

News from the Core Group Meeting held on Thursday the 6th November 2008.

Newark and Sherwood LSP

The LSP Economic Development Group, of which ODEF is a member, meets again on 3 December 2008. The LSP's delivery plan will be an item for discussion.

St George's Day celebrations

The St George's Day working group is intending to seek some funding from Grassroots.

Forum Meeting

The next Forum meeting is now confirmed as being held on 24 November 2008 at 6.30 pm at the Dukeries. The main speaker will be Danny Smith presenting the future plans for the Dukeries College.

Employment Support Service

In the six months ended 30 September 2008, the Employment Support Service had assisted 26 people into work and was on course to meet all targets set by the funders in 2008/09. There has been a noticeable shift in pattern in the last six weeks or so with evidence of a drop in the number of job vacancies but an increase in the number of people seeking work. This could be fallout from the credit crunch and the situation will need to be monitored to ensure the Employment Service carries on effectively. Plans have been discussed to hold another ODEF jobsfair event, probably in June 2009, with the objective of gathering as many local employers together as possible in order to attempt to get more people into work.

Tourism Action Team

There will be a meeting held on 12 November 2008 between members of the Tourism Action Team and representatives from the District Council and the Forestry Commission to discuss the "Story of the Sandlands" project. The new revised edition of the ODEF visitor guide will be launched at a special event on a date in early 2009.

Eco Shop Action Team

The Eco Shop Action Team has been working on putting together the application form for a grant from the SSP's Enterprising Communities Fund. An application is being considered that would focus on eco training and local food and would involve joint working with Feel Good Foods and the Dukeries Farm Unit. Another meeting is planned for 7 November 2008 to finalise the bid. In future, the Eco Shop will be open every Tuesday and Wednesday staffed by volunteers. There are still plans to start a bag for life campaign in the town

Training Services

ODEF has been successful in obtaining an extension to its contract to deliver skills for life training under the NLDC funding stream. The new contract runs until July 2009.

Newark and Sherwood District Council's Local Development Framework

ODEF has been invited to comment on the key decisions being made on the District's new Local Development Framework, which will form the planning policy in the future. There were five key decisions to be made, these were on the matters of (1) the status of the main towns and settlements, (2) the proposed housing and growth areas, (3) the policy for coping with climate change, (4) the protection of the natural and built heritage and (5) the future of Sherwood Forest. The Core Group members agreed to inform the Manager of their respective comments on each decision by 7 November 2008. Ben Wells declared an interest and it was agreed he would not partake in the consultation.

Disability Action Team

A comment has been made about the state of the footways and pavement areas along Forest Road and if anything could be done about the overhanging hedgerows that were causing an obstruction. This was something Mike Manning had been investigating as part of his work for the Disability Action Team.