

**BLSP Economic Regeneration Sub-Group  
12 July 2006  
3pm – 5pm  
Council Chamber, Retford**

**MINUTES**

**Attending:**

Robert Wilkinson (Chair)	Bassetlaw District Council (EDU)
Cllr Barry Bowles	Bassetlaw District Council
Nicky Corbett	North Notts College
Pat Haigh	Nottingham Business Ventures
David Hurst	Retford Chamber of Trade & PDH Developments
Joanne Wilson	Bassetlaw District Council (Policy)

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

RW welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received from:

Ken Aldred	Nottinghamshire County Council
Phil Fone	North Notts College
Roger Ranson	Bassetlaw District Council (EDU)
Daniel Watson	Bassetlaw District Council (EDU)
Chris Telford	Bassetlaw District Council (Planning)

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

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

Nicky Corbett updated the group on the progress of the Idle Valley Project. EMDA have agreed the funding for the building, which will include training facilities, and ERDF funding is approved subject to full planning consent. A decision is expected by 27<sup>th</sup> July for the (first part) of the project to proceed. In addition the application submitted to the Alliance SSP will be considered for approval by their full Board at the next meeting. NC noted that the building will be designed with many environmental features in keeping with its location including green roofs, photovoltaic panels and recycling rainwater. The Centre Manager will also be NNC's Sustainability Champion.

**Action: DH asked if a project summary could be circulated with the minutes.**

BB reported on the re-launch of the Pilgrim Fathers Trail, which was a great success. The Pilgrim Fathers leaflet is in need of a re-print due to the high demand. BB also reported that positive evidence of the potential amongst

Dutch visitors had come to his attention when a Dutch family staying at a caravan site at Tuxford stayed an extra night to undertake the trail.

**3. Economic Development Initiatives- Robert Wilkinson and Pat Haigh**

RW informed the group of the formation of a regular club for new start businesses in Worksop which is being run from September. The meetings will take place on the second Wednesday of each month from 6pm until 7.30pm at the Lion Hotel, so in a friendly environment with representatives from a bank, accountants, NBV and BEDU. The aim is to encourage more business start-ups and foster an enterprising culture within Bassetlaw. It is hoped that the scheme can be rolled out to Retford. BB asked if this, and other business initiatives/ clubs could be rolled out across the district.

PH outlined the new contracts, which NBV had gained. An Entrepreneur Scholarship aimed at businesses located within designated postcodes (disadvantaged areas), would provide 2 days per week training on business and personal development and would run from Jan to March (end) 2007. NBV will also be delivering New Deal for Self-Employed (previously run by Connexions) and EMDA Universal Start-up offer for business from April 2007.

**4. An update on EU Structural Funding- Robert Wilkinson**

RW briefly explained that lobbying was still underway and that there were many consultation events on the subject. RW circulated what is almost certain to be the new Assisted Area map. The new map only has the 6 Worksop wards and Welbeck eligible for EU funding.

**Action: RW to keep group members informed regarding developments.**

**5. Launch of Evergreen**

RW and JW reported back on the success of the launch of the magazine at the Turbine Innovation Centre.

A discussion followed regarding business clubs generally, and the demise of the Retford Business Club. DH enquired if the council could provide secretariat services (arranging venues, speakers) etc for clubs, but after the discussion ranged around providing clubs around the district rather than concentrating on Worksop and Retford, it was decided that there was insufficient capacity within EDU to provide this service. However, the principle of rotating meetings/ events/ clubs around the district was strongly supported by the group.

**Action: Copies of the magazine to be circulated to the group members.**

**6. LAA Delivery Plan**

Information regarding local (Bassetlaw) targets was not received in time for the BLSP meeting and the item will be held over until the next meeting.

**Action: Incorporate LAA outcomes/ targets in to the draft Action Plan for the new Strategy when information is available. LAA Delivery Plan to be kept as a standing agenda item.**

## 7. **Community Strategy 2007 onwards- New priorities.**

JW outlined the BLSP Development/ Evaluation Day on 12<sup>th</sup> October to be held at Retford Town Hall, and the need to focus our future strategy (2007 onwards) on priority areas, for which partnership working adds value. Part of the considerations will also be around the BLSP structure and alignment with LAA target areas/ themes.

JW outlined the current priorities for the Sub-Group of:

- Strengthen and expand our local economy including rural areas
- Help people set up their own businesses
- Expand the use of computer technology in local companies and organizations
- Help develop new transport links
- Attract investment
- Create jobs
- Develop Bassetlaw as a tourist destination

A discussion ensued and a key priority identified for inclusion was that of communication. A Communication Strategy for engagement was viewed to have very high importance for the group. JW suggested that the new Action Plan be drawn up by a group of officers to bring to the main Sub-Group for discussion/ ratification.

Other items likely to form a part of the strategy included:

- Workforce Development
- Tourism
- Start up businesses/ enterprising culture
- RHADS
- Funding and Investment

**Action: JW/ RW to formulate new Action Plan to bring to Sub-Group.**

## 8. **Update of Current Action Plan**

RR to update at next meeting, and if possible to circulate an update with the minutes.

## 9. **Any other business**

JW pointed out that travel and transport issues had been brought up by the Environment Sub-Group as a major concern and that this issue cut across many of the Sub-Groups. BB pointed out that a perfectly workable 'Travelwise' scheme was no longer running.

DH pointed out it was regrettable that the NNC facility in Retford was closing. NC pointed out that this was due to falling demand for the service.

BB announced that George Hamilton IV was appearing at Bawtry Hall for the Harvest Festival as part of the Pilgrim Fathers initiative. (BB pointed out that the Pilgrim Fathers originally celebrated the Harvest Festival, which later was adopted as American Thanksgiving).

Workshop Farmers Market is also now up and running and will operate on the second Friday of every month.

**10. Dates of 2006 meetings**

13 September, 3pm – 5pm, venue TBC

Agenda TBC

15 November, 3pm – 5pm, venue TBC

Agenda TBC