

News from the meeting of the Core Group held on Thursday 3rd April 2008.

The Chairman welcomed Mike Lindley to the Core Group who has been co-opted to fill the vacancy left by Richard Kirton.

Coalfields Regeneration Trust

A funding application is being prepared for submission to the Coalfields Regeneration Trust. If successful the funding will commence in July.

ODEF Eco-Shop

A grant of £22,500 was received in March for the Eco-Shop project and this was subsequently increased by a further £2,200. Building work has started on the conversion of ODEF's ground floor office into the new shop. Volunteers have been recruited to staff the shop when it opens in May 2008. The grant will also pay for a new edition of the visitor guide and this is due to be published during the summer. Further funding is being sought and an application has gone off to The Big Green Challenge Fund.

Former bingo hall in Ollerton

The owners of the site of the former bingo hall in Ollerton have lodged an appeal against the refusal of permission for them to demolish the building. This appeal is still ongoing.

Bus services

The County Council has agreed to continue running both the Boughton Boomerang and the Sherwood Sweeper for at least another six months. The services will be reviewed once more in September 2008. The Core Group welcomed this news and it was hoped that the publicity could be improved in order for local people to understand the service better.

Employment Service

The number of people using the ODEF Employment Service reached 504 in the year by 31 March 2008 with 31 clients getting into work. These figures exceeded the targets set by the funders of the service. The bid to the Coalfields Regeneration Trust is for the purpose of extending the running of the service for a further two years.

Community Breaks Project

The Community Breaks website is continuing to be developed with much of the work being centred on the links with various partners and organisations who will form part of the proposed information and advice service. The discussion forum on the existing ODEF website is being monitored and analysed with a view to developing aspects of it for future use on the Community Breaks site.

Market Towns Initiative

The Market Towns Initiative formally closed on 31 March 2008. ODEF's funding for the post of project development worker on the Initiative also finished on that date.

Transport Action Team

The ODEF Transport Action Team met on 1 April 2008 and discussed items relating to Ollerton roundabout and the new traffic wardens starting on 1 May 2008. The County Council favours an enlargement of the existing roundabout and has allocated funding towards the development of a scheme. The Action

Team discussed the results of an independent survey that seemed to indicate that this type of scheme would be inadequate to deal with the increasing traffic volume. The Action Team also discussed the new parking regulations and their effect on Ollerton's town centre. It was suggested that the overcrowded car parks might be relieved by the creation of a new car park on the derelict site of the old textile factory opposite Tesco.

Newark and Sherwood LSP

An external review of the effectiveness of the Newark and Sherwood LSP, in which ODEF staff took part, has been completed. The final outcome of the review is not yet known and there have been very few LSP meetings arranged recently.

ODEF Forum Meeting

The next ODEF Forum Meeting will take place on 3 July 2008 and will incorporate the Annual General Meeting.

Training Service

ODEF currently has one training contract running with Enable that is due to run until August 2008. Negotiations are taking place to secure two new contracts to start in September 2008 that will involve the Government's new Skills for Jobs and Train to Gain initiatives. ODEF has also submitted a funding application to the County Council to run some environmental skills courses during the summer.

St George's Day celebrations

The St George's Day celebrations will take place in Ollerton on 20 April 2008. ODEF is a sponsor of the event and will be involved with the publicity.

Rail link

The existing mineral line through Ollerton which goes from Thoresby to High Marnham is to be tested and maintained by Jarvis for the next three years. This is good news for the passenger rail link campaign as it means the track is safe for the near future.

Ollerton Hall

Work on the restoration of Ollerton Hall has been started and is being closely monitored by English Heritage. Delays have occurred due to the Environment Agency's concerns about building on the flood plain.