

MINUTES**Meeting:****Communities Department Briefing****Date:****15 April 2008 (commencing at 2 pm)**

Present:

Councillor Glynn Gilfoyle (Chair)	Mick Burrows
Councillor Reg Adair	Steve Calvert
Councillor Steve Carroll	Bob Hart
Councillor Jen Cole	Richard Hodge
Councillor Tom Pettengell	Jas Hundal
Councillor Sybil Fielding	Kate Revell
Councillor Stella Smedley	Keith Stevens
Councillor John Stocks	
Councillor Helen Holt	
Councillor Bruce Laughton	
Councillor Peter Barnes	
Councillor Martin Suthers	
Councillor Pat Lally	
Councillor Yvonne Woodhead	
Councillor Jim Creamer	
Councillor David Taylor	
Councillor Kay Cutts	
Councillor Martin Brandon Bravo	

Minutes: Chris Butcher

1 Welcome and Introduction

Cllr Glynn Gilfoyle welcomed everyone to the meeting, aimed at updating Members on key areas of development within the Communities Department.

2 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Mark Spencer and Cllr Parry Tsimbirdis.

3 Minutes of the previous meeting 15 January 2008

These were approved.

4 Communities Department Business Plan

Mick Burrows gave an overview of the three year 2008/11 Plan, highlighting:

- The vision and values set out.
- Increased emphasis around partnerships & partnership working.
- The matrix showing aligned priorities with themes of the Nottinghamshire Partnership and departmental/service objectives.

Mick thanked everyone who contributed to the Plan and asked if Members had any questions.

Discussion

Cllr Barnes	Sherwood Forest Ollerton roundabout – will cash be available to undertake work?
Cllr Smedley	There has been tremendous increase in spending but sadly not enough money to undertake all. Increased housing has knock on effects on provision of more roads but with money we have, doing first rate job.
Cllr Jen Cole	Echoed that Higways' statistics were excellent and reflected amount of work being undertaken.
Cllr B Laughton	Ollerton roundabout a priority and concerned that area of serious congestion will affect flow of movement by people. Can we start future planning on this?
BH	Recognised traffic growth inevitable and have plans to address. Civil parking enforcement comes in 12 May and will help alleviate problems.
SC	Local Transport Plan – more money being invested.
Cllr Gilfoyle	We have achieved a great deal & lots to look forward to eg Worksop CHUB.
Cllr R Adair	Can management deliver?
Cllr Gilfoyle	Yes – what we have set out we have budget to achieve and believe it is deliverable.

- MB Key objectives (page 24) underpinned by management plans, links to 198 indicators we will be judged by Government. Whilst we lost the lottery bid, Sherwood Forest Plan B underway.
- Cllr Smedley A lot of projects in Business Plan already started. Aims to fulfil needs of all as everyone has stake in this.
- Cllr Carroll 5 Libraries to be completed by December 08 and work starting in next few weeks on West Bridgford Club.
- MB 'You and Your Community' – evolving document.
Cllrs Lally/Gilfoyle Thanked all involved in producing and receiving plan.

5 **Climate Change**

Cllr Stocks introduced the report and Kate Revell gave a presentation on our response by the Planning & Sustainability Team to climate change and carbon management. Cllr Stocks commended the team for their work to date.

Kate reminded all that NCC had won the 2005 Beacon Award for Sustainable Energy. 'Everybody's Talking about Climate Change' campaign in conjunction with Derbyshire. Progressing LAA climate change indicator through new partnership – launch 19 May. Kate reminded everyone that there was a range of informative materials available today to take away.

Discussion

- Cllr Cutts Difficult to equate presentation with what is actually happening. Some villages have no way to feed in their own ideas. Concerned about concreting over county & removing green areas.
- Cllr Gilfloyle People want affordable housing.
- Kate Revell Review concluded that climate change is happening. £500m has come from central Government into 'Invest to Save' scheme.
- Bob Hart Street lights – Lighting Scrutiny looking at various issues/initiatives. Flooding – 4 new pumps bought plus drainage vehicles. Working with Leicestershire/Derbyshire on how we can react better.

Cllr Cutts	Concerned about repairs to school buildings.
Cllr Gilfoyle	Risk register prioritises who will have work done first.
Cllr Smedley	Schools are rewarded when they show savings.
Steve Calvert	Can influence new housing re layout by liaising with District Council's for sustainable housing.
Cllr Creamer	More people are paving over gardens. Can we have input to suggest alternatives ie soak away or more sustainable paving?
Cllr J Cole	Agreed that unfortunately we are the cause of problem here and not global warming so important to adopt strategies and highlighted the 'Living for Tomorrow' magazine as excellent idea.
Cllr Brandon Bravo	Cited ability/inability of Trent to take water away fast enough. Environment Agency saying dredging not economic however Cllr B feels we need to get them to rethink as riverbed is just being allowed to rise and that it's simply the Agency saying it is not economic for them to undertake.
Cllr Smedley	Has sympathy with comment plus rivers/canals would benefit commercially from more dredging.
Bob Hart	We and Emergency Planning liaise regularly with Environment Agency.
Cllr Brandon Bravo	Suggested we give to new Regional Minister to tackle.
Richard Hodge	Agency keener to work with us and looking at implications of flooding. RH wants to get Environment Agency in to meet Members and discuss issues & how they are taking wider role in future.
Kate Revell	We are working closely with agency proactively re adaptations/planning consultation in respect of flooding.
Cllr Gilfoyle	Would like Agency to simulate situation to show if increased dredging effective.
Cllr Lally	Vital to address. Do we calculate tonnage of carbon savings usage?
Kate Revell	Trying to monitor.

Cllr Reg Adair	Feels that recycling not advancing as much as others in some areas and room for improvement within waste management in Notts. Discussion ensued around bio fuels and how we square.
Jas Hundal	Acknowledged we need to do more on waste management. Trying to get companies to reduce packaging. We are one of the highest authorities for recycling and should exceed our recovery rates/targets this year from EEC figures.
Kate Revell	Need to reduce NCC/staff travel. Bio fuels – often NCC haven't any choice in choosing. Wood heat is positive.
Bob Hart	Highways looked at bio fuels for use in their fleet vehicles but engines often not compatible.
Cllr Petengell	Had tried out wood heat in local school but had to take out because of running cost.
Cllr Barnes	Felt people too wasteful and threw away too much food.
Cllr Cutts	Noted that we were still stocking French apples in NCC Tuck shop.
Kate Revell	NCC campaigns always trying to encourage people to be thrifty.

In summing up Cllr Stocks thanked Kate for the presentation and acknowledged the concerns and comments expressed by Cllrs on our contribution to greenhouse gases. He is keen to work in schools so that children take the message home. Need to involve secondary schools level in Eco schools concept – providing schools with recognition for environment achievement. Acknowledged that whilst originally discretionary work for Local Authorities, now on our targets. Attention needs to be made to existing housing. Whilst we have helped a number of schools with associated higher costs in relation to installing/running new boilers, the caretakers' time is considerably reduced as a consequence.

Cllr Gilfoyle closed by thanking everyone for their engagement and recognised that we can all do better as individuals and as an Authority.