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CENTRAL AREA COMMUNITY FORUM

Notes of the Northern Area Community Forum held on 29 October 2014 at 7.00pm at the Town Hall, Matlock

PRESENT

**Derbyshire Dales
District Council**

Councillor Andrew Statham (in the Chair), Sue Burfoot, Bob Cartwright, Garry Purdy, Geoff Stevens, MBE and Jacquie Stevens

Karen Henriksen (Head of Resources), Ashley Watts (Head of Community Development) and Ros Hession (Community Engagement Officer)

**Matlock Community
Vision
North Derbyshire
Clinical Commissioning
Group**

Helen Crane (Secretary)

Naomi Compton (Dales Locality Manager)

**Derbyshire County
Council**

Paul Jameson (Local Area Forum Liaison Officer)

Members of the Public

Ashbourne and District 50+ Forum – John Dick
Cromford PC – R Boyack
Darley Dale residents – T McDermott, Kath Dyson
Darley Dale Town Council – John Evans
Matlock Hospital League of Friends / Boys' Brigade / Tennis Club / First Taste – Tom Pilkington
Middleton by Youlgrave – Pete Tapping
Peak Insurance – John Taylor
Residents – Nick & Fiz Dibben, A J Mumby, Carol Pilkington
Resident and DDCVS – Patricia Leake
Tansley Parish Council – Vicki Raynes, Ian Strange
UKIP – Mike Hancocks
John & Jean Brears, Martin Burfoot, P Evans, Jane Flanagan
21 in total

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Councillor Andrew Statham introduced Members and Officers from the participating authorities and welcomed everyone to the Forum.

MATLOCK COMMUNITY VISION

Helen Crane explained that Matlock Community Vision (MCV) was a new organisation, legally constituted 3 weeks ago, but which had been much longer in the making.

Helen spoke about MCV's aim to develop a community-led approach to the regeneration of the Bakewell Road site and progress so far.

MCV had been set up to harness the energy which local people have for making Matlock a more attractive place for residents and visitors alike – a place people want to visit and spend time. MCV is particularly focusing on the underused land on Bakewell Road.

Bakewell Road consists of a strip of publicly owned land, which runs alongside the Co-op, round the back and extends onto the old lido site. There is also privately owned land.

MCV is made up of representatives of several groups in the town. There are 2 representatives from:-

- Matlock Civic Association
- Matlock Town Council
- Over 50's Forum
- Highfields School
- Transition Matlock
- Derbyshire Dales District Council
- The Bakewell Road Group (who Helen represented)

The starting impetus was public opposition to the proposal from developers that the only financially viable option for development on the Bakewell Road site was another huge supermarket. Also, were the priorities identified in extensive consultations about the site in 2008, still relevant?

A group came together, who had spoken at public meetings about the supermarket idea. Rather than just oppose proposals, the group set about trying to inform themselves about alternatives, and became known as the Bakewell Road Group (BRG).

The BRG were fortunate that Graham Rennie, (the architect who redesigned the layout of the centre of Bakewell, twenty years ago), joined the group. He advised that the current Bakewell Road site is not an exact parallel situation, because the Bakewell project was able to attract EU investment which formed a large piece of the financial jigsaw.

However, the group learnt about the format of a developer + architect competition, which, if given a brief which summed up community aspirations, could potentially bring together the financial knowledge of developers, with the design skills of architects to generate three real proposals which the public could see and discuss.

The BRG's interest was how to act as the client and represent the community, who could then instruct the architect/developer teams to generate ideas which created real community value and not just commercial return.

The BRG were excited to find out there was a fund administered by the government-funded Homes and Communities Agency, to support what is called 'community led planning applications.' The BRG were even more excited when the fund was extended, and not just for building self-build houses, but also to assist groups who wanted to put the heart back into their town, including retail and commercial development.

The Homes and Communities Agency advised that there was nothing in the rules against funding an architectural competition, if supported by the owner on the publicly owned land (Derbyshire Dales District Council). The District Council agreed at the end of June to back the bid.

With the professional expertise of two architects in the group and after discussions with RIBA and others, the group felt that they had come up with a proposal, where the competitors would be asked to create an outline master plan for the whole site, including land owned by a bus company and neighbouring owners, but the second phase of the competition would lead to a proposal on the public land alone.

A lot of people put an inordinate amount of valuable unpaid time into putting in one and then a second revised bid. The bid for funding an architect + developer competition hadn't actually been refused, but MCV had been given conflicting interpretations of what might be supported by two different cogs in the system.

This has resulted in MCV running out of time, as the fund closes at the end of this year, but the advice is to re-apply in April, when there might be a similar fund.

So, although things had not quite progressed as MCV would have liked, a group has been established who have already demonstrated a willingness to put effort into working to make part of Matlock a more attractive and interesting town for residents and visitors, working with the District and Town Councils as equal partners. Lessons have been learnt from the HCA bid and MCV is keen to achieve results on the ground, not merely be a talking shop.

Questions and comments were then invited from the floor and issues were raised as follows:-

- A member of the public asked why funding was not forthcoming for example from the Lottery. Helen advised that submitting funding bids was time consuming and that MCV had, so far, focussed on the Homes & Communities Agency fund.
- Councillor G Stevens added that Matlock Community Vision had come about as a result of the Community Conversations. This had been the first attempt to secure any external funding. He was pleased that that group had been established and consisted of a good cross section of people.
- The Bakewell Road site is an important one and the group will continue, despite its first attempt for funding being unsuccessful.
- Vicki Raynes asked where the District Council stood on the Bakewell Road development and funding assistance.
- Councillor G Stevens advised that the District Council is involved – he and Councillor Sue Burfoot were representatives on MCV. The District Council had

been responsible for the original Community Conversations which gave impetus to MCV.

- The District Council is supportive of MCV and officers are giving time and assistance. Monies have to be attracted through grant aid or through the private sector who also have an interest in the community element of the project.
- In response to a question from Mr Mumby, Councillor G Stevens was unable to provide an exact figure on acreage. However, he was able to advise that the bus station and layover were in the ownership of the District Council. Original proposals for the Bakewell Road site, concentrated on District Council land. The HCA funding bid was for use of public assets.
- John Taylor of Peak Insurance (Bakewell Road) noted that there had to be commercial aspects within any proposed scheme because public funding is insufficient.
- Helen confirmed that the funding bid proposals had included retail and commercial aspects.
- John appreciated that each town is unique and noted that the newly established Matlock market is 'buzzing' and attracts people into the town.
- Martin Burfoot wished to reinforce what had been said by Helen Crane.

NORTH DERBYSHIRE CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP

Naomi Compton gave a presentation on 21st Century Health and Care - Making difficult decisions to ensure the future of quality health care for you.

She began by citing the recent report by NHS Chief Executive, Simon Stevens, in which he had outlined the need for additional money and radical changes including GP surgeries offering services currently confined to hospitals.

Naomi outlined 'What are the challenges?'

- Ageing population with increasing multiple health conditions
- Problems with appointing nurses, doctors and therapists
- Old buildings that require high maintenance costs
- Ways of working that are not up to date
- Financial shortfalls

The CCG was looking to:

- Improve the support for prevention and self-management
- Look after people in their own home or as near to home as possible
- Look after people better so that they do not keep going into hospital
- Reduce the number of people in hospital who shouldn't be there
- Get people out as soon as they are clinically ready to be transferred
- Take advantage of the opportunities
- Use the freed up money where it is needed the most

The CCG is working on:

- Developing Integrated Working Teams
- Providing beds at Ashgate Hospice
- Improving Discharge Planning
- Specialist Falls Ambulance

- Linking GPs to Care Homes
- Prompt access in A&E to specialists for MH patients
- Developing integrated behaviour pathways for children and young people
- Early Supported Discharge for Stroke Patients
- Re-directing patients at A&E to a GP
- Single Point of Access for Clinicians and Voluntary Sector
- Telehealth Initiatives
- Improve Service Capacity Over Winter
- Specialist Hospital Unit for Older people
- Just-in-Case boxes in people's homes
- Hospice at Home/Night sitting services
- Improving Care Plans
- Re-ordering items that are not needed to reduce waste on repeat prescribing
- Increasing Pulmonary Rehabilitation Programmes

Initiatives in the Dales included:

- FIRST – Falls Immediate Response Support Team (from November 2014)
- Practical Wrap Around Support in the Dales and in the High Peak from January
- Partnership working between re-ablement Team and Therapy Team
- Pooling resources – Occupational therapists
- DICE – Dales Integrated Care Excellence – representatives physical & mental health and carers organisations and the voluntary sector who meet monthly to look at how they are working and if this could be improved upon

Naomi stressed the need to think about what you need as a patient and design the service around those needs. This might include:-

- Community Support team
- Social Worker
- Acute bed beds
- Local beds to meet needs
- Voluntary Sector Support
- Specialist nurses
- Community Services
- Physiotherapy
- Family and friends
- Community Networks

As a result

We are successfully reducing the need for hospital beds both in Chesterfield Royal Hospital and in our five Community Hospitals and therefore need to consider how many beds we keep.

What do we want the result of all of this work to be?

- Enough hospital beds for patients who need them, with access to specialist care
- The right services in your community to meet your needs
- Work with others to try to meet the needs of carers

What next?

- Our Formal Consultation was due to commence in October 2014 - However, the work to collect all the required information is still ongoing

- We want to be sure that local people have the in-depth details they need to be able to contribute to discussions effectively, hence the delay
- The pre-election period is approaching therefore the Formal Consultation has been postponed until after the general election in May 2015
- We will continue to engage with local people on a variety of issues to help shape the final proposals

Members of the public were then offered the opportunity to ask questions.

- Councillor Cartwright noted the desire to keep people in their own homes where possible, but in the case of an elderly and / or frail person suffering a fall, the shock element alone often necessitated an assessment or stay in hospital.
- People have been admitted to hospital when this may not have been the best solution. However, Naomi advised that admission to hospital or remaining at home is a clinical decision.
- Kath Dyson asked which voluntary organisations were involved in patient care.
- Naomi advised that these are highly qualified volunteers who are appointed through the Volunteer Centre or Derbyshire Dales Council for Voluntary Services.
- In response to a question from Councillor Cartwright, Naomi confirmed that volunteer services are in addition to, not instead of, other services.
- John Dick was aware of 2 such volunteer organisations in the Ashbourne area.
- John Dick noted that the District Council ran 'chair based exercises' at its leisure centres, but the take up by doctors for referral was low. However, the class had recently been taken to the stroke club meeting when over 40 participated in the activity.
- Naomi was aware of the chair based exercise provision and worked with the District Council. As an example the Head of Regulatory Services, Tim Braund, attends meetings of DICE.
- Mr Dick also mentioned DCC falls' prevention team which does not seem to be so well advertised. Naomi confirmed that NHS is linked in with this service.
- John Dick suggested that doctors invest in rolling digital screen systems to advertise health related services and initiatives. Naomi explained that these are expensive and would have to be funded from the GPs budget.
- John Evans referred to the recent Simon Stevens's speech and closer integration of working. He hoped that Darley Dale's Whitworth Hospital would not close and urged that it be made better use of eg for consultants' clinics.
- He felt GPs could work closer together, probably by being based at the community hospitals. Darley Dale Medical Centre is looking for larger premises – he suggested they move to the Whitworth.
- Councillor Cartwright cited examples of people he knew in 3 separate areas of the country who had all been admitted to hospital for a specific reason / treatment / procedure and had all developed infections. Their medical problems had been treated, but their discharge from hospital was prevented due to other problems.

- Naomi responded that at Chesterfield, infection had reduced. However, she stressed that it is preferable for people to remain in their own home if at all possible with the right support
- Vicki Raynes asked if there was adequate health care in place to support proposed new housing developments in Darley Dale.
- Naomi confirmed that:-
 - GPs have met with District Council officers
 - community health eg district nurses, psychotherapists had also outlined what they needed and a paper was to be submitted
- Vicki Raynes noted no mention of this in the Local Plan. However, Naomi assured that the health services have been consulted.
- Councillor Burfoot urged for proper support for people with dementia. She spoke from two viewpoints:-
 - 1) Her mother being a dementia sufferer and when in hospital, staff didn't know how to deal with her
 - 2) Cllr Burfoot herself – the effect on a patient in a ward of predominantly dementia sufferers
- Naomi acknowledged the need to deal with dementia sympathetically, the need for the correct training on its whole spectrum and the CCG's hope to increase awareness.

DERBYSHIRE DALES DISTRICT COUNCIL – YOUR SAY ON OUR 2015 BUDGET

Karen Henriksen Head of Resources began her presentation with some background information:-

Where your money goes!

- Waste and recycling collections
- Four leisure centres
- More than 30 parks and gardens
- Keeping your streets clean
- Helping local business
- Providing affordable homes for local people
- + much more!

District Council services cost around 50p a day (Band D Council Tax), but we also collect Council Tax for others:

- 70% goes to Derbyshire County Council
- 12% to Derbyshire Dales District Council
- 11% to Derbyshire Police & Crime Commissioner
- 4% to Derbyshire Fire & Rescue
- 3% to your local town or parish council

Revenue Budget: Projected (surplus) or deficit

	Forecast 2014 / 15	Forecast 2015 / 16	Forecast 2016 / 17	Forecast 2017 /18	Forecast 2018 / 19	Forecast 2019 /20
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Total Income & Expenditure	(640)	(652)	(264)	285	764	1,197
Transfers to reserves	640	652	264	0	0	0
Deficit for year	0	0	0	285	764	1,197

- Balanced budget achieved for 2014/15
- Balanced budget likely for 2015/16 & 2016/17 through further award of New Homes Bonus & savings identified since last report
- District Council currently carrying out exercise to identify potential liabilities (mainly capital projects) - not reflected above
- Future savings to come from programme of service reviews
- + District Council asked to consider strategy for potential future Council Tax increases

Online survey: www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk/Budget2015

Questions and comments were then invited from the floor and issues were raised as follows:-

- Kath Dyson noted a reduction in litter bins in Darley Dale and asked if this was a result of budget cutbacks. Karen replied that this was the case – such cuts were inevitable and a harsh reality. Councillor Purdy added that Parish Councils were being consulted on litter bin provision.

Post meeting note – A letter has been sent to Mrs Dyson advising:-

We have undertaken a review of bin provision within Derbyshire Dales and recommended bins for removal, these are now being implemented. The bins to be removed are little used bins and ones where there is over provision e.g. a dog bin and litter bin together. Dog waste can be disposed of in litter bins and notices will be appearing on the bins to let people know.

The bins were identified with bin emptiers and consulted with local Councillors and Parish Councils

- Martin Burfoot asked if the planning authority could insist on businesses providing litter bins or contributing to their costs, particularly where a change of use of premises had been granted - as an example a fast food outlet.
- Karen noted the idea which she would take up with the planning department.
- In response to a question from John Evans, Karen confirmed that the use of iPads by Councillors was part of the Council's cost saving initiatives. The move to iPads is still in a transitional stage, but the aim is for all Councillors to use iPads in future which significantly reduces costs of printing and paper.

- John Dick noted the recent closure of the Ashbourne Tourist Information Centre. He also urged for extended opening hours of the town's public conveniences.
- He suggested that the town be given back responsibility for some of the services.
- Ashley Watts noted the valid point made by Mr Dick and advised that he was Head of the recently established Community Development department. Part of their remit was to work with voluntary and community groups and explore avenues where community needs can be met by communities. Some progress had already been made with more initiatives in the pipeline including discussions with 3 parish councils on transfer of public conveniences.
- Councillor G Stevens added that tourist information services have changed and are now being delivered in a more sustainable way in partnership, known as Visitor Information Points (VIPs). Ashbourne Town Council expressed an interest in delivering the service. Another example of transfer of services was maintenance of assets by Matlock Bowls Club.
- In response to a question from Mr Mumby about outsourcing of the Council Tax and Benefits services, Karen advised that this took place June 2013 and was delivered by the same personnel who were now employed by another company. The staff were now located at Chesterfield with a small number of staff retained at the Town Hall for personal callers. Karen emphasised that the District Council were still in charge of the service, but it was delivered by Arvato.
- In response to a question from Vicki Raynes, Karen reported that the additional £200,000 revenue from business rates would be set aside towards various capital projects. Vicki noted that substantial business rates were being paid by occupiers of the industrial estate in Tansley and asked if some monies could be ploughed back into the businesses by better maintenance of the approach to the site. Karen advised that monies are ploughed back into businesses such as through the employment of a Business Support Adviser and through the Economic Development Plan. Paul Jameson undertook to look into the maintenance issue raised by Vicki which may be a County Council responsibility.
- As a cost saving initiative, John Dick suggested that a four day week be considered by extending the working hours of each day. Overheads could be reduced and increased use of technology would aid quality service delivery.

CONCLUSION AND THANKS

Councillor Statham thanked everyone for their participation and advised that the next Central Forum would take place on Monday 9 February 2015, venue to be determined.

Meeting closed at 8.45 pm