

**BLSP Economic Regeneration Sub-Group  
11 January 2006  
3pm – 5pm  
Ceres Suite, Town Hall  
Workshop**

**MINUTES**

**Attending:**

Roger Ranson (Chair)	Bassetlaw District Council (EDU)
Tom Bannister	Bassetlaw District Council (Planning)
Cllr Barry Bowles	Bassetlaw District Council
Michael Carnall	Notts Chamber of Commerce
Phil Fone	North Notts College
Nina Hillyer	Bassetlaw District Council (Planning)
David Hurst	PDH Developments
Graham Jackson	Bassetlaw District Council (Environmental Health – Housing)
Daniel Watson	Bassetlaw District Council (EDU)
Joanne Wilson	Bassetlaw District Council (Policy)
Sandra Withington	Bassetlaw District Council (EDU)

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

Apologies were received from:

Ken Aldred	Nottinghamshire County Council
Sarah Bailey	Nottinghamshire Business Link
Geoffrey Hulse	Notts Chamber of Commerce
Celia West	LSP Learning & Skills Sub-Group

**2. Minutes from the last meeting and matters arising**

The Minutes were agreed as a true record.

**3. Consultation on Core Strategy Preferred Options for the LDF**

NH gave an overview of the Core Strategy Preferred Options (Copies distributed to the group). The main purpose of the strategy is to guide the location of future development throughout the district by identifying which settlements will or will not be a focus for future growth.

The Core Strategy is an important document, as all future planning policies must comply with the vision, objectives, and strategy laid out within it. The strategy will undergo 6 weeks of public consultation from

9 January 2006 to 20 February 2006. Nina directed the group to look at page 19 of the document. This gives a basic illustration of the preferred option for spatial development.

The Preferred Options for Spatial Objectives are on pages 12-13 – these objectives need to reflect the objectives of the Community Strategy to ensure there is no conflict that will prevent the LSP from delivering the Community Strategy.

### Sustainability Appraisal

TB explained that Planning guidelines state that a Sustainability Appraisal is necessary, and it is intended to support the Core Strategy.

RR suggested that Spatial Objective 5 (SO5) should be worded to reflect the needs of businesses and development of the area, not just to raise the profile.

PF queried to what extent is the strategy based on what authorities are doing in South Yorkshire.

TB explained that consultation with neighbouring authorities – including S. Yorks – has to be undertaken as part of the development of the Strategy.

MC asked whether it would address leisure, tourism and business development.

TB stated that the document does not specify what the economic development of the district is; it includes all aspects.

MC reiterated the importance of addressing the leisure and tourism needs and opportunities of the district.

RR suggested that it may be useful to include a general policy statement on tourism and diversification of the local economy may be needed.

TB explained that subsequent documents will address specific issues, and specific sites for specific uses e.g. leisure, tourism, and industry.

RR stated the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the East Midlands recognises the need to allocate land for RHADS. The Core Strategy will address how this can help with the overall development of Harworth.

MC enquired as to whether this includes possible development along the A1.

RR explained that development would depend on the location and the benefit it can bring to an area in terms of employment.

#### **4. RHADS Presentation**

SW gave a presentation on RHADS and the benefits to the area. (Presentation and Project Component diagram available)

DH asked as to the location of the business park at RHADS.

SW reported that it is inside the perimeter of the airport; designated as 'airport related uses'.

RR stated that the Planning Inspector and ODPM had passed this.

Cllr Bowles enquired about what support Peel Holdings is giving to bus and train travel to and from the site.

RR reported that there are a number of points Peel must address as part of the section 106 agreement. They are committed to providing a bus service from RHADS to Doncaster bus station and vice-versa. Peel are also looking at the possibility of improving links to the M18.

DH asked how long airport related training has been running, and whether it was mainly focused on Doncaster College.

PF reported that training is split between the two colleges. £800,000 has been committed by the LSC for Directions Finningley based on site at RHADS. This provides airport related training, with both colleges providing courses.

SW reported that different courses are put on at different times, and this reflects the local/ regional business needs.

RR took the opportunity to thank Phil and North Notts College for the hard work they have done around training and courses for RHADS.

MC stated that he does not think that enough is being done to market and promote Bassetlaw.

SW responded by saying that Renaissance South Yorkshire (RSY) are marketing Doncaster – but this is very expensive. SW also reported that she is lobbying to have promotional information about Bassetlaw at the airport. This will be done in conjunction with Experience Nottinghamshire.

RR stated that this issue is being put to emda, and that more also needs to be done to promote and market the district at the source of journeys.

SW reported that she is currently working with tour operators to promote the district, and how this information can get out to passengers.

DH enquired about what is being done to promote the Pilgrim Fathers.

SW reported that she is working in partnership with DMBC on the production of a leaflet about the Pilgrim Fathers. This will include information about what else there is available to see and do along the Pilgrim Fathers trail. It is anticipated that this should be ready around the end of February 2006. A Steering Group has also been established to specifically look at the promotion of the Pilgrim Fathers.

SW also brought to the groups attention a Cargo and Freight awareness day on 8 March 2006 at RHADS.

#### **5. LAA Update**

RR reported that more work is being undertaken on the stretch targets, and that a report on the LAA and targets has gone to Cabinet.

JW confirmed that target reporting would be directly through NCC.

#### **6. Annual Progress Report**

JW distributed a draft of the Economic Regeneration section of the Annual Progress Report to the group.

JW enquired with the group what the key areas of work are for 2006.

It was suggested:

- Town Centres
- RHADS
- The Turbine
- Workforce Development – this should include linking with the Learning & Skills Sub-Group

#### **7. BDC Housing Strategy**

Graham Jackson, Acting Principal Housing Manager, Bassetlaw District Council, gave a presentation on 'Developing an Inclusive Housing Strategy for Bassetlaw'. A consultation questionnaire was also distributed for members of the Sub-Group to complete and return to Graham as part of the consultation process.

#### **8. AOB**

PF brought to the groups attention a project by Yorkshire Forward who are developing a £6.5 million academy on the RHADS site for engineering training. PF gave a brief background in to the Community

Interest Company (CIC). Yorkshire Forward (YF) is committing a lot to the CIC. NNC will also be involved, although it does not have the same level of resources as YF. PF took the opportunity to acknowledge that YF have been very good at including and working with NNC.

PF also noted that:

- Food Technology Centre will have an official opening in March 2006
- The Employment Skills Centre is up and running
- The 'mini college' had opened in the B&Q DC
- The PFI schemes are going very well
- There may be the opportunity to develop a Rural Development Centre at Lound. It is anticipated that planning permission will be submitted in May/June 2006. It anticipated that this will be an investment of £2 million.
- Overall very positive progress

RR reported that there are approximately 200 people employed at the B&Q DC. Approximately 65% are from the S80 and S81 postcode.

RR distributed copies of the Northern Way Route and Tourism update.

JW brought to the groups attention that June 2006 will be Bassetlaw Skills month.

## 9. Dates of 2006 meetings

15 March, 3pm – 5pm, <b>The Turbine</b>	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