full application or an outline scheme.

If no third application was received it would still be possible to make decisions on the ASDA and Park Ridge application, as the Planning Committee was aware of the intention of the owners of the Belvoir Centre to submit and this was sufficient to allow an informed decision.

With regard to the Local Development Framework, Steve Bambrick informed the Forum that the current consultation was to end on 23 March 2009. It would have been running for four months and had attracted a good level of local interest, particularly in the Coalville area. The key issues from the consultation had already become clear:

- That the level of development proposed was too high.

- That any development proposals which involved building on the 'Green Wedge' were particularly unpopular.
- That the separate and distinct identities of the villages in the wider Coalville area should be protected.

NWLDC would now look closely at all of the consultation responses and conclusions would be drawn from these that would ultimately impact upon the Framework. The Framework would then be considered by NWLDC's Scrutiny Commission, Cabinet and eventually by the full Council, in early 2010, for approval. Should the framework be approved, it would then enter the submission process where it would be subject to a further six week consultation after which it would be submitted to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. Following an examination by an independent inspector to ensure the document contains certain requirements etc. it would become legally binding. Steve reminded the Forum that throughout this process there would be chances for members of the public to influence the content of the framework.

Mr Siddals thanked Mr Bambrick for his detailed and helpful response. He also congratulated NWLDC on their online information relating to the Framework, which was informative and user friendly.

The following question was asked at the meeting:-

- b) *There has been some suggestion of the proposed Eco-Town development at Pennbury being proposed for Coalville instead. Is this correct? (Mr T. Purver)***

Mr Bambrick advised Mr Purver that Coalville had been mentioned as a possible, more suitable, location for the Eco-Town in a letter which Leicestershire County Council had sent in response to Central Government Consultation. He could not say why this had been suggested as Leicestershire County Council's formal response on Coalville development plans had been that suggested increases in housing levels were already too high.

Mr Purnell suggested that the reference in the letter was to the Coalville site identified as a possible option by an independent panel rather than a suggestion by Leicestershire County Council.

## 52. Snibston Discovery Park - Update

The Forum received a presentation from Carolyn Abel, Curator at Snibston Discovery Park, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. Ms

Abel described the recent work undertaken at the museum and reported that:

- (i) A funding bid had been resubmitted to The Heritage Lottery Fund. Selections for the second round would take place in September 2009.
- (ii) A new round of consultation had begun regarding the future development of the museum and questionnaires could be completed on line.
- (iii) The Miners Gala that had been such a success last year would be held again in September 2009. It was hoped that this year's celebrations would involve a parade from the Town Centre to the Museum.
- (iv) Various exhibitions would be taking place including the National History Museum's 'Wildlife Photographer of the Year' award which would show between 9 May and 14 June 2009 and the Anne Frank exhibition between 4 and 30 June. Volunteers were being sought from the local community and full training would be provided for anyone who wished to help.

The Chairman thanked Ms Abel for her presentation

53. Update and Consultation on Local priorities – NHS Leicestershire County and Rutland (NHS LCR)

Sue Cavill, Associate Director for Communications and Engagement gave a presentation to the Forum, a copy of which is filed with these minutes.

The presentation included the NHS LCR Vision for Leicestershire: "To make Leicestershire and Rutland the healthiest place in the UK" and other more specific objectives, for example, regarding partnership working and commissioning.

Underlying both the Vision and the objectives were national and local priorities, such as development of a local out of hours phone number, and better support for carers. A consultation was underway and would be open until 18 March 2009 for members of the public to influence the final priorities. Consultation documents could be viewed and commented upon at [www.lcr.nhs.uk](http://www.lcr.nhs.uk)

The Chair welcomed the information and thanked Ms Cavill.

54. Enterprise Business Activity

Tom Purnell reported that a joint meeting between various Coalville based partners such as Stephenson College, Citizens Advice and the Local Policing Unit had met with the County Council to discuss possible counter measures to the recent economic downturn and its consequences for local business and the community more widely. The

meeting had been a success and, although limited somewhat by data protection restrictions, some useful information sharing had still taken place. It was hoped that in the future the Trades Union Congress would attend the partnership meetings.

Nigel Leigh of Stephenson College reported that a jobsfair had been held recently and had been extremely well attended, unfortunately many of those present had already been made redundant or faced the threat of redundancy. A bid had been submitted for funding from the European Social Fund to run retraining initiatives for the recently redundant.

55. Feedback on Influencing the Big Budget

Tom Purnell gave a brief overview of the responses to the 'Influencing the Big Budget' consultation which had taken place throughout the County in the autumn. The top three priorities were as follows:

Top priority	A safe and attractive area to live and work was seen as the most important area for investment.
Second priority	Investment should be prioritised for improving the quality of life in the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods.
Third priority	Ensure people are involved and engaged in their community and play a role in decision-making in order to create stronger and more cohesive communities.

Detailed results could also be seen at [www.lsr-online.org](http://www.lsr-online.org).

The Chair thanked Tom Purnell for his overview.

56. Participatory Budgeting / Community Forum Budgets

Kristy Ball reported that each Community Forum had been allocated the sum of £20,000 under the 'participatory budgeting' scheme, and that these funds covered the period up to March 2011.

Kristy explained that the funding needed to be distributed in accordance with the three priorities identified by Charnwood Together (the Local Strategic Partnership). The funding could be used to cover either capital or revenue costs but could not fund a staff post. It also must not be used to fund mainstream activities; it should 'add value' to any activities or services currently in place.

The Forum suggested that match funding opportunities be sought in order to extend the possibilities offered by the £20k Forum fund.

AGREED

That this item be further discussed at the next forum meeting which it was hoped would be better attended.

57. Any Other Business

(i) Anti Social Behaviour

A report of Anti Social Behaviour in Whitwick Park was made.

This report had been referred to Charnwood Borough Council and the Local Policing Unit in Whitwick.

(ii) Kristy Ball – Programme Manager

The Chairman reported that Kristy would be taking up a secondment within Leicestershire County Council and, therefore, this would be her last meeting of the Coalville Forum for a while. He thanked Kristy for all her hard work in setting up and maintaining the Forum on behalf on all those that had attended.

46. Items for Future Forums

Items for the next meeting:

- Community Forum Budgets

47. Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting

Due to the County Council elections in the summer the next meeting of the forum would take place in September 2009.

6.30pm – 7.45pm  
09/03/2009

CHAIRMAN