

**BLSP Economic Regeneration Sub-Group
15 March 2006
3pm – 5pm
The Turbine, Shireoaks Triangle, Worksop**

MINUTES

Attending:

Roger Ranson (Chair)	Bassetlaw District Council (EDU)
Ken Aldred	Nottinghamshire County Council
Phil Fone	North Notts College
Paul Kennedy	Retford & Worksop Trade Unions Council
Chris Telford	Bassetlaw District Council (Planning)
Robert Wilkinson	Bassetlaw District Council (EDU)
Joanne Wilson	Bassetlaw District Council (Policy)

1. Welcome and Apologies

RR welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received from:

Sue Crosby	BL Notts
Geoffrey Hulse	Nottinghamshire Chamber
Daniel Watson	Bassetlaw District Council (EDU)

2. Minutes from the last meeting and matters arising

It was noted by JW that Graham Jackson's job title was incorrect and should say Acting Principal Housing Manager, Bassetlaw District Council.

Robert Wilkinson needed to be added to the attendance list.

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

Matters Arising

PF noted that realism was needed when talking about Robin Hood Airport over the next 5years. The main focus is outward tourism and there is not likely to be a great deal of inward tourism as yet. The current projection is to get to 15% incoming by 2030 – this would be good based on John Lennon and Glasgow airports. PF requested a position paper from Sandra about opportunities for the following:

- Business Development sites

- Distribution
- Warehousing

SW had helped organise and deliver a Cargo Handling meeting for Bassetlaw businesses to showcase the opportunities available, in particular to freight and distribution businesses. RR also noted that a further bid to the SSP for money for the Top Flight project had been successful with an additional three years funding being granted to focus on Business Development.

PF also noted that the College was organising a Brazilian Twinning event in May.

RW had been to the recent LAA Economic Development & Enterprise Block meeting and an update would be circulated with the minutes.

3. Update of Action Plan

Action A.1 - RHADS

- SW working with Renaissance South Yorkshire for 1 day a week. There is interest from Easyjet in running services from the airport.
- The Academy that PF notified the group of at the January meeting is taking off well, he had visited the project hangar last week. The hangar is to be used as a training centre incorporating a series of business units for aviation activity. PF noted that the College have just recruited a Head of Aerospace Engineering, to deliver the courses focussed on aviation. They are also in discussion with Peel about the production of a Masterplan as part of the Aviation White Paper. The aim is for approx. 10m passengers per annum by 2030. PF would like to roll-out best practice from the Academy to Nottingham East Midlands Airport (NEMA) and beyond.
- The Community Interest Company (CIC) Board will meet for the first time next week.
- RR noted that NCC has taken a lead on transport issues. They have bid for £700,00 of capital funding for buses.

Action A.1 – LDF

- CT explained the current stage of the LDF. The Local Development scheme (LDS), the work scheme, was complete. The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) was complete. Planning are currently consulting on the Preferred Options for the Core Strategy which outlines the distribution for development and the spatial objectives for the District.
- The stage after this will involve consulting on the Proposals Maps, and Key Policy/ Development Documents
- All the main documents should be adopted by late 2008.
- Broad objectives should be agreed by Summer 2006
- Development Sites/Maps and Policies will be finalised 2007 onwards.

Action A.2

- A report is going to BDC Cabinet on new initiatives.
- Farmers Markets are due to commence in Worksop in spring 2006.
- There is a marketing/promotion campaign currently in place to improve business investment and visitors to the Town Centres.
- There was a strong possibility that M&S would be taking over the current Kwik Save site – this may be a food store, or a combination of the range of M&S sales lines.

Action A.3

- The Duchess of Gloucester is officially opening the Food Technology Centre next week. The centre will be a lead for Food Engineering and Clean Maintenance Technology.
- NNC's application to Sheffield Hallam University for approval for Foundation Degrees related to the Food Industry has been declined. NCC are currently exploring the option of linking with other providers

Action A.4

- Logistics has been identified as another growth sector. PF noted that NNC were part of a Centre of Vocational Excellence (CoVE) between NNC, Chesterfield, and Derby Colleges. Work was taking place with B&Q / Exel in this area. A total of 300 staff have been trained in readiness for the Spring range, and further development of the DC. NNC have opened a learning centre on the site.
- RR noted that speculative units at Harworth were being developed for warehouse/distribution businesses. He also noted that B&Q had been able to source a large proportion of labour within the S80 and S81 postcodes, providing vital employment for local people.
- PF noted that the local food factories are now quite reliant on Polish and Lithuanian workers. He queried whether the council had any policies related to migrant workers in terms of housing and addressing inward migration. He noted that other organisations in the area wished to take a lead from NCC/ BDC on this issue.
- RR noted the issue of B&Q potentially taking labour from other distribution companies/ large employers within the area. However, B&Q simply felt that they wanted to offer employment packages that enabled them to gain competitive advantage – they see staff as the key to success.

Action B.1

- The start-up support programme was ongoing and working well within the District.

Action B.2

- Following the recent transfer of certain council property, two community enterprises had been formed through The Regal, and North Notts Community Arena (previously the Bassetlaw Centre)

Action B.3

- It was noted that occupancy at The Turbine needed to be increased – currently 15%. The occupancy target for March 06 is 30%. The quality of companies based at the site is good and the café is now in place.

Action C.1

- BT has acknowledged that they will be upgrading exchanges within the area. KA noted that some areas were still not covered by broadband.

Action: RR to check what still needs to be done and assess business demand for broadband.

- PF noted that the schools built within the PFI Scheme would need broadband on site. He queried whether the PFI Schools could 'piggy back' on any broadband developments.

Action D.2

- Work on the A1 will start this year. Improvements to the M1 links are still not confirmed.

Action E.1

- RR noted that there was not much serviced land left within the District.
- PF queried if there had been any progress regarding the Maltkins/ Turner Road site. CT explained that it was a Highways issue, which has still not been resolved by NCC. If no response is given by May 06 then an appeal for non-determination of the application will take place. The Secretary of State will then determine the appeal.

Goal F

- It was noted that the LAA should address this area.

Goal G

- Lots of progress had taken place regarding the Pilgrim Fathers work, and the Visitor Guide review had been completed. PF suggested contacting Paul Learoyd for an update on Idle Valley WAP. The area is on the verge of benefiting from a series of major tourist attractions including:
 - Beckingham Marshes,
 - Idle Valley (transfer to NWT towards end of 2006),
 - Chesterfield Canal redevelopment,all of which have strong links to the Trent area.
- PF also reminded colleagues of the proposals at Welbeck. Knight Frank were enquiring as to whether they may need supplementary planning guidance to support the development. CT felt it was probably not needed for conversion of the buildings but if new development is planned then it is likely planning would not support it. The MoD College had created approx. £6m turnover, and there was lots of potential to diversify the site within the rural economy.

RR noted that organised walks around the Dukeries area are being linked in to the Tourism promotion work currently taking place.

Action: BDC EDU Officers to ensure Action Plan is updated with new information.

Key Areas of work up to the end of this Strategy will include:

- The Turbine
- Logistics
- Broadband
- RHADS
- Workforce Development

RR also stressed the need to keep in mind the Sheffield City Region work in the new Community Strategy.

4. **Role of (Business) partners within the LSP**

5. **Engagement with Business Community**

These two agenda items were discussed together. It was agreed to look at the possibility of producing a newsletter to promote the regeneration work happening within the District. This could be an ongoing activity for the Sub-Group with the aim of keeping the business community informed but also providing an alternative way to engage with the BLSP.

It was felt that more links were needed to the local business clubs to ensure greater representation.

Members also agreed to the production of a survey to try and gather a wider range of views

Action: RR and RW to meet with local Clubs/ Chamber reps. to discuss options.

6. **A.O.B.**

It was agreed that the Sub-Group needed to be involved in Bassetlaw Skills 2006.

Action: RR to liase with JW and Chair of Learning & Skills Sub-Group regarding ways to get involved.

The magazine aimed at businesses to raise awareness of environment issues/ practices was progressing. Involvement from the Sub-Group was welcomed in terms of how the magazine could be marketed to local businesses.

Action: RW to act as link between Sub-Groups.

7. **Dates of 2006 meetings**

10 May, 3pm – 5pm, The Turbine

To include update on Idle
Valley WAP

12 July, 3pm – 5pm, venue TBC

Agenda TBC

13 September, 3pm – 5pm, venue TBC

Agenda TBC

15 November, 3pm – 5pm, venue TBC

Agenda TBC