

**Minutes of a meeting of the Valley Community Forum held at
Diseworth Village Hall on Wednesday 6 February 2013**

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

Present:

David Bamford	Long Whatton and Diseworth Parish Council and Diseworth Parish Hall
Peggy Beddoe	Resident
Peter Beddoe	Resident
Julia Burkin	Castle Donington Volunteer Centre
Mr C Burton	Castle Donington Parish Council
Karen Dayman	Kegworth Plan Group
Rowena Dawson	Kegworth Plan Group
Peter Duckering	Resident, Kegworth
Brenda Galubickas	Kegworth Parish Council
Angela Griffin	Resident
Nikki Hening	Resident, Diseworth
Carol Johnson	Resident, Zouch
Richard Johnson	Resident, Zouch
Cllr Russell Johnson	North West Leicestershire District Council
George Mellors	Kegworth Parish Council
Nichola Miller	Diseworth Dialogue
Nicola Mullen	Belton Parish Council
Fiona Palmer	Castle Donington Parish Council
Lesley Pendleton CC	Leicestershire County Council/Kegworth Parish Council
Joan Pincombe	Resident
Gary Roberts	Castle Donington Parish Council/Village Hall
Cllr Tony Saffell	North West Leicestershire District Council/Castle Donington Parish Council
Cllr Alison Smith	North West Leicestershire District Council
Darren Smith	Resident
Angus Sowter	Castle Donington Parish Council

Officers:

Tim Beard	Leicester Mercury
Tony Beirne	Senior Enforcement Office, North West Leicestershire District Council
Commander Chris Brown	Leicestershire Constabulary
Nik Green	Community and Places Officer, Leicestershire County Council
Beverley Ireland	Committee Officer, Leicestershire County Council
Wendy May	Community Focus Team Leader, Northern Parishes, North West Leicestershire District Council
Tom Purnell	Head of Policy and Communities, Leicestershire County Council

167. Welcome and introductions

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

168. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Carole Bramley and John Williams (Castle Donington Volunteer Centre).

169. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 October 2012 were confirmed as a correct record.

170. Matters Arising

Update on the Airport Odour Study (minute 164)

In response to questions, it was noted that this was a study being run by East Midlands Airport, into which none of the local authorities had input. Trevor Pendleton and Tony Saffell offered to check with the new Director of the Airport who the forms had been delivered to. Wendy May undertook to request a press release from the Airport, with a view to then including it in local newsletters to raise its profile.

[Subsequent to the meeting it was established Royal Mail delivered letters about the survey to every household in the postcode area 'DE74 2xx' (4,975 households). Articles had also been included in a least two editions of East Midlands Airport's community flyer newsletter.

A press release was provided by Airport to Wendy, resulting in press coverage.]

171. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

172. Flooding

Forum members were asked to use post-it notes to indicate on large maps on the tables, areas of flooding concern. The information would be checked against existing lists at the County Council and previously unidentified areas would be recorded. The information would also be included in the work being carried out by the County Council on developing a Flooding Strategy for Leicestershire.

Zouch

The evacuation of Zouch on the night of 25 November 2012 was brought to the Forum's attention. This had been necessary because of flooding associated with Diseworth ditch. It was suggested that this had been made worse by water released from the balancing ponds at East Midlands Airport (EMA). Concerns were expressed at the possibility that, if water had been released by EMA, it might have been contaminated with industrial chemicals.

[Subsequent to the meeting, information was provided by East Midlands Airport explaining that the Consent to Discharge issued by the Environment Agency included controls on water quality parameters, to ensure that no pollution resulted from any discharge from the Airport. To ensure compliance, the Airport continually monitors the quality of surface water.]

Lesley Pendleton CC, whose brief at the County Council included Environment and Transport, explained that, under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, Leicestershire County Council was now the lead agency for flood risk management in the County. Officers had already sought information from EMA and would be meeting with representatives of the Airport and the Environment Agency to establish exactly what had happened. If EMA had acted in breach of its licence (that did allow it to release water), action would be taken. Lesley undertook to ensure that officers fed back to interested parties once they had completed their investigations.

[Subsequent to the meeting, it was reported that representatives of the Airport had met with and were supporting the County Council in its investigations relating to the incident.]

Forum members expressed concerns that local flooding would get worse, due to the amount of development taking place in the area, including HS2 and the planned Strategic Rail Freight interchange. It was suggested there was a lack of a cohesive overall plan, which was allowing agricultural land to be built over.

It was noted that new housing estates were required to have balancing ponds but it was suggested these were not always large enough and it was felt that not enough was done during the consideration of planning applications to mitigate against flooding. It was noted that the Environment Agency and Severn Trent were statutory consultees on planning applications and that, if they did not object, the planning officers had to accept that advice. North West Leicestershire District Council had, additionally, commissioned a report by a private company in relation to the basin around Kegworth.

It was reported that NWL officers did not always respond to queries or provide feedback. Councillors suggested that people might find it better to work through their elected representatives, who had more opportunities to contact and meet with officers and could then report back the outcomes.

It was reported that the Environment Agency had a hydraulic model for the area and officers undertook to establish whether this was still the case and if it was regularly updated to take account of new developments.

173. HS2 (High Speed Rail link)

Tom Purnell drew people's attention to the recent Government announcement of the route for phase two of HS2. He reported that full public consultation was expected in autumn 2013. It was understood that it would include roadshows, similar to the consultation on the London to Birmingham route. However, prior to this, there would be 'informal engagement', between HS2 Ltd and local authorities regarding specific

issues: it was possible that the route to be consulted on in the autumn would, therefore, differ slightly from the one currently proposed.

HS2 Ltd was currently consulting on its 'exceptional hardship scheme' (for property owners affected by the route). This could be found at: <http://www.hs2.org.uk/> and ran until 29 April 2013.

Tom explained that Leicestershire County Council wanted to consider, very carefully, the impact of the proposed route on communities, the economy, the landscape, etc. It would be holding discussions with HS2 Ltd and others, e.g. the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (LLEP) to inform its own response to the consultation.

The following key points emerged from discussion:

- Consultation on phase one (London to Birmingham) had resulted in modifications to the proposed route.
- It was disappointing to note that the proposed route risked impacting on the provision of a by-pass for Kegworth.
- This and other developments took no account of loss of agricultural land and how a growing population could continue to be fed.
- The impacts on communities, the environment, quality of life and wildlife were far more important than any impact on the economy and should have greater emphasis therefore.
- It was felt that the possible loss of the Strategic Rail Freight Interchange would not impact on the local economy as there was no unemployment in the area and the local roads would not be able to handle the increased traffic if it did ahead.
- The logical place for a local HS2 Station was East Midlands Parkway Station and not Toton Sidings.
- The work would not be completed until 2032.

[Following the meeting, it was reported that construction was planned to begin in 2017 but that it would start and end at different times and at different points along the route.]

- The proposed tunnel under East Midlands Airport could be a security risk.

174. Question Time

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

1. **Peggy Beddoe:** There was an item at an earlier meeting on fitness for older people [Active Together and Active Hearts, March 2012]: what has become of this?

It was suggested this could be an item for a future meeting.

2. **Angus Sowter:** Could we have a future item on parking permits for tradesmen in local villages?

It was agreed this would be looked into.

175. Pavement Parking

Tony Beirne reported on a campaign, "Pavement Parking: Thinking of Others", to encourage more consideration of others by road users in relation to parking on pavements. The campaign was based on one run successfully in Charnwood.

The campaign was not aimed at preventing parking on pavements, as it was acknowledged there were situations when this was the safest and most considerate way a vehicle could be parked, based on the width of the pavement, road conditions, etc. However, drivers would be encouraged to think of the needs of others, particularly those with disabilities or push chairs, and to make sure they left room on the pavement to allow them to pass safely.

If there appeared to be a particular problem in an area, the local properties would be leafleted and, if necessary, enforcement action taken. It was noted that parking on the pavement with single or double yellow lines was a matter for civil enforcement but the police had to deal with incidents of obstruction. It was also noted that driving onto a footpath was an offence. However, the police would respond pragmatically to particular situations.

176. Youth Provision

The Chairman drew the Forum's attention to the forms on each table and encouraged members to complete them.

177. Welfare Reform

Wendy May gave a presentation on the key messages in relation to welfare reform, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. She explained that central Government policy had delegated responsibility for the schemes listed to local authorities, together with a (reduced) budget. All the people known to be affected by the changes had been contacted and additional support was being put in place to meet the expected increase in demand for advice.

Tom Purnell reported that the County Council was taking on responsibility for Community Care Grants and Crisis Loans. It was currently consulting on the eligibility criteria for a local scheme, to be known as Leicestershire Welfare Provision. It was noted that this had also been delegated from central Government with a reduced budget.

The following key points were made during discussion:

- Landlords would be less willing to take tenants on benefits once housing benefit was paid as part of a universal credit to the claimant and not directly to the landlord. This could lead to an increase in demand for social housing.
- There was a shortage of smaller homes for families penalised by the under occupancy charges who might wish to move to avoid the additional payments.

- Some of the people affected by the introduction of a universal credit would need support to learn how to manage a monthly budget.

178. Castle Donington Village Hall

Gary Roberts, representing the Village Hall Committee, explained how the money it had been awarded from the Community Forum Budget had been used to improve parking at the Hall. The Hall was a very popular local asset, in use on a daily basis but the local community had suffered due to the lack of parking on the site. The money had been used to lay a hardwearing mesh and erect fencing to allow parking on a corner of the playing field.

179. Community Forum Budget 2013

Nik Green gave a presentation regarding the Community Forum Budget 2013, a copy of which is filed with these minutes.

The Forum had £12,500 to give away at its Budget Workshop in June. It was noted that people would need to register their interest to attend and would be notified about a week before the date as to whether or not they had a place on the night.

180. Chris Brown

Trevor Pendleton reported that this was Chris Brown's last Valley Community Forum as he was retiring as LPU Commander. Trevor stated that they owed him a great debt, as crime had reduced under his stewardship. He added that it had been a pleasure to work with Chris.

Chris replied that he had enjoyed every minute and took great pleasure in seeing how much people cared about their community.

181. Date, Time and Venue for next meeting

It was NOTED that the next meeting of the Forum would be held on Tuesday 4 June 2013 at 6.30 pm. This would be the Community Forum Budget Workshop night and booking via the Forum's website would be essential, <http://www.leicestershireforums.org/valley/>.

7.00 – 9.10 pm
6 February 2103