

Minutes of a meeting of the Quorn, Barrow, Sileby and the Wolds Area Forum held at the “The Old Hall”, Rawlins Community College, Quorn on Wednesday 12 November 2008

Present

Cllr. D. Slater (Charnwood Borough Council) – in the Chair

Members

Cllr. I. Bexon	Quorn Parish Council
Cllr. P. Child	Quorn Parish Council
Cllr. B Crich	Sileby Parish Council
Cllr. H. Fryer	Charnwood Borough Council
Cllr. M Hill	Seagrave Parish Council
Cllr. B. Jeffs	Seagrave Parish Council
Mr. A. M. Kershaw CC	Leicestershire County Council
Cllr .I. McMillan	Walton on the Wolds Parish Council
Cllr. N. Shaw	Wymeswold Parish Council
Mr. R. J. Shepherd CC	Leicestershire County Council and Charnwood Borough Council
Cllr. T. Stirling	Quorn Parish Council
Cllr. B. Storrs	Hoton Parish Council

Members of the public

Mr. R. Bint	Seagrave War Memorial Hall
Mr. R. Brown	
Mr. C. Collington	Wymeswold Washdyke Association
Mr. A. Godber	
Mrs. S. Godber	
Ms. J. Green	
Mr M. Nantova	Seagrave War Memorial Hall
Ms. M Noble	
Mr. Whiles	
Mrs. Whiles	
Mr. M Wilby	

Clerk

Miss R. Palmer	Committee Officer, Leicestershire County Council
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Partner Agencies

Ms. S. Cavill	NHS Leicestershire County and Rutland (for minute 42)
PC M. Green	Leicestershire Constabulary (for minute 43)

PCSO S. Mapp	Leicestershire Constabulary (for minute 43)
PCSO N. Ritchie	Leicestershire Constabulary (for minute 43)

Officers

Mr. R Bennett	Head of Planning & Policy, Charnwood Borough Council (for minute 44)
Mr. R. Brown	Charnwood Borough Council (for minute 44)
Mr. R. Downing	Community Engagement Manager, Leicestershire County Council
Mr. P. Goodman	Community Engagement Officer, Leicestershire County Council
Ms. P. Hayes	Charnwood Borough Council
Ms. E. Mallon	Charnwood Borough Council
Mr. A. Robinson	Assistant Chief Executive, Leicestershire County Council (for minute 45)

39. Apologies

Apologies for absence were reported on behalf of Cllr. J. Bokor, Cllr. R. Brown and Cllr. G. Glover.

40. Disclosures of Interest

The Chairman invited those members who wished to do so to disclose any interest in respect of items on the agenda for the meeting.

There were no disclosures of interest.

41. Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on 13 May 2008 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

42. Feedback on the Community Health Services Review Public Consultation

Mrs Cavill reported that there had been a sixteen week period of public consultation on Community Health Services in Leicestershire, which had finished on 5 October. The results of the consultation had then been analysed by Loughborough University. The analysis had been considered by an Independent Review Panel which would in turn make recommendations on the proposals arising from the review to the meeting of the PCT Board on 15 January 2009. The analysis undertaken by Loughborough University would shortly become available.

The headline results from the consultation, in terms of the Loughborough area, were that the majority of respondents supported the development of Loughborough Hospital into a “one stop hub” with services such as extended outpatients and diagnostics. The majority of respondents also agreed that the Walk-in Centre should be moved to the Epinal Way Site.

[The analysis of results has subsequently been published at: <http://www.lcrpct.nhs.uk/xform.asp?folder=Internet/DevelopingCommunityServices>]

The following themes had been identified through the responses to the consultation:

- Transport
- Improved accessibility
- Improved walk-in services
- Improved clinical safety
- Improved diagnostic services
- The return of maternity services
- The importance of Out of Hours services
- GP surgeries providing more services, such as blood tests
- Access for disabled and elderly patients
- Equality.

The Consultation had been made available across Leicestershire and Rutland, with anyone able to comment. The PCT intended to map response to postcodes, where those had been given, to identify where comments had been made about specific hospitals.

It was clear from the responses that transport was a major issue. The PCT did not intend to make any changes to services until new services were in place: this included transport. Bus companies had requested that the entrance to the Epinal Way Site be improved before they would consider changing their routes.

Mrs Cavill then provided feedback on the following issues that were raised at the Forum’s last meeting held on 13 May 2008:-

(i) GP surgeries and satellite services in Barrow-upon-Soar

Mrs Cavill reported that the PCT’s Primary Care Department was looking at access to GP surgeries across Leicestershire, particularly in rural areas. Primary and Community Care services could be extended as the intention was for patients to have a choice of GP surgery. The PCT was working with local GPs to identify gaps in provision. However, it was important to note that this was part of a strategy and the PCT was unable to comment on individual surgeries. It was hoped that work on the strategy would begin in the new year.

(ii) New Housing in Sileby-on-the-Wolds

GP provision in Sileby would be considered as part of the strategy referred to in (i) above. It was noted that the housing referred to had been the result of growth in recent years, which had not been matched by a similar growth in health service provision.

(iii) Loughborough Walk-in Centre

Access issues, such as transport and car parking facilities, arising from the potential relocation of the Walk-in Centre to the Epinal Way Site would be addressed in the recommendations arising from the Community Health Services Review.

(iv) 0845 GP service number

Some GPs had entered into contracts with providers of 0845 telephone numbers and these enabled the use of a triage service and could allow patients to leave a message for their GP to call them back. However, the cost of calls were not included in most telephone packages and the PCT had asked GPs not to renew their contracts but to use 03 numbers instead, as these provided a similar service but at the cost of a local call. It was not possible for GPs to terminate existing contracts with the telephone providers early, due to the expense involved.

Mrs Cavill was waiting for guidance on the use of 03 numbers from the Department of Health.

It was AGREED:-

- a) that Mrs Cavill be thanked for the information now provided;
- b) That Mrs Cavill be requested to attend a future meeting of the Forum to provide further information on the Community Health Services Review and 03 telephone numbers.

43. Update from Leicestershire Constabulary

(i) Quorn

PC Green reported that the overall picture for Quorn was positive. One of the priorities for Quorn had been a reduction in anti-social behaviour. Although still a priority, complaints had dramatically reduced due to the work of the police and community-based partnership organisations.

Speeding in Woodhouse Eaves had also been a priority. Enforcement work had been undertaken to address this.

A new priority was the inconsiderate use of vehicles, particularly in Quorn village centre. A number of drivers had been warned and no complaints had been received since the beginning of October.

(ii) Sileby-on-the-Wolds

PCSO Mapp reported a priority regarding road safety had been successfully addressed and the number of complaints had dropped. Other priorities had related to areas of anti-social behaviour and a number of plans to address this were in place.

(iii) Barrow-upon-Soar

PCSO Ritchie reported that work on anti-social behaviour in the King George V Park area, including home visits and interventions, had resulted in a 60% reduction in complaints. A consultation in September asking if the area had improved had received a generally positive response. This was therefore no longer a priority.

A second priority was speeding. This had been addressed by monitoring vehicle speeds and undertaking speed checks. A community speedwatch had been carried out in Hoton in August and September, and plans were being developed to do the same in Wymeswold.

Anti-social behaviour around Wymeswold Schools was also a priority; work had been undertaken with the Parent Teacher Association.

A new priority was vehicle misuse and anti-social behaviour in areas of Barrow-upon-Soar.

It was AGREED:-

- a) That the police representatives be thanked for the information now provided;
- b) That the police be invited to provide further updates at future meetings of the Forum.

44. Local Development Framework Core Strategy

Consideration was given to a presentation given by officers of Charnwood Borough Council, which set out the implications for housing and development in the local area. A copy of the presentation slides is filed with these minutes.

It was noted that the public consultation period would end on 5 December 2008. Comment forms were made available at the meeting; and it was noted that any further comments could be submitted via email, letter, or through the Charnwood Borough Council website. The consultation documents were available in libraries and both the Borough

and County Council offices. The Joint Wolds meeting on 18 November at Burton-on-the-Wolds would also include an exhibition on the local development framework. It was stressed that it was important for any comments to include reasoning or suggest an alternative solution. Specific sites would be identified following the close of the public consultation. The report would be submitted to Charnwood Borough Council Cabinet in the new year.

Arising from discussion, the following points were raised:-

- i) Although the two proposed Sustainable Urban Extensions, to the east of Thurmaston and to the west of Loughborough, would be the sites where the majority of housing and employment development would be located, there were still approximately 1,500 houses that would need to be planned for elsewhere. The focus would be on urban areas and service centres. Charnwood Borough Council would take an evidence-led approach to identifying areas for sustainable growth looking at capacity and local needs. The views of local residents would also be taken into account.
- ii) Village design statements prepared in conformity to local plan policies were unlikely to have any statutory status once the Core Strategy was approved. However, the statements may still be used as material considerations in the determination of planning applications if they are in line with policy in the core strategy. There was no guarantee that the settlement limits of villages would not be exceeded, as requirements such as those for affordable housing would have to be met. However, assurances were given that settlement identity is a core objective of the Core Strategy.
- iii) A member of the public stated that villages to the west and north of Loughborough were vehemently opposed to becoming part of a Sustainable Urban Extension and noted that it would be useful for more detail, such as the areas proposed for development, to be marked on an Ordnance Survey Map. Some Forum members also felt that the meeting should be used to explain alternative sites, as well as the preferred ones. In response to this, the Forum was reassured that the consultation was genuine but that there was a time constraint to this particular meeting. With regard to alternative options, a map was shown showing the general locations of all options and questions about them raised. In response it was pointed out that areas to the east of Loughborough were dislocated from the urban area of Loughborough beyond the River Soar, which would run counter to policy in the Regional Spatial Strategy and create access issues.
- iv) It was suggested to officers that the M1 Motorway created a barrier between Shepshed and Loughborough, which would limit access to the proposed Sustainable Urban Extension to the west of Loughborough from Shepshed. The Forum was advised of the

- proposed access points and the proposal was compared with the access points for East Loughborough.
- v) It was intended that Shepshed would benefit from development socially and economically. This could include an improved retail area and investment brought into the town as a whole as well as new local employment, affordable housing and improved community facilities.
 - vi) Any decision made by Charnwood Borough Council would not necessarily be swayed by the volume of objections, it was important for any objection to be accompanied by valid planning reasons; this would give it weight. The process was evidence-led and any alternative options would have to be supported with evidence.
 - vii) A number of criteria had been used to identify sustainability of settlements. Essential services had been identified and those locations containing 4 out of the 5 key services were designated 'Service Centres'. The role and function of places and their capacity to accommodate further development was also being considered. The Settlement Hierarchy Study was available on the Charnwood Borough Council website.
 - viii) Concern was expressed that green wedges and the identity of each individual settlement would be lost. However, the Forum was assured that village identities were important and would be one of the strategic objectives of the plan.
 - ix) It was suggested that, as any development in Loughborough would be close to the motorway, people were likely to commute to work unless local employment opportunities were included in the developments. It was noted that a proposed 20 hectares of employment land had been incorporated into the proposed development west of Loughborough and, in the development proposed to the east of Thurmaston, 25 hectares would initially be made available for employment land, although the consultation document was suggestion this could be increased to 50 hectares if necessary.

It was AGREED:-

- a) That the information now provided be noted;
- b) That any further comments be submitted to Charnwood Borough Council by 5 December 2008.

45. Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement – influencing the Big Budget

With the agreement of the Forum, this item was removed from the agenda.

46. Capital Grant Applications

i) Quorn Parish Council

Consideration was given to a grant application for the refurbishment of the public toilets at Stafford Orchard Parks, Quorn. A copy of the application, marked 'B', is filed with these minutes.

Mr A M Kershaw CC spoke in support of the application.

ii) Wymeswold Washdyke Association

The Forum considered a scheme for a Community Orchard and Play Area at Wymeswold Washdyke. A copy of the grant application, marked 'B', is filed with these minutes.

Hoton Parish Council had recently undertaken a similar scheme and their representative was in support of the application.

iii) Barrow-upon-Soar Parish Council

Consideration was given to a scheme to improve access to the King George V Park, Barrow-upon-Soar. A copy of the grant application, marked 'B', is filed with these minutes.

No comments were made on the application.

iv) Seagrave War Memorial Hall Charity

The Forum considered a scheme for the refurbishment of Seagrave War Memorial Hall. A copy of the grant application, marked 'B', is filed with these minutes.

It was noted that, as the Hall was held in charitable trust for the use of villagers and the school, it would not be possible for the local education authorities to provide funding.

It was AGREED:-

That the comments now made on the grant applications detailed above be passed to the Grant Applications Panel at Charnwood Borough Council.

47. Question Time

The Chairman invited all those present to submit any questions they wished to raise about the local area, which he would endeavour to provide answers to, either orally or in writing, within 20 days.

Cllr. Jeffs asked if local bus services were likely to be reviewed and if free bus passes for senior citizens would continue to be made available.

The Chairman responded that the Number 27 Bus Service had been extended for the next 2-3 years using Section 106 monies (money provided by developers as part of a planning permission). It was not clear what would happen after this.

No review was currently planned, although the County Council's aim was for the majority of people to be only 800m away from an hourly bus service. The operators reviewed their own routes annually; if they decided a greater subsidy was needed they would request it from the County Council. This was where issues could arise.

It was not known when the use of bus passes by over-60s would be reviewed, as this was a central government initiative.

It was AGREED:-

- a) that the County Council officers would provide a more detailed response to this question, including details of use of and complaints regarding the Number 27 Bus Service and the possibility of local consultation if the route was to be changed again in the future;
- b) That details of the scheme for free bus passes for the over-60s be included in the next edition of Charnwood Matters.

48. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

It was AGREED:-

- a) That Cllr. D. Slater be elected Chairman of the Forum for a two-year period, with effect from the next meeting;
- b) That Cllr. P. Ranson be elected Vice-Chairman of the Forum for a two-year period, with effect from the next meeting.

49. Issues for future Forum meetings

The following were suggested as issues for future Forum meetings:-

- The amount available for Capital Grant Schemes and what has already been allocated;
- Future school plans;
- Use of trains to help ease traffic congestion;
- How sustainability issues were being put into practice, especially in villages.

50. Date and Venue of next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Monday 9 February 2009 at 6.30pm in Wymeswold.

12 November 2008
6.30 pm – 8.55pm

CHAIRMAN