

News from the meeting of the Core Group held on Thursday the 3rd June 2010.

Training Provision

ODEF has been offered a new skills for life training course to be delivered in 2010/11. The final details of the funding are still being agreed with Enable. ODEF is still running courses aimed at unemployed people through a contract with Working Links and these will run throughout 2010/11. The Response to Redundancy courses have been suspended because of funding difficulties with Enable.

Local Strategic Partnership

Member organisations of the Local Strategic Partnership who are involved with employment support have been invited to meet with the advisors at Mansfield job centre. The meeting will be an opportunity for ODEF to inform the job centre advisors of the services on offer to unemployed people.

Eco Shop

ODEF has filled both vacancies in the Eco Shop. Laura Hedley and Jenny Wilkinson, both from Ollerton, have started work on six months' contracts funded through the Future Jobs Fund.

Feel Good Foods

Feel Good Foods has now formally become a part of ODEF. The group disbanded in April 2010 and the equipment and tools now belong to ODEF. Feel Goods Foods occupy allotment space at the Dukeries Farm Unit and this arrangement will now need to be formalised as part of a licence agreement between the County Council and ODEF. A spring and summer programme has been established for the work at the allotment. A meeting was held recently with the Dukeries to discuss the tenancy agreement and the need for CRB checks on members accessing the school during term time.

Transport Action Team

The County Council presented the results of their latest committee report into a passenger rail link to the Transport Action Team on 16 March 2010. The County Council does not rule out the possibility of the Ollerton line reopening but further cost reduction measures need to be introduced in connection with running the service. The Action Team discussed the report further at their meeting held on 27 April 2010. The forecast of passenger numbers was questioned by members of the Action Team. Members felt that because the current bus service was so poor there was a good chance that many more people would use the rail service than the County Council report anticipated.

The Action Team also discussed the latest plans for improving the A614 Ollerton roundabout. The members felt that there were no measures being put in place to actually increase the capacity of the roundabout but, overall, the Action Team supported the new plans for the reason that some improvement work was necessary.

The Action Team sought the approval of the Core Group to pursue the suggestion of a southern bypass for Ollerton in order to overcome the problems of traffic in the town centre. There was an opportunity for ODEF to press the County Council into including the bypass in the new Local Transport Plan. The Core Group expressed the view that it would be better to wait until the impact of the roundabout improvement works were available before forcing a decision on the need for a bypass. It was resolved that the bypass be discussed further in spring 2011.

Disability Action Team

Accessibility issues continue to be a key focus for discussion by the Disability Action Team. A reminder letter has been sent to the Co-Op to ask them to explain why there was no promised disabled access improvements made to their store when it was recently refurbished. It was also noted that it was not possible to construct a wheelchair ramp on the front of the Boots Chemist shop because of the hazard it would cause to pedestrians.

ODEF Forum Meetings

The next ODEF Forum Meeting will be held in Lifespring Church on 30 June 2010 where the theme will be recycling. There will be two guest speakers at the meeting.

ODEF newsletter

The first edition of the ODEF newsletter has been published and distributed widely throughout Ollerton and Boughton.

University of Osaka

Kazu Noguchi from the University of Osaka in Japan has arrived in the UK and has commenced his year long study into regeneration of coalfield communities. He has chosen Ollerton as a case study and is currently researching the history of ODEF.