

**Minutes of a meeting of the Valley Community Forum held at
Spital Pavilion, Castle Donington
on Monday 19 September 2011**

Present:

Cllr T J Pendleton (North West Leicestershire District Council) – in the Chair

Present:

Shaun Ambrose-Jones	Castle Donington Parish Council
Peggy Beddoe	Resident, Castle Donington
Peter Beddoe	Resident, Castle Donington
Mr C Burton	Resident, Castle Donington
Karen Dayman	Resident, Kegworth
Peter Duckering	Resident, Kegworth
Brenda Galubickas	Kegworth Parish Council
Nikki Hening	Resident, Diseworth
Nicola Mullen	Belton Parish Council
Mrs L A S Pendleton CC	Leicestershire County Council/Kegworth Parish Council
Cllr T Saffell	North West Leicestershire District Council/Castle Donington Parish Council
Chris Stevenson	Resident
Vic Whitehouse	Swannington Parish Council

Officers:

Kristy Ball	Community Engagement Manager, County Council
Insp. Chris Brown	Leicestershire Constabulary
Karen Brown	Youth Service, Leicestershire County Council
Nik Green	Community and Places Officer, Leicestershire County Council
Beverley Ireland	Committee Officer, Leicestershire County Council
Wendy Jones	North West Leicestershire District Council
Samantha Lockwood	Clerk, Belton and Long Whatton and Diseworth Parish Councils
Ian Nelson	North West Leicestershire District Council
Fiona Palmer	Clerk, Castle Donington Parish Council
Alan Parsons	Youth Service, Leicestershire County Council
Tom Purnell	Head of Policy and Communities, Leicestershire County Council
Ruth Robinson	North West Leicestershire District Council
Richard Windley	Leicestershire and Rutland Rural Housing Enabler, Midlands Rural Housing

129. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

130. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 June 2011 were confirmed as a correct record, subject to the following amendments:

- i) remove Angie Johnson from the list of officers present;
- ii) Minute 123: Green Spaces – remove the phrase “Residents from Kegworth were not present at the workshop”, amend the rest of the sentence to read, “It was felt that the views of Kegworth on Green Spaces had not been adequately taken account of as part of the process”.

131. Matters Arising from the Minutes

- (a) Refuelling, air quality and pollution issues (minute 126)

This matter was included on the agenda, see minute 132 below. The Chairman confirmed he had made a formal response to East Midlands Airport regarding its use of kerosene, as requested by the Forum.

132. Air Quality Management

Wendy Jones of North West Leicestershire District Council briefed the Forum on the outcome of the Special Meeting of the Forum held on 7 September to discuss air quality, specifically in Castle Donington and Kegworth. A copy of the Action Points arising from that meeting is filed with these minutes, as ‘B’.

In relation to the Action Points it was noted that the Air Quality Reports had not yet been circulated to Parish Councils and that the meeting to discuss issues around East Midlands Airport’s use of kerosene would take place at 6.30pm on 2nd November, venue to be confirmed.

Wendy requested that people raised specific issues or made requests for further information in advance of the meeting on 2nd November, to allow time for responses to be prepared for presentation on the evening. It was confirmed the meeting would be open to all residents in the Forum area.

AGREED:

- a) that the Actions arising from the meeting on 7th September be noted, together with the progress now reported;
- b) that Wendy Jones be requested to circulate paper copies of the Air Quality Reports to Castle Donington and Kegworth Parish Councils as soon as possible.

133. Green Spaces

Wendy Jones drew the Forum’s attention to the changes to waste collections, which would take effect from 1 November. It was noted that the collection day for most of the Forum Area would be Tuesday in future; for Swannington it

would be Friday. Further information was available on the website – http://www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/zonal_collection_changes and leaflets would be circulated and information left with bins over the next few weeks.

134. Tree Planting Scheme

Wendy Jones drew attention to the launch for 2011 of the tree planting scheme. This had been publicised via Vision. It was noted that not everybody had received the latest edition of Vision (or, in some cases, any recent editions). Delivery should be taking place over the next 2 weeks.

AGREED:

That residents be requested to inform Wendy Jones (wendy.jones@nwleicestershire.gov.uk, 01530 454769) , giving postcode and street name if possible, of areas where Vision was not being delivered.

135. Green Spaces Consultation: update

Tom Purnell of Leicestershire County Council gave a presentation on the results of the consultation on green spaces carried out in the spring. A copy of the presentation is filed with these minutes.

Concerns were raised regarding the consultation process, including:

- The item was rushed on the night due to the over-running of earlier items.
- Some people had encountered problems using the internet tool.
- The response from Kegworth Parish Council had gone missing.

It was noted the presentation only showed interim figures for the area at this stage. Kegworth Parish Council had re-sent its response and, although not yet shown in the figures, it would be included in the final report. Officers would also be returning to the original data collected on the evening to ensure it was all included before issuing the final report.

AGREED:

Officers be requested to follow up the concerns raised regarding missing data and to ensure this was fully investigated before the final report was produced.

136. Affordable Housing

Richard Windley of Midlands Rural Housing gave a presentation on Affordable Rural Housing. A copy of the presentation is filed with these minutes.

It was explained that small developments on exception sites could only be of affordable housing, available to local people. These homes did not come under any 'right to buy/acquire' scheme and remained as affordable housing in perpetuity. In North West Leicestershire, all developments of over 15

dwellings had to make 30% of them affordable: these homes would be available under 'right to buy/acquire' schemes. This was the most likely method of securing a supply of affordable housing, however, as the remainder of the development cross-subsidised it. In the last 7-8 years, 34 homes had been built in rural exception sites; in contrast, one development of 200 houses would take 60 people off waiting lists.

The Forum noted the biggest issues concerning the supply of all housing were land availability and funding. The recent affordable homes schemes in Heather and Long Whatton and Diseworth had been completed to a finish that was unlikely to be replicable as the funding sources were no longer available.

Arising from discussion the following points were noted:

- North West Leicestershire had difficulty attracting funding for rural housing when competing with other areas as it was not perceived as rural.
- The County Council had agreed to spend its share of the New Homes Premium (of which it received 20% and the District 80%) on rural affordable housing over the next four years. Only a few districts were following this lead; the majority would be putting their share into general funds.
- Larger developments, as well as securing a supply of affordable housing, also attracted funds from developers for infrastructure and amenities.

AGREED:

That Richard Windley be thanked for his presentation and that he and Ian Nelson and Ruth Robinson of North West Leicestershire District Council be thanked for the information provided in response to questions and points raised in the discussion.

137. Community Forum Budgets

Kristy Ball of Leicestershire County Council gave a presentation on Community Forum budgets. A copy of the presentation is filed with these minutes. Concerns regarding the process for deciding on projects were noted.

138. Question Time

Full answers would be given within 20 working days to those questions that could not be answered during the meeting.

	<u>Question</u>	<u>Submitted by</u>	<u>Question to</u>	<u>Answer</u>
1.	"Affordable local needs housing development was permitted by	Peter Beddoe	North West Leicestershire District Council	Planning Department, NWL sought, and received, further information regarding the location of the development. A response is being prepared.

	<p>members and officers of North West Leics District Council at Lockington. Behind residents' backs this became an executive 4-bed detached homes development, disgracing North West Leics District Council, cllrs and officers of many departments. How did it happen? Why did it happen? What's to stop it happening again – and again?"</p>			
2.	<p>Websites. Parish Councils are now being charged. Concern from press coverage that LCC are having further substantial cuts. How safe is the website?</p>	Fiona Palmer	Leicestershire County Council	<p>Mrs Lesley Pendleton reported that she had chaired the meeting of the Parish Council clerks at which it had been agreed that parish councils would contribute in future to the site's maintenance. She explained that the County Council had intended to make the site administrator redundant but the parish councils' contributions would now cover that post for 2 years. Having a site hosted by the County Council meant having the facility to link to partner organisations' pages and planning applications portals. There some parish and town councils that investigated using private administrators and had received quotes of £2-8,000 per year, for a service that would not be able to offer the same ability to link to partners, etc. The service was, therefore, protected for a couple of years. It was important to communicate with parishes and councillors the importance of using and paying for the service to ensure it was preserved.</p>
3.	<p>There is concern about access to Leicestershire County Council</p>	Fiona Palmer	Leicestershire County Council	<p>Response from Mark Stevens, Assistant Director Highways: In 2007, Leicestershire County Council</p>

	<p>i.e. through Highways Customers Services: it doesn't work, takes too long to get through, lack of responses, barriers put in place when asking for an officer.</p>			<p>decided that the time had come to change the traditional way in which customers were able to communicate and the preferred solution was to establish a customer service centre. From the point at which that service went live, the County Council has endeavoured to improve the speed at which it could respond to incoming calls and complete any tasks required, with a supporting monitoring system in place. From a highways perspective, this meant that officers were thereafter better able to focus on delivering a more effective highways service against a backdrop of reduced financial resources.</p> <p>With such a large change, it was inevitable that there would be some teething problems but, through providing additional resource in tandem with expansion of the issues that could be covered by the customer service centre, those early performance issues have essentially been addressed. There is no intention to revert back to the prior arrangements of office-based staff taking direct calls as that is not the most effective use of their time. Furthermore, there is no intention to create a dedicated or direct phone line. However, if County Council Members, district/borough councillors, town/parish council clerks make their identity clear to customer service agents, then requests for direct contact can be made by an appropriate officer. That system has been in place for some time and has been seen to work.</p> <p>The County Council is seeking to make continuous improvement to the services it provides. That said, it must be recognised that the level of change being effected in local government by central government, particularly in funding terms, means that the County Council has to be more selective in and prioritise accordingly the types and extent of services that it delivers in the future.</p>
4.	<p>I was led to believe that public question and answer</p>	<p>Peggy Beddoe</p>	<p>North West Leicestershire District Council</p>	<p>Cllr Tony Saffell explained that there had been a presentation to the Donington Park Racetrack Liaison Committee from the Park's planning consultant, Duncan Green.</p>

	<p>sessions were held across the District regarding the planning application at the racetrack to increase the number of unsilenced days for practice: where were these held?</p>			<p>Every local Parish Council had been invited, so the presentation was for elected members only. About 35 people had attended.</p>
5.	<p>Is there a limit to the amount of new housing allowed in an area before it is considered it will impact adversely on existing local services?</p>	<p>Nicola Mullen</p>	<p>North West Leicestershire District Council</p>	<p>Cllr Trevor Pendleton explained that every application was dealt with on its merits, taking account of historic links, parish plan and the amount of designated building land. For larger applications, the County Council and PCT will be consulted and raise concerns with the District Council and ask for mitigation to be made or for a Section 106 agreement to be completed. There was a boundary to existing settlements beyond which building could not take place.</p> <p>Fiona Palmer confirmed that only developments of 15 or more dwellings were fully consulted with on. If applications came in piecemeal for smaller developments, then the impact on amenities was unlikely to be looked at.</p>
6.	<p>Did the Forum agree that a competent meteorologist would be required for the meeting on 2nd November concerning on kerosene?</p>	<p>Peter Beddoe</p>	<p>Forum</p>	<p>It was AGREED that Mr Beddoe contact the CAA for a nomination and pass that on to the Chairman.</p>
7.	<p>I believe there is something called 'Fit as a Fiddle' funded by Big Lottery aimed @ keeping Elderly People active. What is available in Valley Forum Area?</p>	<p>Peggy Beddoe</p>	<p>Leicestershire County Council/North West Leicestershire District Council/PCT</p>	<p>A project called 'Fit as a Fiddle' does exist but is now in its final year which is due to finish in March 2012. The project is run by Suki Garcha, Good Life Project Co-ordinator, Age Concern LeicesterShire and Rutland, and if anyone has an identified group of individuals that would like a chosen activity you can contact her on 0116 299 2261. They do not currently run any projects within the Valley Forum area.</p>

				<p>Amy Clarke at North West Leicestershire District Council is also working on collecting information about services they can offer under the umbrella of 'Active Together' for those residents aged 50+. Amy can be contacted at amy.clarke@NWLeicestershire.gov.uk</p>
--	--	--	--	--

139. Lead Member for Northern Parishes

Cllr. Tony Saffell reported that he had been appointed the Lead Member at the District Council for the Northern Parishes, covering most of the Forum area. He aimed to coordinate activity happening across the area and raise the profile of local issues within the District Council. He had already rewritten the Constitutions of the Liaison Committees for East Midlands Airport and Donington Park, with a view to making those bodies more inclusive. He would be doing the same for the Liaison Committees for Bardon Quarry and the Regional Storage and Distribution Centre.

Finally, he reported he would be trying to get to meetings of all parish councils in the area to find out what their issues of concern were.

140. Items for Future Forums

It was AGREED that the following items be scheduled for discussion at future meetings of the Forum:

- Leicestershire Villages
- Provision for keeping elderly people active
- Speeding
- Suicide Awareness

141. Date, Time and Venue for next meeting

It was NOTED that the next meeting of the Forum would be the Community Budget Workshop and would be held on Wednesday 16th November 2011 at 6.30 for 7.00pm.

7.00 – 9.05pm
19 September 2011