

## **News from the Core Group Meeting held on Thursday the 4<sup>th</sup> February 2010**

### **Local Strategic Partnership - Economic Theme Group**

ODEF attended a meeting of the LSP Economic Group on 28 January 2010. The five year community strategy was discussed and members of the Group were asked to consider what the key economic priorities should be in the medium to long term. Recently, the new growth points have been announced and these would offer good opportunities in the construction industry, a chance to reduce CO2 levels, apprenticeships and employment and skills training. The Core Group agreed that the current economic objectives were all still relevant and these should continue to feature in any new community strategy. The development of tourism was particularly important to the ODEF area and the proposed Proteus Camp holiday site was welcomed. However, the Core Group did express their concerns regarding the adverse ecological effects that the holiday site would create. The ODEF stand was featured as part of the Pre and Post Redundancy Event held in Ollerton Town Hall on 3 February 2010. Many other organisations were also present and ODEF managed to assist ten new clients during the day.

### **Transport Action Team**

The County Council has provided the Transport Action Team with a copy of their latest report on rail services, which includes a piece on the possibility of re-opening the Ollerton passenger rail service. The report states that a feasibility study carried out ten years ago pointed out that an annual subsidy of over a million pounds would be needed to operate the line and that this was simply not viable at the time. However, the amount of subsidy could be reduced if some linespeed works were undertaken or if the proposed service was just a single coach train run on an hourly basis. The County Council is continuing to investigate these options and has agreed to attend the next Transport Action Team on 16 March 2010 in order to discuss this further

### **Disability Action Team**

The Disability Action Team held a meeting on 1 February 2010 and discussed local access issues. The County Council's Highways Officer has written to explain the reason why the proposed disabled ramp for Boots Chemist was refused planning permission. The design and features of the ramp were considered to pose problems to those with impaired visual perception and/or mobility. The Disability Action Team has invited the County Council's Highways Officer to their next meeting in order to discuss a way forward.

### **Eco Shop Action Team**

The Eco Shop Action Team has discussed the current situation of Feel Good Foods who are ODEF's partners in the project. Feel Good Foods, which is an unincorporated association, was recently successful in getting through the first stage of a lottery funding bid to create a community horticultural team of workers. However, the group feels that it does not possess a sufficiently robust management structure to take the lottery bid further and has real concerns about the survival of the organisation. Members of Feel Good Foods have now informed the Core Group that they are willing to wind up the association as an independent organisation to become an action team of ODEF. It was agreed that the matter should be a motion to be put forward at the next Core Group meeting. ODEF is currently advertising two job vacancies in the Eco Shop. The jobs will be part of the Government's Future Job Fund.

**Japanese student research programme**

Arrangements have now been finalised for Kazumasa Noguchi to undertake a programme of research into Ollerton's regeneration after the pit closure. The programme will start on 15 March 2010 and last about a year. ODEF has agreed to host the student and has also offered some volunteering work during his stay in the UK.

**Traveller Community Involvement Project**

ODEF has commenced the information and advice service to travellers and has already visited two local sites in Ollerton.

**St George's Day Celebrations**

This year's St Georges Day Celebrations will take place on 25 April 2010 and will feature St George and his "green" dragon.

**ODEF newsletter**

The County Council has provided a grant to enable ODEF to publish the first four issues of the newsletter. Work on issue one is currently underway with a four page A4 size colour publication being planned.