

## **News from the meeting of the Core Group held on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2008.**

### **Coalfields Regeneration Trust**

A funding application has been submitted to the Coalfields Regeneration Trust. If successful, the funding will commence in August.

### **Former bingo hall in Ollerton**

An appeal against the planning refusal to demolish the former bingo hall in Ollerton has been turned down by the Planning Inspectorate. This decision will mean that the site cannot be used solely for residential flats although the hall could still be demolished to make way for an alternative use.

### **Improvement scheme for Ollerton roundabout**

The County Council has agreed a £3.1 million scheme to help reduce traffic congestion at Ollerton roundabout. The scheme will involve increasing the existing capacity at the roundabout and the County Council say it should reduce the problem of motorists using Ollerton village.

### **Newark and Sherwood LSP**

The structure of the LSP is currently under review and some changes are expected to be announced shortly. In the meantime, there are very few LSP meetings being held.

### **St George's Day celebrations**

The St George's Day celebrations went ahead on 20 April 2008 despite the wet weather on the day. The organisers were pleased with the good turnout and the event was deemed a success.

### **Employment Service**

Lottery funding is already secured to target local people into jobs during the year as part of the Community Breaks project. The number of people targeted is capable of being doubled if the funding bid to the Coalfields Regeneration Trust is successful. The Lottery funding will also be used to increase peoples' confidence and communication skills by using the new Community Breaks website. Enable is currently working with Jobcentre Plus on a possible new contract to deliver jobs skills training.

### **Transport Action Team**

The Transport Action Team will continue to work on projects designed to improve public transport, both road and rail.

### **Tourism Action Team**

The Tourism Action Team will be looking at revising and updating the Story of the Sandlands guided walk. The original walk was devised by ODEF some years ago and some parts of the trail have been diverted. The proposed new leaflet will feature a revised route and will incorporate new waymarkers and an interpretative board.

### **"Homegrown" Project**

The Environment and Heritage Action Teams will be working with local schools in September 2008 on the "Homegrown" educational project. The project will use original resource material that was collated on ODEF's behalf by John Marlow and will incorporate activities by the Environment Action Team and Feel Good Foods.

### **Volunteering**

Lottery funding will enable ODEF to continue a project designed to encourage more volunteering and provide a support service for local voluntary groups. A target of 10 new volunteers has been set for the year.

**Community Breaks Online**

The development of the lottery-funded Community Breaks Online service will continue with the website going live by the end of the year.

**ODEF Training Suite**

Futurebuilders has provided ODEF with a development grant in order to look at building a brand new training suite. The new facility will be required in order for ODEF to expand its training provision in the future. Futurebuilders will make a final decision on whether or not to fund the new development in 2008/09.

**The Eco-Shop**

Building work will be completed shortly on the new ODEF Eco-Shop and the shop displays and stocks will be in place shortly. Aspects of the Eco-Shop to be developed during the year include the retail outlet, a Bag For Life promotion, the involvement of local suppliers, an information and advice service, a base for Feel Good Foods, a showcase for local community groups and a consultation base for eco-activity. The shop will show a range of household and garden goods that are local and have environmental credibility as well as a range of local products such as the Green Dragon briquettes produced at Rufford. The information area will have leaflets and boards about local suppliers, organisations and explanations about environment and sustainability.

**Education and Training Service**

The ODEF education and training service will be funded from various sources during the coming year. The Lottery will be funding students undertaking numeracy, literacy and basic ICT skills courses with the Coalfields Regeneration Trust bid, if successful, providing funding for a further number of students. Enable contracts will provide Skills for Life training and the County Council will be funding the Living Naturally environmental training. ODEF is still awaiting confirmation about whether Train to Gain volunteer training courses can go ahead this year. Work will continue with Futurebuilders on building the capacity of ODEF to deliver more LSC training.