

MINUTES

Meeting

Communities Department Briefing

Date

1 July 2008 (commencing at 2:00 pm)

Membership

Councillor Chris Baron (Chair)
Councillor Steve Carroll
Councillor Glynn Gilfoyle
Councillor Jen Cole
Councillor Mike Cox
Councillor Sybil Fielding
Councillor Peter Barnes
Councillor Brian Wombwell
Councillor Pat Lally
Councillor John Carter
Councillor Jim Creamer

Councillor Sheila Place
Councillor Lyn Sykes
Steve Calvert
Richard Hodge
Jas Hundal
Bob Hart
Keith Stevens
Ray Dunajko
Peter Gaw
Paul Gretton

1.0	<p><u>Welcome and Introductions</u></p> <p>Service Directors introduced themselves to the Members.</p>	
2.0	<p><u>Minutes of previous Meeting and Matters Arising</u></p> <p>It was acknowledged that Councillor Sue Saddington did attend the previous Departmental Briefing on 15 April 2008 but her name was omitted on the minutes.</p> <p>Councillor John Carter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Is there any update information on Sherwood Forest Ollerton? <p>Steve Calvert – subject to the Cabinet Report feasibility study, costings are subject to capital programme.</p>	Agreed
3.0	<p><u>Apologies</u></p> <p>Councillor Stella Smedley Councillor David Kirkham Councillor Mick Storey Councillor John Stocks Councillor Helen Holt Councillor Stan Heptinstall Councillor Albert Haynes Councillor Yvonne Woodhead</p>	

4.0	Nottinghamshire Library Service	
4.1	<p><u>Introduction</u> Councillor Carroll introduced the Nottinghamshire Library Service. We have tried to develop and refurbish libraries in the past year and have completed 10 with 5 to go. This is an exciting time as an authority developing and improving the library service.</p> <p><u>Presentation</u> Peter Gaw proceeded to present an overview and update and a look at more recent achievements of the library service explaining the extensive network that reaches all parts of the county.</p> <p>The presentation entailed the following:</p> <p>Purpose/Mission Scope of Service Performance Impact Excellence Policy Agenda Ambitions for the Future</p> <p><u>Questions</u></p> <p>(i) Councillor Peter Barnes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many libraries currently provide the homeworking service as this is a added bonus for deprived areas and very useful? <p>Peter Gaw – there is one set up in Kirkby,</p> <p>(ii) Councillor Jen Cole</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The traditional view of libraries is that of quietness – is there still provision for quiet study areas? <p>Peter Gaw – the library teams are very good at checking flexible spaces. In larger libraries there are much quieter areas. We do try to enable the design to cater for customer aspirations but we do have to expect that libraries are much noisier out of school hours.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there any resources for the blind and the talking book service and does the library service have any links with RNIB? 	

Peter Gaw – there is provision for the blind and for home services this is via WRVS. We have tried to enhance this. There are some links with RNIB but we are not in partnership.

- What are the links with schools with regard to design and how do we provide library service in school/is there a provision for a Chartered Librarian?

Peter Gaw – Newlinc provide a package on good library design. We are keen to work with schools and individual children. The Education Library Service provide project information and it is necessary for a Chartered Librarian to be in schools.

(iii) Councillor Brian Wombwell

- Is it the intention to refurbish all libraries?

Peter Gaw – it is the aspiration that all libraries will be up to standard but this is totally dependent on the funding provision; we are keen to talk to local partners as new developments happen.

- With regard to local libraries, is there a facility whereby you can use your own laptop; more so in the case of sixth formers? Would also like to say that the homeworking service is an excellent idea.

Peter Gaw – Have recently spoken to an electrician and there is no reason why this can't happen. Need to seek advice from property services. This facility is set up in some libraries but not in Stapleford.

(iv) Councillor Pat Lally

- Do we currently fully utilise staff as most of our staff are exceptional people with many talents. Also what is the future for the mobile library service?

Peter Gaw – the library service is always aspirational towards restructuring and we are not complacent. We focus on staff development. As part of the review we are ensuring that we support the capacity to develop staff.

The mobile library service has not been left to stagnate and we feel confident that there is a future. This is a good example of good practice.

	<p><u>Discussion:</u> Councillor Chris Baron</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has heard very varied views of mobile libraries. In the Council's consultation a large proportion said that this service should be cut as it is expensive and the vast majority of these supply elderly people who actually have a travel card. Would elderly people in rural conurbations wait for a Doctor to go to them? It is a remote service. <p>(v) Councillor John Carter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why should elderly people change their way of life to accommodate the Council's finances – we are all ratepayers. • Is there an update on Mansfield Library. <p>Councillor Chris Baron - This is scheduled for 26 July.</p> <p>Councillor Steve Carroll</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A lot of community buildings are being closed and the mobile library service is probably one of the last community services. <p>Councillor Pat Lally</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would like to see this service promoted more. <p>Councillor Peter Barnes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The service in Retford is very well respected and is a wonderful service where people make friends. 	
5.0	Modernisation of the Trading Standards Service	
5.1	<p><u>Introduction</u> Councillor Glyn Gilfoyle explained that Trading Standards is a small service but increasingly community focussed. In the following presentation we will see some of the things changing the way we work to meet and adapt to 21st century needs.</p> <p><u>Presentation</u> Paul Gretton relayed apologies from Mark Walker, Head of Trading Standards and then proceeded to update and give an overview of the Trading Standards service.</p>	

	<p>Paul invited people at the meeting to come along and visit Trading Standards, this can be done by contacting Paul, Mark Walker or Councillor Gilfoyle.</p>	
	<p><u>Questions</u></p> <p>(i) Councillor Jim Creamer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would like to take up the offer of visiting the Trading standards service. • Is there any input with the ringmaster system? <p>Paul Gretton – this is not working terribly well across the county Richard Hodge – ringmaster is more on the Police side rather than the Trading Standards side.</p> <p>(ii) Councillor Brian Wombwell</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are we happy with the Police Service in Trading Standards? <p>Paul Gretton – Generally yes, we currently have a reputable Police Officer on secondment improving liaison with the Police and have built up an excellent relationship.</p> <p>(iii) Councillor Pat Lally</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In my ward there have been horrific tactics used on vulnerable older people. Are we prioritising Scambusters for the elderly. <p>Paul Gretton – we have been doing a great deal of work and have started a Calling Control Zone aimed at this specifically.</p> <p>(iv) Councillor Chris Baron</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commented that the Cold Calling Campaign is very successful. Also that the Trading Standards calendars are excellent with lots of information and contact numbers particularly for elderly people. 	
6.0	<p>Questions from the Public</p> <p>No public present.</p>	
7.0	<p>Councillor Baron thanked both Peter Gaw and Paul Gretton for their respective presentations and closed the meeting.</p>	

8.0

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 14 October 2008 at 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm in the Rufford Suite