

Environment Sub Group
6th October 2008
10:00am-1:00pm
Assembly Room, Town Hall, Worksop
DRAFT MINUTES

Attending:

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| Lynn Tupling (Chair) | Manager, Retford Action Centre |
| Carl Cornish | Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust |
| Tim Dawson | Planning Officer, Bassetlaw District Council |
| Parish Cllr Liz Jeffries | Nottinghamshire Association of Local Councils |
| Caroline Mason | Soroptimists International (The Dukeries) |
| Councillor M G Pugsley | Bassetlaw District Council |
| David Ross-Ellis | Local Resident |
| Jeanette Walker | Environmental Development Officer, Bassetlaw District Council |
| Elizabeth Whittles | Policy and Scrutiny Officer, Bassetlaw District Council |

1. Introductions

LT welcomed members to the meeting and everyone introduced themselves.

2. Apologies

Ruth Fish, Natural England; Andy Probert, Tarmac Ltd; Paul Tame, NFU; Lesley Sharpe, FWAG.

EW advised that Jo Wilson had given birth to a baby girl in September and that mother and baby were doing well. LT requested that the Group should send its best wishes to Jo and her new family.

3. Minutes and Matters Arising

CM commented that she had been present at the meeting but omitted from the list of those present. MGP commented that he did not represent The Crossings Church as listed.

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true record subject to the above amendments.

Matters Arising

Priority 2 - Promotions and Awareness Raising

- DRE reported to the group on a meeting he had attended in September on the issue of Fair Trade. This had followed a presentation to the Environment

Sub-Group in January 2008 when there had been agreement to approach the Leader of the Council to pass a resolution to support Fair Trade. The recent public meeting had been open to all and had been well attended. A steering group had been created and had met on 2nd October in Retford to discuss the goal of achieving Fair Trade status for Bassetlaw. The target of a Co-Ordinator and 20+ volunteers had been achieved. The group also wanted to develop a website. He offered his thanks to LT and Retford Action Centre for their support and encouragement.

CM asked if it was a long process to achieve the status and DRE replied that the resolution of the Council was key. CM advised that the Soroptimists had held coffee mornings and meetings to raise awareness of the issue of Fair Trade.

MGP asked about the timescales for the resolution. DRE informed the Group that it was anticipated that a resolution would be presented to Bassetlaw Council at the 18th December 2008 meeting.

- CM advised that the recent LSP conference - July 2008 - had been enjoyable and informative. LT considered that this reflected the general feedback on the day. It was a good opportunity to showcase and inform the LSP Board about the work of the groups. She highlighted the need for all the groups to see all the Action Plans and cross reference to see the progress.

Priority 4 - Green Flag Bid

- MGP confirmed that the Council had achieved Green Flag status for Kings Park in Retford and that a lot of positive and complimentary comments had been received. The Council had been to Liverpool to receive the award and the judges were impressed by what had happened since the last inspection.

CM advised that the request to collect bottle tops at the last meeting for re-cycling and crushing at a factory in Meden Vale was to fund convoys to Afghanistan. She would confirm arrangements at a later date.

CM advised that she was making use of recycled materials to create Christmas parcel tags to be sold for fundraising for individual bedside TV's at the Children's Hospital at Sheffield. She would be pleased to receive any materials the Group could source for her.

4. Position of Chair and Vice-Chair

LT reminded the group that she was to undertake the role of Vice-Chair of the LSP Board replacing Mike Newstead in Spring 2009 and that a replacement of Chair for the Environment Sub Group was required. The Group had discussed the options at the last meeting and CC had had the necessary consultations with his line manager to confirm that he could be Chairman.

CC was proposed by LT and seconded by MGP.

Action: It was agreed unanimously that CC be Chair of the Environment Sub Group with effect from 6th October 2008.

DRE was proposed by LT and seconded by CM for the position of Vice Chair.

Action: It was agreed unanimously that DRE be Vice Chair of the Environment Sub Group with effect from 6th October 2008.

It was confirmed that these would be a two-year appointment comprising eight meetings and CC would represent the Group on the BLSP Board.

LT congratulated both new appointees and said that she would still attend the meetings and play an active role in the group.

5. Priority 2 - Promotion and Awareness Raising

LT proposed that this item be moved until later in the meeting and this was agreed by the Group.

LT brought forward Agenda item 11, **Dates for 2009**, and asked the Group to note the change of day in addition to the dates.

Action: It was agreed that future meetings be held on Wednesday.

Action: It was agreed that the meeting for 15th April 2009 be re-arranged due to the close proximity to Easter.

6. Action Plan for 2008/09

The group considered the Action Plan, which could be subject to change following the discussion on LAA Indicators, which would be incorporated as required.

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| 1.4 | <p>Fuel Poverty CM suggested that information may be available from A1 Housing who had undertaken quite a lot of work in this area relating to the Decent Homes Standard. There are specific circumstances in Bassetlaw as many people receive a coal allowance and some of the rural areas and areas of Worksop do not have access to a gas supply. Alternatives to gas are expensive and LJ stated that oil prices have doubled in 2 years. Certain villages are using schemes to buy a tanker of oil to reduce costs.</p> |
| 2.4 | <p>Community Champions LT reported that she had contacted BTCV to try to access the information but the records are not kept by district – just for Nottinghamshire overall. It was agreed that we need a named person as a contact. CM proposed that the person should be invited on to the Group.</p> |
| 3.1 | <p>Idle Valley CC reported that the centre had been successful in its Heritage Lottery bid for approx £1m to fund land acquisition, infrastructure and 2 posts – a warden and a community education worker.</p> |

7. Draft Nottinghamshire Partnership LAA Indicators

EW circulated the draft Nottinghamshire Partnership LAA Indicators to the meeting and because of the possible effect on the outcomes of the Action Plan LT proposed that it should be given time on the Agenda at this point and that Priority 2 – Promotion and Awareness Raising be deferred to the next meeting.

LT confirmed that EW had had discussions with GB and there should be a budget available for the publication and that this would be confirmed later. However, the Group needs to be innovative in the ideas it presents. The EAC website can be used as a baseline.

Action: It was agreed that Priority 2 – Promotion and Awareness Raising be deferred until the January 2009 meeting.

LT informed the Group that the review of the Sub-Groups may affect the allocation of indicators.

LT led the Group through the draft Nottinghamshire LAA Indicators Handbook as follows:

NI 154 Net additional homes provided. The discussion concluded that the Group did have some input into the delivery of this and it was more significant as Bassetlaw was part of the Sheffield City Region. TD would be the lead person.

NI 176 Working age people with access to employment by public transport – it was agreed that it was the responsibility of the Transport and Accessibility Group. It does not have an Action Plan in its own right. EW to inform the Group.

NI 117 16-18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) – CM reported that A1 are working with Serlby School on a new apprenticeship scheme and is hoping to promote it. EW to check with Learning and Skills Group.

NI 7 Environment for a thriving third sector – there was a discussion about the cross cutting factors in this indicator. The group indirectly influences the ability of individuals to be active in their local communities. General comments were made that there needs to be linkages and feedback from the other Sub - Groups, for example CC stated that NWT takes projects to Learning and Skills. It was considered that this Indicator was the responsibility of the Social and Community Sub Group.

NI 8 Adult participation in sport and active recreation – the discussion indicated the link to the Nature Reserves as they provide areas for people to walk in and exercise. TD stated that the Open Spaces Study was looking at parks and open spaces and had identified a deficit for Worksop, which reduces the ability to participate. This indicator was relevant to this Group in conjunction with the Health Group.

Local Indicator for Cultural Enrichment - The baseline has not been set by the Cultural Consortium but the group concluded that Bassetlaw has natural environment assets that contribute to the outcome.

NI 50 Emotional Health of Children – This was an area that the Group could influence but not measure as access to open spaces for recreation is important to their well being.

NI 55 Obesity among primary school age children in Reception year – CC commented that the outcomes for this indicator were influenced by the provision of areas for recreation and exercise.

NI 186 Per capita CO2 emissions in the LA area – It was agreed that this is the responsibility of the Sub Group. The EAC will support this outcome.

Action - EW to find out who is the BDC representative on the Climate Change Partnership Steering Group.

NI 187 Tackling Fuel Poverty - % of people receiving income based benefits living in homes with a low energy efficiency rating.

There was a discussion about which Sub Group should have the lead on this. LT commented that there are social inclusion implications through fuel poverty and also health issues. It was agreed that it should be the responsibility of the Environment Sub - Group.

NI 196 Improved street and environmental cleanliness – fly tipping. It was agreed that it was the responsibility of this Group.

NI 192 % household waste sent for re-use, recycling and composting. It was agreed that it was the responsibility of this Group.

NI 47 people killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents. LT stated that this indicator is linked to health but it was suggested that the Transport Group could have an input.

It was noted that there would be a 'crossover' between the Thematic Sub Groups where issues were relevant to more than one subject area.

Action: EW to forward an updated Action Plan incorporating the LAA indicators and cross-references with the minutes. To also detail who the lead partner is and any supporting Groups.

8. Feedback from Board Meeting 7th August 2008

LT advised that updated Action Plans had been presented but that not all of them had been available. LT reported that the LSP Board was carrying out a review of the Thematic Groups.

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for 6th November 2008 and it was agreed that both LT and CC attend as respective out-going and incoming Chair of the Group.

9. Feedback from Transport and Accessibility Group meeting 9th September 2008

DRE reported back on

- Problems of congestion at Retford Hospital. The Transport Manager reported that it was hoped that extra parking would become available with the development of the adjacent former garage plot on Great North Road.
- A recent survey (547 returned forms) had found that 12.5% of the public walked to the hospital.
- There remained an issue with public transport and the reliability of buses. It had been considered that given current technology there should be a way of communicating information regarding whether a bus has been cancelled or is simply delayed. Rotherham is piloting a system and a guest speaker could attend a future meeting.

- The Retford Hospital Steering Group will feed into the Transport and Accessibility Group.
- Transport to Health - The system has been simplified. LT asked about take up on the Contact Centre. January to May 2008 151 calls.
- Disabled Badges – for information DRE advised that a green badge gave greater accessibility into town centres such as pedestrianised areas than the more familiar blue badge.

In addition, LJ advised that NCC were looking at their transport provision. There will be a conference later in November 2008.

Also the GP facilities at Retford had been officially opened on 21st October 2008.

10. **Any Other Business**

i) **Bassetlaw District Council's new recycling leaflet**

JW distributed copies of a new leaflet which had been produced to assist the public in determining which items should be recycled. All the district councils, (except Gedling), and the County Council had worked together on the leaflet. It coincided with the opening of the new material recycling facility, (MRF), near Mansfield, early next year. It means the process could now take place closer to collection, improve standards and hopefully encourage greater recycling.

Cllr Pugsley stated that there had been changes to what could be recycled.

JW replied that if people use the guide they would do it correctly. The guide will be distributed to every household in Bassetlaw in a months time.

LT asked about the use of Stickers on the bins to provide information.

JW replied that there are problems with stickers staying on. Cllr Pugsley also said that we need people to take notice of the information.

LJ asked about the recycling of plastic milk bottle tops and JW replied that they would not be recycled at the MRF.

ii) **NWT Update**

CC confirmed that the Idle Valley Centre had received £930k through the Heritage Lottery fund. The money would be used to employ a deputy warden and a community education worker in addition to improving the infrastructure and creating a footpath walk around the lake.

Retford Cemetery had recently hosted a Fungi Foray and a Bat Walk, both of which had been well attended.

The NWT had been working at Worksop Priory with a year five group from Priory School and had planted 200 wild native flowers.

It was hoped that more money could be sought from Veolia for nesting boxes at Kings Park.

A 'What's On' Guide was distributed to the Group.

iii) **Thanks**

Collective thanks were offered from the Group to LT in appreciation of her hard work as Chair of the Environment Sub-Group .

11. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 14th January 2009, 10am – 1pm. Venue: Idle Valley Centre – to be confirmed.