

## **News from the meeting of the Core Group held on Thursday the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2009**

### **Employment Support Service**

There was good progress being made towards meeting the targets set by the funders for the Employment Support Service. The key output of getting people into jobs was still being achieved with 17 people finding work in the first six months of 2009/10. ODEF has agreed to participate in the government's new Future Jobs Fund scheme which helps employers pay for the cost of employing a young unemployed person. ODEF has requested two workers including someone to work in the Eco Shop.

### **Redundancy Support Event**

ODEF attended the redundancy support event organised by the LSP held on 25 August 2009. The event was poorly attended and was probably not given sufficient publicity.

### **Education and Training Services**

Two new contracts to deliver training commenced during September 2009. One was to continue the jobMAETs programme started with Enable but which will now be delivered directly through Working Links. The other new contract is called Response to Redundancy and will target local unemployed people seeking work and training.

### **Transformation Fund**

ODEF is a partner in the delivery of a contract being led by the Dukeries College who has obtained funding under the government's Transformation Fund. The contract, which must be completed by 31 March 2009, is aimed at encouraging more people from the travelling community to take up adult education. ODEF's role will be provide an IAG service and, in some cases, training courses.

### **Ollerton Visitor Guide**

The latest edition of the Ollerton and surrounding area visitor guide has been launched. Widespread distribution of the free guide has commenced and there have been posters and press coverage to promote the publication. The guide is already being well received and the Core Group congratulated Louise Tarrant for producing a splendid publication. Work is now progressing on the website version of the guide.

### **Story of the Sandlands trail**

Christine Ford reported that there was still a question mark about the funding for the new Story of the Sandlands interpretation board. The original quote could probably be beaten and it was agreed that it would be useful to see if it was possible to get the board made more cheaply.

### **Transport Action Team**

The Transport Action Team meeting due to take place on 22 September 2009 was cancelled and rescheduled for 20 October 2009.

### **Disability Action Team**

The Disability Action Team held a meeting on 7 September 2009 and discussed local access issues. The District Council has confirmed that there has been no disabled access grant provided to Boughton Post Office and they had no powers to enforce the owners to construct an access ramp. The Action Team also discussed the lack of a suitable ramp outside the Boots chemists on Forest Road. In this case, it was understood that a building application to provide a ramp had been turned down. Tesco has told the Action Team that the issues raised over their disabled toilet facilities were being addressed. A letter has been sent to the store manager regarding the wider issues regarding the general fall in standards in the store. There has been no response received to this letter to date.

**Eco Shop**

There has been little response received from the town council regarding the proposal to landscape and utilise the land in front of the Eco Shop. As this was land belonging to the clinic, it was suggested the proposal be taken further without waiting for anything back from the town council. Funding bids are still being prepared for further developments with the project.

**Forum Meeting**

The next ODEF Forum meeting will be held on 7 October 2009 and will feature a speaker from the District Council talking about the Local Development Framework and a speaker from the Forestry Commission on the new Sherwood Forest Visitor Centre.