

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

MINUTES

Attending:

Cllr Barry Bowles	Bassetlaw District Council
Michael Carnall	Notts Chamber of Commerce
Nicky Corbett	North Notts College
David Hurst	Retford Chamber of Trade & PDH Developments
Louise Poyser	Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust
Paul Learoyd	Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust
Roger Ranson	Bassetlaw District Council (EDU)
Daniel Watson	Bassetlaw District Council (EDU)
Robert Wilkinson (Chair)	Bassetlaw District Council (EDU)
Joanne Wilson	Bassetlaw District Council (Policy)
Sandra Withington	Bassetlaw District Council (EDU)

1. Welcome and Apologies

RW welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received from:

Ken Aldred	Nottinghamshire County Council
Sue Crosby	BL Notts
Phil Fone	North Notts College
Geoffrey Hulse	Nottinghamshire Chamber
Chris Telford	Bassetlaw District Council (Planning)

2. Minutes from the last meeting and matters arising

It was noted that apologies were received from Cllr Bowles.

It was noted that David Hurst attended the last meeting and that his name should be added to the list of attendees.

It was noted that Paul Kennedy did not attend the last meeting.

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

Further to Agenda Item 5 - Engagement with Business Community – RW reported that EDU were looking at the possibility of employing someone to plan and undertake a business questionnaire. The aim of which would be to

ascertain what businesses are looking for, and how we may be able to better engage with businesses in Bassetlaw.

Joanne Wilson stated that there is an in-house computer package to produce and analyse questionnaires.

3. Idle Valley Project Update – Paul Leayroyd and Louise Poyser

Louise Poyser gave a presentation on the Idle Valley Project. (Copy of presentation to follow)

Paul Learoyd pointed out that the site is not that well known by the general public, but it is among bird spotters.

David Hurst enquired as to where the main access to the site is.

LP stated that the site can be accessed via the Tarmac site, off North Road.

Michael Carnall enquired whether the site could accommodate all the potential visitors, and would this cause damage to the site.

LP reported that the site could accommodate large volumes of visitors without causing damage, and that the majority of people would only use/access one end of the site. The main area where the birds nest/feed would probably only be of real interest to bird spotters, and not the general public.

PL confirmed that the paths around the site will be strictly managed, and can be closed when necessary to protect wildlife.

Cllr Bowles suggested that the site should be marketed as being in Nottinghamshire, preferably north Nottinghamshire, rather than the East Midlands.

David Hurst enquired as to what the time scale is for the project.

PL explained that the transfer of land from Tarmac would be complete in early 2007. The site will be developed over the following 5 years.

Nicky Corbett reported that full SSP bids need to be submitted, and that a decision should be made by summer 2006. NC stated that they are fairly confident that the bid will be successful, but reminded the group that the project still has to achieve its targets, and that it is competing with a number of projects for limited funds.

RR stressed that as this is such a unique project it would be wrong to move away from the original project ideas to try and hit targets set by funders.

PL reported that the Education Centre would be owned and operated by NNC.

NC explained that the whole site would be used as a 'green classroom'.

NC informed the group that the project/bid requires letters of support from all partners and LSP sub-groups.

RR suggested that support is also obtained from Experience Nottinghamshire.

MC stated that the group really does need to support such projects, and develop more projects like Idle Valley.

DH enquired as to whether the site was still operational.

LP reported that the site is still viable for approximately 5 more years.

4. Top Flight 2 (Sandra Withington)

SW informed the group that Top Flight 2 is a natural progression of the Top Flight 1 project.

Top Flight 2:

- It is a 3 year project, ending in 2009
- Aimed at capturing benefits of RHADS for Bassetlaw and the SSP area
- Includes:
 - i. Business Awareness events;
 - ii. Raising the profile of the area;
 - iii. Attracting inward investment;
 - iv. Developing trade markets;
 - v. Developing airline opportunities/new routes;
 - vi. Business support for SMEs – specifically support for online trading and languages;
 - vii. Tourism – working with partnerships and DMPs;
 - viii. Working with Directions Finningley/North Notts College;
 - ix. Developing and raising cultural awareness.

SW stated that the SSP recognise that Top Flight 2 is an evolving process, so it is possible that the project can/will change.

MC reported that Bassetlaw is short of hotel rooms, and enquired as to how hotels will be encouraged to develop in the area.

SW reported that there has been a significant increase in the demand for land specifically for hotel development within the area, and that EDU are working with Planners to help facilitate this.

MC stated that the area is also in need of conference/exhibition facilities.

SW agreed with MC, and stated that both hotel development and conference/exhibition facilities need to be addressed at the same time.

Cllr Bowles confirmed that hotel development is a major part of Experience Nottinghamshire's strategy, and that Bassetlaw does have some facilities but some do not want to develop. Cllr Bowles also stated that it was important that Planning become more aware of the importance of tourism, and hotel development.

RR added that it was necessary to be aware of the developments at RHADS and Doncaster Racecourse.

JW informed the group that the emerging Local Development Framework must incorporate the Community Strategy; therefore, if tourism is in the Community Strategy the issues raised should be looked at.

RR noted that the TIC information at RHADS is still empty.

SW reported that Experience Nottinghamshire have been very proactive and have agreed to assist with the TIC information. The S Yorkshire DMP has not reacted as quick. However, this will be addressed.

SW brought to the group's attention the launch of the Mayflower Trail on 22 May, at the Crown Hotel, Bawtry. SW also reported that an updated leaflet had been produced, and that a website has been developed which includes online booking. This was done with support from Experience Nottinghamshire.

5. **EU Funding post 2007 (Robert Wilkinson)**

Information attached.

JW enquired as to how the new funding will fit with the LAA funding streams.

RW explained that it wouldn't.

DH enquired how much EU money had been levered in to Bassetlaw.

RR stated that there was nothing to hand but this information could be put together.

6. **LAA Update**

RR to circulate information at a later date as there had not been an update from NCC.

JW reported that the first report is due in September 2006.

7. **Sheffield City Region Development Programme**

RR to circulate notes.

DH enquired as to whether NNC see Sheffield as an important area.

NC stated that Sheffield is very important. NNC have strong links with Sheffield, and are looking to develop further. NC also stated that NNC had stronger links with Sheffield than Nottingham. NNC already provide foundation courses in nursing for Sheffield University, and are looking to develop additional courses.

RW noted that the Alliance SSP is the only SSP without a university.

8. Update of Action Plan

RHADS are looking to run a bus service from Worksop and Retford to RHADS. It is anticipated that this will be running by October/November 2006.

Pre-works have commenced on the A1 at Blyth

NC reported that NNC are still working with Welbeck Estates to develop a project to bring Welbeck Abbey back in to use.

JW reported that the Environmental Magazine was ready, and that it had been decided that the forward to the magazine should be written by a local business, LSP ER sub-group, or Chamber of Commerce etc.

The launch of the magazine will be held on 29 June, 7.30 – 9am, at The Turbine, Shireoaks.

7. Dates of 2006 meetings

12 July, 3pm – 5pm, Council Chamber, Retford Town Hall	Agenda TBC
13 September, 3pm – 5pm, venue TBC	Agenda TBC
15 November, 3pm – 5pm, venue TBC	Agenda TBC