

**BLSP Economic Regeneration Sub-Group
9 November 2005
3pm – 5pm
Ceres Suite, Town Hall
Workshop**

MINUTES

Attending:

Roger Ranson (Chair)	Bassetlaw District Council (Economic Development)
Ken Aldred	Nottinghamshire County Council
Cllr Barry Bowles	Bassetlaw District Council
Nicky Corbett	North Notts College (representing P Fone)
Jonathan Dawson	Bassetlaw District Council/ Notts RCC
Pat Haigh	Nottinghamshire Business Venture
Daniel Watson	Bassetlaw District Council (Economic Development)
Joanne Wilson	Bassetlaw District Council (Policy)

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from:

Sarah Bailey	Nottinghamshire Business Link
Michael Carnall	Notts Chamber of Commerce
Sue Crosby	Nottinghamshire Business Link
Phil Fone	North Notts College
Geoffrey Hulse	Notts Chamber of Commerce
Joanna Irons	NBV
Celia West	LSP Environment Sub Group

2. Minutes from the last meeting and matters arising

The Minutes were agreed as a true record.

JW reported that the flyers for the Farmers' Event on 24th November had been distributed via the NFU mailing list.

3. Update on the Northern Way (Roger Ranson)

RR reported that the budget for the Northern Way was approximately £100 million.

RR also reported that he had attended the Sheffield Core Cities Programme meeting with Cllr Michael Quigley. This was to discuss the development of the programme.

RR stated the benefits of Sheffield City Region plan:

- Transport connectivity – links from the district to South Yorkshire, and the development of RHADS
- Communications – the development of broadband, in particular 2nd generation broadband
- Improved links with the development of the area as a tourism destination – Peak District National Park, development of the evening economy, and promotion and development of specific attractions.

4. Local Area Agreements Update

RR distributed extracts of the LAA first draft submission.

It was noted that work is being undertaken to clarify who is directly involved with LAA work.

RR agreed to make contact with Celia Morris to see how other partnerships are operating.

JW reported that the Management Group had met to discuss the stretch targets. There will be a decision in November to decide what 12 stretch targets are to be taken forward.

RR stated that he had concerns about the funding that was available to the ED & E Block, and how this affected how targets could be met. RR also reported that part of the funding to help LAAs to achieve their targets - the Local Enterprise Growth Initiative (LEGI) - only benefited Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) areas. This also has implications around how the targets are measured.

JW raised concerns about Manton Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder Project (MNMPP) funding, and that it is not ring-fenced for Manton – THIS HAS NOW BEEN CLARIFIED AND THE FUNDING IS STILL PROTECTED FOR THE FULL 7 YEARS OF THE PROGRAMME.

JW highlighted the confusion of how the rural economy is included in the LAA, as there is nothing specific about the topic.

5. Research Work on Migrant Workers within Bassetlaw

JW distributed a report about Hard to Reach Groups, and explained that this is an initiative being undertaken by BDC and the LSP.

JW reported that consultants engaged to undertake the research have suggested that research interviews be undertaken to help ascertain the main issues. This will include contacting businesses. Areas for further research include individual's needs, transport, housing, education, and identifying the priority issues/areas of concern.

JW also brought to the Group's attention the Diversity Event to be held 9 March 2006 at North Notts College. This will include workshops and discussions around diversity.

Cllr Bowles enquired with the group if anyone knew anything about the seasonal work migrants do at Howard's Farm, Hodsock and how this is facilitated.

JW suggested it would be useful for a representative from Howard's Farm to attend the diversity event – to help others become aware of where assistance and support can be accessed, and explain the process and benefits of employing migrant workers.

JD reported that he is currently trying to work with Travellers in Bassetlaw, in particular the Sutton-cum-Lound site.

6. Annual Progress Report

Identify projects for case studies

JW informed the group that she is looking to produce the Annual Progress Report and needs suitable case studies that are different to previous ones that have been submitted.

RR suggested that The Turbine (Business Innovation Centre) be included. It was agreed Ken Aldred would provide JW with information and previous PR and photos.

Other case studies to be included:

- Tourism – In particular the development of the Pilgrim Fathers as a visitor attraction. It was agreed JW to liase with Sandra Withington.
- Town centres development – In particular the success of the continental markets. It was agreed JW to liase with Russell Slater

Key Targets

Target	Person/organisation responsible for monitoring/updating
Employment Rate	Bassetlaw DC
The Turbine	Nottinghamshire CC
Business Supported	Nottinghamshire Business Venture
Broadband	TBC

Target	Person/organisation responsible for monitoring/updating
Market Towns	Bassetlaw DC
RHADS	Bassetlaw DC

RR suggested that it would also be useful to link the LSP Economic Regeneration targets to the LAA targets and Economic Regeneration Indicators developed by the LGA and Audit Commission.

JW reported that she would be happy to include new narrative, and updates for projects etc.

7. Joint Projects

Identify what is to be taken forward

- The development of farmers markets. (Russell Slater)
- Tourism and sustainable development, including Idle Valley Project at Lound.
- Training opportunities around NNC and RHADS
- Workforce development
- Environment Group working with businesses

Environment Sub-Group and working with businesses

JW reported that the Sub-Group are intending to develop an environment and business publication, or hold an event to highlight the issues and areas of support and collaboration.

RR suggested that both are developed.

RR also suggested that JW may want to contact Fiona Coulson from the BEST Network to discuss how to do this and best practice.

It was decided that RR and JD would attend the event from the Sub-Group.

JW to contact Wilkinson and/or B&Q to discuss the event and what they do as a business in terms of supporting sustainable business.

8. AOB

JD reported that he has helped many rural areas undertake Parish Plans – these are a consultative mechanism to help residents of rural areas identify problems and threats etc.

The most relevant points to the Sub-Group are concerns around:

- Post Office provision
- Retail provision

- RHADS – in particular Misterton and Gringley – want better employment and transport links
- Planning and housing – a lack of affordable homes

RR informed the group that the Village Shop Scheme had supported many rural shops. RR also stated that many rural businesses may be eligible for rate relief, and assistance through BEB and NBV. It may also be worth reviewing cases and contacting businesses to ascertain whether BEB can help.

JD reported to the group on the 'Shop-in-a-Box' scheme. This can include a retail business, Post Office, café, internet provision etc. and is a useful way of providing retail and service provision and also test whether a business would be viable in small rural locations.

Cllr Bowles reported on the Ifan Valley project in Wales. A group of residents formed a cooperative to operate a number of businesses that would benefit the local community. This included a general goods shop, petrol station, and clothes shop.

KA informed the group that NCC had undertaken research around rural retail and that this is available to the group.

KA also reported that NCC is a member of the Rural Shops Alliance, which provides support and training to rural business operators.

RR agreed to liaise with Sandra Withington to disseminate research undertaken by RHADS to establish where RHADS employees live, mode of travel to work etc.

NC reported that the audits for major projects at NNC had taken place.

NC also reported that the College had been successful in applying for approximately £250,000 of funding to support the development of electrical testing facilities at Carlton Road, and Shireoaks Triangle.

NC also informed the group that NNC are in talks with the Welbeck Estates Company Ltd and Knight Frank to develop part of the former Army education/training facility at Welbeck Abbey in to a Heritage Skills Centre.

JD stated that he was working with young people at the Gateway Centre in Carlton looking at how people and groups can better engage with them i.e. apprenticeships etc.

DW informed the group that there was a speculative development of a c. 300,000 sqft warehouse/distribution centre at Harworth, and that there was speculative development of c. 15,000 sqft of office space at Shireoaks Triangle, Worksop.

KA reported that The Turbine has 4 tenants.

RR informed the group that the Economic Development Team Leader has been appointed and is due to start in January 2006.

JW stated that the Sub-Group would benefit from more representation from larger businesses and SMEs.

9. Dates of 2006 meetings

11 January, 3pm – 5pm, Ceres Suite, Worksop Town Hall	Agenda TBC
15 March, 3pm – 5pm, The Turbine – TBC	Agenda TBC
10 May, 3pm – 5pm, venue TBC	Agenda TBC
12 July, 3pm – 5pm, venue TBC	Agenda TBC
13 September, 3pm – 5pm, venue TBC	Agenda TBC
15 November, 3pm – 5pm, venue TBC	Agenda TBC