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CENTRAL AREA COMMUNITY FORUM

Notes of the Forum held on 26 March 2012 at 7.00pm at Tansley Village Hall

PRESENT

Derbyshire District Council **Dales** Councillors Barrie Tipping (in the Chair), Ann Elliott, David Fearn, Steve Flitter, Garry Purdy, Geoff Stevens, MBE and Jacquie Stevens

David Wheatcroft (Chief Executive), Giles Dann (Policy Manager & Economic Development), Jim Fearn (Communications & Marketing Manager) and Ros Hession (Overview & Community Engagement Officer)

Derbyshire Economic Partnership Brenda Smithurst (Head of Operations)

Derbyshire Business Advice **Dales** Heather Bradford

Peak District National Park Authority Lindsay Allen (Rural Business Adviser)

Matlock Meadows Ice Cream Mick & Amanda Dakin www.matlockmeadows.co.uk
Matlock Meadows, Snitterton Road, Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 2LG

Derbyshire PCT **County** Bruce Laurence (Acting Director of Public Health)

Derbyshire Council **County** Neil Hickman (Assistant Director - Highways Management) and Paul Jameson (Local Area Forum Liaison Officer)

Derbyshire Constabulary Superintendent Graham McLaughlin, Inspector Bryan Hall and Sergeant Nick Reason

Derbyshire Police Authority Kate Allcock

Members of the Public Kath Camm, Marion & Bob Ball, Chris Piggott, Holly Walker, A J Mumby (resident), R N E Walsh, Ingrid Pasteur & Kathleen Dyson (Darley Dale Town Council), Tom Pilkington (Matlock Hospital League of Friends/1st Matlock Boys' Brigade/Darley

Dale Tennis Club/First Taste), Helen Cunningham (Transition Matlock), Paul Stuart (Groundwork Derby & Derbyshire), Mike Stanyon, Chris Knightley, 2 representatives from Tansley Parish Council and 2 via remote participation – 18 in total

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Councillor Tipping introduced the Members and officers from the participating authorities and welcomed everyone to the Forum.

SUPPORTING BUSINESSES IN THE DERBYSHIRE DALES

Giles Dann introduced the presentation, highlighting that, within the District Council's 2011 - 2015 Corporate Plan:-

- Economic development is a key priority:
A clean, green and prosperous Dales
- Action for 2012/13:
Enable development sites and business growth
- Targets include:
Providing support to 50 Dales businesses by June 2012

District Council initiatives included:-

- Derbyshire Dales Business Advice - free, independent, face to face
- Business clinics / start-up workshops
- Apprentices
- Agricultural Business Centre – base for business advice / CVS / Land Management Advisory Service & Conferences (WiFi)
- Peak Directions website peakdirections.co.uk
- Matlock Bath Illuminations – 1 September to 27 October 2012
- Enabling development sites (planning department)
- Contracting with local firms - *a recent housing development in Wirksworth led to investment of £58,000 across 18 businesses within a 20 mile radius of the town*

Partnership initiatives included:-

- Business Peak District
 - Peak District Concordat (5 priorities)
 - Apprenticeship recruitment service
 - Branding toolkit & Prospectus
 - Events
- Visit Peak District - tourism promotion
 - 'Tourist Board' for the Peak District
 - Promoting the area, places to stay & things to do
 - Market Towns 'Experience' guide
- Derbyshire Economic Partnership / Rural Forum

- Inward investment & property search
- Signposting & promoting business support
- Managing LEADER programme
- Derbyshire CC - Broadband / Apprenticeships
 - Broadband Plan / Survey / Broadband Champions
 - Apprenticeship schemes 16 – 24 yr olds
- Derwent Valley Mills - World Heritage Site
- Derbyshire Market Towns Forum
 - Sharing good practice / networking
- Defra Rural & Farming Network
- Peak District LEADER Programme (£2.4m)
 - Locally chaired and run
 - Grants to assist small rural businesses & farm diversification
 - 57 businesses assisted & 96 jobs created so far
- Peak District Live & Work Rural (£1.26m)
 - Advice, networking, training, start-up grants
 - Environmental Quality Mark
 - 394 businesses assisted & 148 jobs created/safeguarded
 - Rural Business Adviser continuing

Mick Dakin of Matlock Meadows Ice Cream Parlour talked of his and his wife's decision to diversify by using the milk produced from their dairy farm to produce home made ice cream. They had been grateful to Lindsay Allen, Amanda Brown and Heather Bradford for their help and advice provided along the way. They had been successful in attracting grant aid towards a website and from the Live & Work Rural Programme and also funding towards an Environmental Quality Mark.

The business had opened in August 2011 and the Dakins had been pleased to achieve 4 out of 5 in the Scores on the Doors (Food Hygiene Ratings). They had received positive comments about their new venture and been able to provide employment for 3 full time and 2 part time staff.

Heather Bradford gave a flavour of the work carried out by Derbyshire Dales Business Advice which was set up in December 2011.

Advice provided was mainly face to face and covered a variety of issues affecting small businesses. Heather cited a recent example where a small growing company wished to take on more staff. Heather was able to provide advice on employment law and health & safety issues. She acknowledged how vital micro businesses are in the Dales' area.

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

- In response to a question from a member of the public, Mick confirmed that the Ice Cream Farm is open Tuesday to Sunday and on Bank Holiday Mondays and Mondays during the school summer holidays.

- A member of the public noted the events which took place at the Farm. There had been 25 events which had included school visits and Peak Park awareness visits, Mick explained.
- In response to Councillor Fearn's enquiry about the LEADER programme, Giles advised that the programme is part European and part government funded. Towns with a population above 10,000, such as Matlock, are excluded from receiving grant aid.
- Richard Walsh noted the migration of businesses out of the area and asked what was being done to encourage inward investment. Giles explained that Business Peak District promotes the area. They have a property database which provides information on available premises. The Derbyshire Economic Partnership also has a number of initiatives to promote inward investment.

DERBYSHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY

Derbyshire County Council is currently consulting on the draft priorities for the Derbyshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Bruce Laurence outlined the current situation in Derbyshire and then went on to talk about the proposed priorities for the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

Derbyshire at a glance

- The health of people in Derbyshire Dales is generally better than the England average
- Deprivation is lower than average, however 1,295 children live in poverty
- Life expectancy for both men and women is higher than the England average
- Life expectancy is 4 years lower for men and 5.8 years lower for women in the most deprived areas of Derbyshire Dales than in the least deprived areas
- Main mortality figures all falling (all, CVD, Cancer)
- About 14.7% of Year 6 children classified as obese
- A higher percentage than average of pupils spend at least three hours each week on school sport
- 72.7% of mothers initiate breast feeding and 16.0% of expectant mothers smoke during pregnancy
- Estimated 18.1% of adults smoke and 23.0% obese
- High road injuries + deaths

Derbyshire Health & Well Being Strategy development: proposed high-level priorities

- Derbyshire Shadow Health & Well Being Board is developing a partnership strategy to improve health and well-being
- As a first step in this process five high level priorities have been developed around which the rest of the strategy will be framed
- We need your views on these priorities - a consultation process will be launched in March
- Key strategic aims across all priority areas:
 - to improve health and wellbeing by reducing health inequalities
 - to strengthen investment in evidence-based prevention and early intervention
 - to deliver high quality care that promotes privacy and dignity along with robust safeguarding processes

The Draft Priorities

- Improve health and wellbeing in early years. Every child fit to learn and attain the highest levels of literacy
 - Focus on early intervention and identification of vulnerable children and families (including children with disabilities)
- Promote healthy lifestyles by developing services to prevent and reduce harmful alcohol consumption, substance misuse, obesity, physical inactivity, smoking and sexual ill-health
 - Focus on preventing and reducing alcohol misuse, obesity and physical inactivity
- Promote the independence of all people living with long term conditions and their carers
 - Focus on community based support, self-care and care close to home, including increased use of evidence-based telehealth and telecare
- Improve emotional and mental ill-health and provide increased access to mental health services
 - Focus on improving access to the full range of evidence-based psychological therapies (services that offer treatments for depression and anxiety disorders and other complex mental health problems)
- Improve health and wellbeing of older people and promote independence into old age
 - Focus on strengthening integrated working (pathways/referral mechanisms etc) between health and social care providers and housing-related support services (LAs/registered social landlords/voluntary sector)

<http://www.derbyshirepartnership.gov.uk/news/>

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

- In response to a question from a member of the public, Bruce explained that Health Watch is a new body which has been established to represent the public voice. Health Watch has a seat on the Health & Well Being Board.
- Ingrid Pasteur noted the desire to improve services, but questioned how this would work in practice. Bruce cited an example of children in schools receiving good information and advice on health issues and being signposted to services.
- Kath Dyson noted a captive audience in schools, but asked how others, such as older people, would be targeted.
- Bruce explained that there are a number of ways to target specific groups such as through leisure activities, social care, libraries and the media.
- Helen Cunningham asked if outdoor activities were being promoted as part of healthy lifestyles – Transition Matlock were running a tree planting scheme.
- Bruce was aware that such schemes existed and their value towards healthy lifestyles.
- Lindsay Allen was aware of a bee keeping scheme run by the Peak District National Park Authority in partnership with Newholme Hospital which supported people with mental health issues.

- A member of the public noted that 'home helps' had limited time and were often not able to spend time having a 'chat' with service users.
- Bruce noted the comments, but emphasised that the County Council has to prioritise its resources and work within budgets. He agreed that it was important and valuable for people to have company.
- In response to a comment from Kath Dyson, the question originator appreciated that there was a social responsibility.
- Mr Mumby asked how the figures for children in poverty were defined. Bruce responded that the figure was calculated by the amount of income in the family relative to the national medium – a figure of around £19,000 he believed.
- Chris Piggott applauded a scheme called Safe and Sound. County Councillor Garry Purdy was aware of this very good scheme which Derbyshire County Council is supporting. Safe & Sound is an organisation working nationally to:-
 - ❖ advocate for children and young people being, or at risk of being, sexually exploited and works to share good practice, knowledge and expertise.
 - ❖ encourage practical action across the UK to tackle Child Sexual Exploitation through training and consultancy services provided by our social enterprise subsidiary justWhistle.

• A question was received via Twitter, 'How is 'improvement' measured / published?' Bruce Laurence suggested that the correspondent looks on the Department of Health website at the three outcomes frameworks for public health, the NHS, and adult social care. These are the sets of indicators that will form the basis of performance management and measurement of improvement.

What will be focussed on will be guided partly by national policy and the basis of the "health premium" on which extra funds will be released, and partly on local policy and interest.

As ever with monitoring improvement, a balance needs to be struck with measuring outcomes such as mortality and obesity or teenage pregnancies with process measures such as numbers of smoking quitters, exercise referrals or chlamydia screens. Measuring and improving outcomes is what we all want to do ultimately but the link between one activity (like a parenting course) and a big outcome like teenage pregnancy is not a simple and straightforward one, so we need some of the process measures as more sensitive indicators of whether we are providing the services that we have agreed to provide and pay for.

The publication of indicators is done in many places but brought together in our Joint Strategic Needs Assessment which can be found on the DCC website. This is divided into themes. There is also an annual director of public health report (on the pct website) which deals with some measures, and finally there is a useful community health profile for each local authority which presents a number of indicators against the national average and shows time trends for some important ones around mortality.

QUESTION TIME

Questions and comments were then invited from the floor to representatives from the participating authorities and issues were raised as follows:

Affordable Housing

- A member of the public noted that some villages and towns have low cost housing, but others do not and cited Bakewell as an example of a town which had not recently benefited from a low cost housing scheme.
- David Wheatcroft reported that there had been schemes in Bakewell within the last three or four years and that a further scheme is currently being developed. He explained that funding is an issue, particularly for schemes within the Peak District National Park.
- The District Council has had to work creatively to develop schemes, but hoped for 80 to 100 properties this year.
- In response to a further question from a member of the public, Mr Wheatcroft advised that it is not always easy to develop Brownfield sites and there can be problems with the infrastructure.

- Mr Mumby highlighted that Gateway Court in Matlock had been completed 20 months ago and yet there were still 13 empty flats, noting the loss of revenue and also the demand for affordable housing.
- Mr Wheatcroft explained that the properties were originally part rent and part for sale through the 'staircase' scheme, but, due to the economic climate, were not sold. The criteria for the way in which social housing may be let and / or sold has now been changed allowing them to be offered for rent through the Home Options scheme.
- Mr Mumby further asked if Council Tax revenue had been lost to which Mr Wheatcroft responded that Council Tax revenue had been lost. However, now the regulations have changed, the properties can hopefully be let and Council Tax levied.

- Kath Dyson appreciated that change to government regulations can take time and cause frustration for Council Tax payers.

Empty Properties

- A member of the public asked if current empty properties could be looked at rather than building new ones. Councillor Tipping pointed out that many empty properties are privately owned and not derelict so do not qualify for an Empty Properties grant. David Wheatcroft added that the District Council had hoped that the government would take a stronger view to deal with empty properties; nevertheless, the District Council did now have some discretion.
- In response to an enquiry about grants to develop empty properties, David Wheatcroft responded that the government's improvement grant scheme had been removed. The Neighbourhood Renewal Scheme, which had benefited areas such as Chesterfield and Bolsover, was also to be withdrawn.

Joint Core Strategy

- A Tansley resident talked about the Derbyshire Dales & High Peak Joint Core Strategy which she understood High Peak were to withdraw from. Mr Wheatcroft advised that High Peak have pulled out of the Joint Core Strategy as they wished to move at a different pace. Derbyshire Dales District Council hopes to report soon to Council and then carry out consultation in May or June. He appreciated the contribution that Tansley has made, but highlighted that the plan was for the whole area and hence consultation must take place to reflect this.

- The Tansley resident felt that allocation put in for Tansley was disproportionate, but Mr Wheatcroft explained that housing needs for the district need to be taken into account and the housing waiting list has increased from 2,000 to 3,000 which is a reflection of the housing market and local need. The housing market is currently very 'flat' with little moving, building or extending taking place.
- The Tansley resident felt that the Parish Council were being delayed when they wanted to move forward. Mr Wheatcroft confirmed that the District Council also wishes to move forwards.
- Councillor Geoff Stevens appreciated frustrations and applauded Tansley residents for their attendance at many meetings. He re-iterated that High Peak had wanted to take a different approach, but assured that things were moving on.

Youth provision

- In response to a request from Helen Cunningham on the recent youth service consultation, Paul advised that it would be reported to a meeting of Derbyshire County Council, on 18 April, as a number of objections had been received. Helen noted that Tansley youngsters access the mobile youth unit at Matlock. Paul undertook to report back to a future Forum.

Town centre development, Matlock

- Kath Dyson asked if there was any truth in the rumour that a supermarket was to be built on Causeway Lane by or on the site of the current football ground. Mr Wheatcroft explained that there had been different expressions of interest for supermarket developments in Matlock. He understood that talks had taken place with the football and cricket clubs. The District Council will become involved at the point where and if a planning application is submitted – this would include an impact assessment and consultation.
- He continued that the District Council were looking to develop a plan around a site on Bakewell Road with 5 or 6 companies having expressed an interest.

Tansley Parish Council Rooms / Community Hall

- A Tansley resident noted the history of the Tansley Parish Council Rooms which were taken over by the former Matlock Urban District Council in the 1930's. He asked if the District Council would consider giving these rooms back to the parish, noting they required refurbishment.
- The District Council would consider this, advised David Wheatcroft, but there would be issues to consider. The District Council would need to look carefully at the disposal of any of its assets. He understood that the Parish Council had been offered a lease on a peppercorn rent.
- A further Tansley resident added that it was the principle that the building was built by local people for local people. A letter had been sent to the District Council on 25 March which Mr Wheatcroft undertook to look at.

Cawdor Quarry Housing Development

- Councillor Flitter asked how safe was the much need housing in Cawdor? He had heard rumours that the football club were to re-locate there.
- Mr Wheatcroft responded that the hamlet is almost complete and a site visit is being arranged shortly for the planning committee. He noted that funding is available for the next phase – there were 5 phases with a total of 432 units.

Traffic management

- Holly Walker raised concerns about excessive vehicle speeds though Tansley village, particularly witnessed in the vicinity of the Royal Oak) pre and post rush hour. Inspector Hall was not aware of any recent complaints or RTAs, but would look into the matter.

Post meeting note – Inspector Hall has provided Holly with a detailed response.

- Another resident reported that as the result of a visit by Derbyshire County Councillor Allsopp, buffers were to be placed at either end of the village and a Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) and crossing had been requested. The average speed was believed to be 38 mph in a 30 limit.
- Bruce Laurence had witnessed excessive speeds through the village.
- Questions were also received via Twitter:
 - ❖ 'how do we stop the over the speed limit traffic on the Alfreton Road approaching Tansley, speed camera?'
 - ❖ how do we stop people breaking the law parking on the No Stopping line outside the wood yard on Alfreton Road, Tansley

Post meeting note – DCC have responded that there are in fact no waiting restrictions outside the wood yard on Alfreton Road/Nottingham Road at Tansley. Assuming that the 'No Stopping' line referred to is the white edge of carriageway markings that are in place here. It is not an offence to park on such lines, their function being to delineate the edge of the carriageway.

Even if double yellow line no waiting restrictions were in place, such measures carry an exemption to allow for loading/unloading to take place and I suspect that many of the vehicles parked here are doing just that.

Council Tax precepts

- Mr Mumby was pleased to see efforts made to freeze Council Tax for the second year running, but noted that the parish element had increased by 3% in 2011 and 2.2% in 2012. Councillor Tipping undertook for Matlock Town Council to respond to Mr Mumby.
- Mr Mumby asked if parishes had been offered grants to freeze their precept to which Councillor Tipping replied they had not.

CONCLUSION AND THANKS

Councillor Tipping thanked everyone for their participation, particularly the Chief Executive, David Wheatcroft, who was attending his last Forum prior to his imminent retirement.

The date and venue of the next Central Forum would be advertised nearer the time.

Meeting closed at 8.40 pm