

## **News from the meeting of the Core Group held on Thursday the 6<sup>th</sup> March 2008.**

### **Coalfields Regeneration Trust**

An application for funding is currently being prepared to cover the continuation of ODEF's employment service for a further three years.

### **ODEF Eco-Shop**

A grant of £22,500 has been received to cover the cost of opening an eco-shop in Ollerton and to publish an updated version of the visitor guide. The intention is to open the shop initially for promotions and events only and, at a later date, to develop a sales counter that will feature local eco-friendly products. Building work is expected to start in March and the preparation work for the new visitor guide is already underway. At present, it is only possible for volunteers to staff the Eco-Shop. There has been some interest shown in the project from the local primary schools who wish to get involved with environmental subjects.

### **Rail link**

The Transport Action Team discussed the subject of the rail link at their latest meeting. The rail track is still 'in situ' between Ollerton and High Marnham power station but beyond there the track to Lincoln has been lifted. The track through Ollerton is still under care and maintenance and could still be brought back into use for passenger services.

### **ODEF Forum meeting**

The February Forum meeting was well attended by 25 people. There were presentations on the effects of climate change on the local environment, the new Eco-Shop and there was a report from the Transport Action Team.

### **Core Group vacancy**

Richard Kirton has sent a letter of thanks to ODEF for his retirement gift and farewell lunch. Richard's vacancy on the Core Group was discussed and Paul Bradford proposed that Mike Lindley, a local resident and Secretary of Sherwood Countryman Buses, be co-opted. The motion was seconded by Christine Ford and was carried unanimously.

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

The former bingo hall in Ollerton remains closed and the rear car park is still sealed off. A written appeal has been lodged against the planning decision to refuse the demolition of the building.

### **Affordable housing in Ollerton**

Planning permission has been granted for the conversion to flats of a semi-detached house located on Forest Road. The Core Group hoped that this would not set off a trend whereby Ollerton's affordable housing stock was being reduced and changed to flats. This would make houses even harder to obtain for first time buyers. The planning policy adopted by the District Council would need to be changed to stop this type of development and it was agreed that ODEF should write to the Head of Planning with the concerns.

### **ODEF funding targets**

ODEF has been successful in meeting most of the funding targets set by the lottery and CRT. There has actually been an overachievement on some targets, such as the number of people using the ODEF services.

### **Forest Road car park**

The Chairman explained the position regarding the Forest Road public car park. Despite rumours to the contrary, the car park will continue to be free to

users thanks to a subsidy paid by the town council. However, it will be policed by the new traffic wardens that will be operating throughout the town with effect from 1 May 2008.

**Sherwood Sweeper bus service**

The Chairman said that the press had seemed to pick up from somewhere that the Sherwood Sweeper bus service was due to finish at the end of March 2008. The Company Secretary said he would investigate to establish whether this was true or not.