

**BLSP Economic Regeneration Sub-Group
16 May 2007
3pm – 5pm
The Crossing**

MINUTES

Attending:

R. Wilkinson (Chair)	Bassetlaw District Council (EDU)
F. Walker	North Notts College
S. Oakton	Job Centre Plus
P. Altham	Notts Rural Community Council
S. Withington	Bassetlaw District Council (EDU)
M. Silbourne	Nottingham Business Ventures
J. Cox	Bassetlaw District Council (EDU)

1. Welcome and Apologies

RW welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received from:-

R. Slater	Bassetlaw District Council (EDU)
D. Watson	Bassetlaw District Council (EDU)
J. Wilson	Bassetlaw District Council (Policy)

2. Minutes of Last Meeting Held on 14th March 2007 and Matters Arising

Details about the GP Practices Scheme in Derbyshire – MS asked her boss about this item, however, he could not get the information due to this being across the border in Derbyshire.

PCT – need to send information to PCT's for other pathways to schemes. FW will take this up with Manton Community Alliance.

Enrolment patterns – FW to look into this and report to the next meeting.

Encouraging large businesses into the area. FW stated that feels that this is already happening. RW confirmed our links with various organisations with regard to encouraging businesses into the area. FW asked if she could have a summary of the new businesses coming into the area. RW will summarise and report back to the next meeting.

3. Skills and Worklessness Update

RW informed the meeting that a meeting is taking place next week. In terms of progress so far, a lot of statistics have been produced which have highlighted six wards within Bassetlaw that are deprived, one of which is an anomaly, being Rampton. He confirmed that we are not going to change things we cannot change but we will try to overcome barriers, e.g., lone parents etc. This is now becoming higher on the Government agenda and we need to be quick to react to things upcoming from this. Much to our disappointment, is that we are not part of the Neighbourhood Renewal Scheme.

It was also highlighted that Bassetlaw's unemployment figures are low but there is a high percentage of people claiming benefits. Ashfield, Bolsover and Mansfield are eligible for more funding than Bassetlaw (LEGI) - £7.3 million for three years with an option for the same amount again in three years.

There is an opportunity to put on airport taster days which will target Harworth in the main plus basic skills training, mainly basic food handling courses.

FW highlighted numbers 2 (geography) and 7 (food hygiene) of the report.

FW asked if the report should be 2007, not 2006. She asked if we could let Keith Poyser have a copy of this report. Keith is leading on the Bassetlaw Area Strategy Group and was formerly the head of Portland School, Worksop. RW confirmed that he would e-mail the document to him with a suggestion that he attends these meetings.

Also, we are going to use existing mechanisms and initiatives to highlight skills and worklessness agenda. Childrens' Centres were identified as an opportune source. It was confirmed that there are 11 Children's Centres in Bassetlaw with more to come.

4. Business Survey Draft Findings

RW informed the meeting that he is to attend a formal presentation about the findings of the survey of the 679 businesses that were surveyed by telephone and handed out a series of graphs highlighting the findings. RW confirmed that everyone will be invited to the presentation and he is in the process of compiling a full report which will precede a newsletter being produced by the Authority. RW is looking at a programme of delivering support through NBV etc. FW asked who we deal with at the College. RW confirmed that we need to bring this back to the forefront. A decision was made for RW to lead on this issue which will be supported by FW.

5. Market Towns Regeneration Programme

RW stated that this initiative was originally delegated by the Bassetlaw LSP to the Economic Regeneration Sub Group. He confirmed that some spend was planned for Retford last year and £48k for Bassetlaw to spend. There had been interest from Tuxford Parish Council for a CCTV system, however, we would need to write, on behalf of this group, to the Parish Council.

PA confirmed that this programme covers two areas and is part of a two-year programme. She stated that she is now looking at an expression of interest for

the capital side of the programme. At a conference in March it was agreed that the funding would be 50% matched.

The development side of the job has not been done due to delays. Kevin Cooper, NRCC, is now looking at developing the project. RW confirmed that any projects will come to this meeting to be approved. Tuxford, Harworth, Carlton, Langold and Retford are eligible market towns.

PA agreed to e-mail key outputs to RW and this is to be a regular item on the agenda.

6. Sheffield City Region Update

RW issued a briefing note on the progress of the Sheffield City Region group and talked through the items on their agenda. This will also be a regular item on the agenda.

7. Top Flight Project

SW gave a detailed outline of the various projects and issues related to the Top Flight Project as follows:-

- She is working closely with the major hotels in the area and, as part of this, is organising a series of training courses on their sites.
- A new aviation academy is opening at the airport in June. This academy is unique in that it can offer training for various types of aircraft as opposed to only one type which is the case with most training academies.
- A new route from the airport is to be announced and a new company will announce this arrival, bringing 300 high paid jobs into the area.
- SW is organising another trip to the airport on 11th July 2007.
- A new bus service to the airport will be launched in the very near future.
- SW will be working with Job Centre Plus on training etc.

8. Any Other Business

Unemployment Figures

SO confirmed the new unemployment figures – 1.9% (65,000) in Nottinghamshire.

New Entrepreneur Scheme

MS informed the meeting of the new Entrepreneur Scheme which commences in September 2007 and outlined the criteria.

7. Dates of 2007 meetings

Wednesday 11th July 2007, RHADS

Wednesday 12th September 2007, venue TBC

Wednesday 14th November 2007, venue TBC

Agenda TBC

Agenda TBC

Agenda TBC