

News from the Core Group – September 2008

Employment Service

The funding application to the Coalfields Regeneration Trust was successful and £100,434 will be received over two years in order to continue the employment support programme.

The Employment Support Service is being funded from three different sources, each coupled with targets and performance indicators. The CRT funded service commenced in August and has a set target of 27 people assisted into work by the end of March 2009. A new three-year contract with Enable has also started which is predominately to deliver training but also includes aspects involving employment and getting people into work.

Training and Education

The Wednesday evening ICT training courses continue to attract students. A three-year contract to deliver job-ready courses has just commenced and this will fit in well with ODEF employment support services. The new round of skills for life training contracts for 2008/09 are now being finalised and ODEF will be invited to deliver more of these courses over the next year.

Transport Action Team

Nottinghamshire County Council has written to the Transport Action Team to inform that any proposals for an Ollerton bypass would be deemed as low priority. The Action Team had originally requested that the scheme be included in the new Local Development Framework alongside similar proposals for bypasses at Southwell and Kelham.

There have been some major changes to the Boomerang and Sweeper bus services resulting in them becoming absorbed into the mainstream Stagecoach timetables. The changes have meant that the Sherwood Community Bus has had to step in to help with transport for the local friendship clubs. The buses no longer operate along Petersmith Drive due to the double parking problems caused by residents.

There has been some encouraging news about the rail link with the announcement that Railtrack intend to open up the track through Ollerton for use as a training facility. There may also be the possibility that the old Ollerton railway station may be rebuilt for the same training purposes.

Tourism Action Team

ODEF has received £1,000 from the County Council to assist with the printing and associated costs of a revised edition of "The Story of the Sandlands". It is hoped this can be used as match funding in order to raise further amounts of money.

The new updated Ollerton visitor guide will be completed shortly and will have a wide distribution when it is published.

Next year's St George's Day celebration will take place on 26 April 2009.

Disability Action Team

The Disability Action Team carried out a survey on the condition of Ollerton's pavements and discovered that many places had uneven flagstones. These were particularly difficult for wheelchair users as well as causing problems to pedestrians in general. The Action Team received an assurance from the County Council that the matter would be rectified.

Eco Shop Action Team

The funding application submitted to the SSP Alliance for Phase II work on the Eco Shop has been turned down. One of the reasons for this was that the SSP feel that the environmental training aspects of the project should be carried out by the Dukeries College. The SSP has suggested that the Eco Shop might be more suited to the Enterprising Communities Fund, which opens for bids in October. The activities in the Eco Shop are continuing and a fresh appeal has gone out for local shops and suppliers to get involved and display their eco-friendly products.

Volunteering

ODEF has written an article for "Roundabout" designed to encourage more local people to consider volunteering work.

ODEF Forum Meeting

The next Forum meeting is being planned for October 2008 and it is hoped that Danny Smith, the new principal in charge at the Dukeries, will be guest speaker.

Former bingo hall in Ollerton

Outline planning permission has been granted to demolish the former bingo hall and, in its place, build retail and residential units.

Newark and Sherwood LSP

Restructuring of the Local Strategic Partnership in Newark and Sherwood is still underway. The first meeting has been held of the new Economic Development Group of which ODEF is a member alongside 13 other organisations from the public and private sectors.