

News from the Core Group Meeting held on Thursday the 5th March 2009.

Co-option of a new Core Group member

The Core Group discussed the matter of the vacancy on the Core Group and considered the co-option the Rev Richard Goodhand, who had recently met with David Heathcote. Cllr B. Smith proposed the co-option of Rev Goodhand, seconded by M. Lindley. The Core Group voted unanimously in favour. Rev Goodhand will serve on the Core Group as a co-opted member.

ODEF Employment Support Service

During the last six months, 195 new clients have used the ODEF employment support service. This is more than at any time since ODEF began. There are an increasing number of clients coming from Bilsthorpe and Rainworth to use the service. The number of job vacancies continues to fall and it is difficult to see this situation changing over the coming months. The ODEF job and volunteering fair will take place on 4 June 2009 and, to date; four employers have agreed to attend.

Proposed ODEF Training Suite

The funding application submitted to Futurebuilders for the proposed training suite is still being assessed. New financial information is being submitted to back up the application.

Eco Shop Project

The Eco Shop has received a grant from the Alliance SSP. The grant will pay for an extension to the shop opening times and will build stronger links with Feel Good Foods and the Dukeries College. The grant will also pay for the delivery of eco-training to both individuals and businesses together with the purchase of capital equipment. Eco-Logic has been appointed as environmental consultants to promote the objectives of the project and will co-ordinate the work of the two volunteers as well as the activities of the Eco Shop. One of the first activities was to take part in Fair Trade Fortnight in conjunction with the Co-Op store in Ollerton.

Disability Action Team

The Disability Action Team discussed the latest position on the lack of disabled access at Boughton Post Office at their monthly meeting in February. It was reported that the Post Office regional office had not yet been notified of the problem and that regular contact was being maintained with the local postmistress to try and resolve the problem. The Core Group agreed that the Disability Action Team should try to assist in some way with the work of building a ramped area. This could be done by way of confirming the availability of grant funding from the District Council and to establish what the building costs would be for a suitable ramp.

Transport Action Team

The Transport Action Team met on 24 February 2009 and discussed the progress on the rail link. The County Council has agreed to carry out a further feasibility study on the possibility of re-opening the line for passenger transport. It was reported that the Sherwood Community Bus had managed to obtain a secondhand bus for use by Age Concern in the Warsop area.

Tourism Action Team

The Tourism Action Team has been working on the revised "Story of the Sandlands" trail. The trail has been diverted along the River Maun and will cross the river on a new footbridge due to be constructed adjacent to the present Whitewater Bridge. The Action Team would like to know something about the history of Whitewater Bridge in order to include the information on the new interpretation boards.

Newark and Sherwood LSP Economic Theme Group

The next meeting of the LSP Economic Theme Group will be 11 March 2009. Items for discussion include the Group's first monitoring report and the District Council's Economic Regeneration Strategy.

ODEF featured on BBC television programme

ODEF was featured recently in the BBC1 television programme "Inside Out". The programme told the story of Ollerton during the miners' strike, which took place twenty-five years ago.