



BLABY DISTRICT LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Minutes & Actions
Thursday 28th October 2010

Present:

Cllr Ernie White (Chair)	Blaby District Council (CEW)
John Leach	Blaby District Council (JL)
Sandra Whiles	Blaby District Council (SW)
Gary Sage	Voluntary Action Leicestershire (GS)
Bruce Kerr	Three Oaks Homes (BK)
Linda McBean	Blaby District Council (LM)
Quin Quinney	Blaby District Council (QQ)
Teresa Neal	Blaby District Council (TN)
Cllr Jennings	Blaby District Council (CJ)
Andrew Ingles	Community Action Blaby District (AI)
Max Boden	Leicestershire Chamber of Commerce (MB)
Maxine Aldred	Federation of Small Businesses (MA)
Gary Clark	Blaby District Council (GC)
Richard Evans	Citizens Advice Bureau (RE)
Tim Brooke	Locality Partnership Group (TB)
John Adsley	Locality Partnership Group (JA)
Rod Freer	Blaby District Council (RF)
Sam Howlett	RCC (SH)

Apologies:

Dave Frank	Leicestershire Police
Cllr Webster-Williams	Blaby District Council
Diana Cook	RCC
John Springthorpe	LRALC
Andy Brown	LCC
Cllr Orson	LCC
Dave Watson	LFRS

No.	Item
1.	<p><u>Welcome</u> CWW welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions took place around the table.</p>
2.	<p><u>Minutes of the last meeting</u> The minutes of the meeting held on 15th July were taken as read and confirmed as a correct record. There were no matters arising.</p>
3.	<p><u>Leicestershire Compact – Gary Sage</u> Gary Sage introduced himself as the lead at Voluntary Action Leicestershire responsible for pulling the Compact together on behalf of County Council’s Compact Improvement Group. The Leicestershire</p>

	<p>Compact is a written agreement, providing a framework for the way in which Leicestershire's voluntary and community organisations work together with Leicestershire Together Partners.</p> <p>It aims to promote good working relationships to provide efficient and effective services and involve the Voluntary and Community Sector in both policy development and the delivery of services.</p> <p>The current Compact has been refreshed and consulted on over a 3 month period to ensure that the Compact reflects the new national Compact Guidance and addresses local issues and opportunities in this time of economic and social change, however, following a review of Compact at Government level any further updates to the Leicestershire Compact have been put on hold. The refreshed Compact Leicestershire will raise a number challenges, not least that it aims to develop a whole area approach, (including District and Borough Councils), drawing all the sectors together in an agreement with the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS).</p> <p>JL – Blaby District Council understand the importance placed on Compact and have put it on their forward plan for discussion in due course.</p> <p>SW – Compact gives a real sense of working in a businesslike way across sectors. What is the appetite of the Police and NHS in working with the third sector?</p> <p>GS – Feedback has been very positive. The Police, although not directly involved with volunteering can link in with police volunteers and statutory partners</p> <p>SW – The Blaby Together Board supports Compact as being the right way to build stronger, clearer relationships.</p>
4.	<p><u>Have Your Say: The Future of Transport in Leicestershire – Gary Clark</u></p> <p><u>Purpose of Report</u></p> <p>Leicestershire County Council is preparing a revised 'Local Transport Plan' (LTP3). The document seeks to set out the County Council's approach towards managing and improving transport planning between the period 2011 and 2026.</p> <p>The purpose of this report is to highlight some of the key issues within draft LTP3 and to seek the views of Blaby Together on the document in order to feed back comments to Leicestershire County Council before the deadline of 26th November 2010.</p> <p><u>Recommendation</u></p> <p>That Blaby Together be advised of the key issues contained within the third Local Transport Plan (LTP3) for Leicestershire, and;</p> <p>That the suggested responses shown below be submitted to Leicestershire County Council as the formal representations of Blaby Together.</p>

Reason for Decision Recommended

To inform Blaby Together of the key themes and issues contained within the draft LTP3.

The Local Transport Plan is a key document for setting out how transport planning priorities will be addressed and prioritised over the period 2011 to 2026. Transport has an influence over the economic success of Blaby District as well as considerable social and economic influences. It is therefore important that Blaby Together seek to influence the broad policies being developed.

Suggested Responses

Blaby Together would support a joint transport plan for Leicester and Leicestershire given the strong cross-boundary transport relationship. If a joint plan is not possible Blaby Together strongly encourages alignment of these Local Transport Plans.

Wider issues and challenges in Leicestershire

Blaby Together agree with the issues and challenges identified in LTP3, these broadly reflect the objectives of the emerging Blaby Sustainable Community Strategy. In addition a further challenge should be identified which states “The east Midlands is an area that has been identified as suffering from poor design quality, particularly in new housing developments. Work will need to be undertaken to ensure that the transport network seeks to maximise design quality, through use of materials, design, layout and uses within streets”.

LTP3 Vision

Blaby Together support the vision set out in LTP3.

Transport Objectives

Subject to the detailed comments set out below, Blaby Together support the transport objectives set out in LTP3.

Overall LTP 3 approach

Blaby Together recognise current economic constraints and broadly support the overall LTP3 short term approach to meeting transport objectives. However, Blaby Together have concerns that short term approaches which could detrimentally affect the long term appearance and design quality of the environment (such as ‘reducing the appearance or finish of schemes’) should not be pursued, if possible .

Objective 1 (Management and maintenance of the transport system and its assets)

Blaby Together recognise current economic constraints that will have an impact on the potential management and maintenance of the transport network. Notwithstanding this, Blaby Together would like to register its concern at the potential reduction in funding that will result in a deterioration in the quality of schemes and the loss of road proposals

(such as the Sharnford by-pass) that could have resulted in environmental benefits.

Blaby Together support prioritising funding towards walking and cycling facilities.

Objective 2 Enabling economic and population growth whilst minimising impacts on our transport system and environment.

Blaby Together support the short term solutions for addressing the objective of 'Enabling economic and population growth whilst minimising impacts on our transport system and environment'. Blaby Together would like to have seen more detail on the measures that could be introduced in order to satisfy these objectives. Changing travel behaviour is likely to prove unpopular and will need careful education and communication to car users.

Objective 3 Encouraging and enabling more active and sustainable ways to travel.

Blaby Together support the broad approaches to improving more 'sustainable' forms of transport. Improvements to walking and cycling facilities are particularly welcomed as these will contribute to the 'healthy communities' objectives of the Sustainable Community Strategy. Blaby Together wishes to express concerns that the proposed park and ride scheme at Glenfield appears to have been abandoned, this scheme could have long term benefits for transport choice in the north of the District of Blaby.

Objective 4. Improving the connectivity and accessibility of our transport system.

Blaby Together support the approach of LTP3 in seeking to give access to services and facilities for all parts of the community, this is particularly important in rural areas. The objective of securing essential services and facilities (including schools, health and employment) close to new developments is particularly important, should 'large scale' development occur in the District of Blaby co-location of such facilities should be sought.

Blaby Together support a transport strategy that seeks to improve access to employment and training facilities, including the improvement of 'orbital routes' to key employment centres (such as Fosse park, Grove Park and Meridian Business Park) which are poorly accessed in the District of Blaby.

Objective 5 - Continuing to reduce road casualties.

Blaby Together support the general approaches to reducing road casualties, however, it would wish to see a further mechanism which is: "To work with Local Planning Authorities to ensure that the design of streets in new developments seeks to reduce vehicle speeds, giving greater priority to pedestrians and cyclists".

	<p><u>Objective 6 - Reducing the negative impacts of travel and transport on people, settlements and the natural environment.</u></p> <p>Blaby Together support the general approaches to reducing the negative impacts of travel, however, it would wish to see a further mechanism which is: “To seek new access opportunities to Green spaces particularly for more sustainable forms of transport including walking and cycling”.</p> <p>MA – Transport is of prime importance in Leicestershire for economic purposes. The main point that should be made is that it is ridiculous to have two transport plans. MA advised that she will also be sending in a response to the consultation from a business angle.</p> <p>BK asked what 6.5 point 3 means and GC said he would make enquiries and respond to BK.</p> <p>CEW – The fact that there is not a joint plan between City and County is a big issue and in some instances contradictory for example County are promoting the use of the park and ride whilst City care parks are offering cheap car parking.</p> <p>Action: It was agreed that the wording on the first response above be amended to read Blaby Together feel it is <u>absolutely essential</u> that there is a joint transport plan for Leicester and Leicestershire given the strong cross-boundary transport relationship.</p> <p>All agreed that the suggested responses be submitted to Leicestershire County Council as the formal representations of Blaby Together.</p>
5.	<p><u>Sustainable Community Strategy Development and Big Society – John Leach</u> <u>Purpose of Report</u></p> <p>To update the Blaby Together Board on progress towards developing a new Sustainable Community Strategy 2011-2014.</p> <p><u>Recommendation</u></p> <p>To endorse the progress made to date with respect to developing a new Sustainable Community Strategy, 2010-2011.</p> <p>To provide further comment on the draft Action Plans up to 4th January, 2011.</p> <p>To comment: on-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the role of Big Society in Blaby District. (ii) the aspirations developed as part of a Leicestershire wide debate on Big Society (iii) and consider how the Big Society might be progressed locally?

	<p><u>Reason</u></p> <p>To continue partners ongoing engagement in the development of the Blaby District Sustainable Community Strategy 2011-2014.</p> <p>To provide further opportunity for partners to contribute and develop the action plans for the Sustainable Community Strategy 2011-14.</p> <p>To support work in progressing the Big Society agenda in Blaby District.</p> <p>BK asked whether the number of people getting involved in volunteering locally is tailing off.</p> <p>AI – In some ways the numbers are increasing as people have different motivations for getting involved, however the people that want to volunteer are often those that need support and funding cuts will mean that these people will have to manage their own volunteering.</p> <p>MA – Supporting people is very important and there may be lots of projects for people to get involved in but without leaders and organisers people won't know where to start.</p> <p>AI – We need to ensure that volunteers are not being used to deliver public services and that people have choices and are not exploited.</p> <p>MB – Businesses have a corporate social responsibility to provide volunteering opportunities but for smaller businesses this may be more of a challenge. There is an appetite to look at mutuals and co-ops instead of the traditional business models.</p> <p>AI – It will be interesting to see what the Big Society Bank has to offer and who will be expected to take responsibility for it.</p> <p>SW – We have to take the opportunity to look at different ways of doing what we do and to redefine the relationship between the public and service providers. We need to create a new model for realigning services and pilot it.</p> <p>All agreed to endorse the progress made to date with respect to developing a new Sustainable Community Strategy, 2010-2011.</p>
<p>6. 6.1</p>	<p><u>Sustainable Environment</u> Theme Group Update</p> <p>The group met to discuss the development of the Vibrant Places – Sustaining and Improving the Environment action plan. As the new SCS is developed the theme groups will be reviewed to see whether they are fit for purpose.</p>
<p>7. 7.1</p>	<p><u>Healthy & Stronger Communities</u> Theme Group Update – Report from Andrew Ingles</p> <p>The theme group met on 5th October 2010 with excellent attendance from across the full range of partners. Sharon Aiken from Leicestershire County Council attended to give a presentation about the Dementia Strategy</p>

(*Living well with Dementia*). Discussion followed in which the theme group came up with a number of ideas for local action including: a *District dementia awareness event (possibly through Quinn Quinney and the Vulnerable Persons Forum)*, an *information DVD for carers and people with dementia (including different language options)*. There was also discussion on the use of technology to replace memory such as automated telephone prompting services.

Group discussions and reports covered a range of regular topics including:

Performance Framework

Joy Burns reported on the SCS framework which she had updated and most targets were on target or had been completed. The areas of concern remaining are:

Adoption of the Older People's Independent Living Strategy (planned by BDC for November 2010) and *lack of attendance by members of the general public at the North and Central Community Forums* which the meeting understood had been taken up by Blaby District Scrutiny.

QQ – The Older People's Independent Living Strategy will be picked up Dec/Jan time.

Health Forum and specific health matters

A decision had been taken to integrate the health forum within the theme group due to poor attendance at the forum meetings. *The group expressed some concern that this would not give enough time to discuss health matters relating to the District thoroughly enough and the agenda/length of theme group meetings is already very full.* It was noted that this group covers two substantial LSP themes.

Victoria Smith reported on the development of a website for the Public Health Network relating to health inequalities and PCT initiatives relating to inequalities. Accidents in the home issues had been followed up. 3 Oaks Homes have started an initiative for families around home safety and provide Lifeline to all residents in the District (not just tenants). An extension of First Contact to people under 60 is being considered although concern was expressed in the meeting about how services which are already under strain could cope with additional referrals. CABD, in partnership with other agencies, have run Older Persons Information and Safety events in Cosby, Glenfield and Blaby so far with others to follow.

CABD's new Lottery funded Sporting Change project providing physical activities for people with mental ill-health had run its first Health and Wellbeing Event on Saturday 2nd October.

Funding cuts

The theme group expressed its concern about the way in which LCC are running consultations regarding the proposed alteration in providing support for carers and the cut in funding for volunteer befriending services across the county. *The meeting wished to draw to Blaby Together Board's attention the fact that these consultation have been almost entirely internet based when the beneficiaries of the services i.e. those people most affected by the changes and cuts are amongst the most least likely to have the ability/access to enable them to respond via the internet.* The meeting also requested that Vin Gaten should take this view back to

Voluntary Action Leicestershire's policy team.

The group wished to draw to BT Board's attention that CABD are facing a 45% cut in their community development team funding from April 2011 which has in the past delivered what are now becoming formal aspects of the Big Society. The RCC are in a similar position.

CABD have already made the decision not to employ a Community Hub Manager (following the retirement of Mo Fowler and departure of her successor) due to funding constraints from April 2011. Other staff have picked up extra hours to cover the work but these resources will not be available from next April.

It was also noted that Active Together is currently funded until September 2011 but with no information on the position beyond that. Darren Farish was asked to keep the group updated.

AI – It is important to have some belief in the opportunities that the Big Society might bring and to look at how we can move forward without affecting the services we deliver and the people that deliver them.

In the future big events such as the Cultural Event will have to be organised by volunteers.

Sustainable Community Strategy 2011/14

Following completion of the 'Tell us more' survey Joy Burns presented the relevant draft critical actions under Health and Wellbeing. The group was asked to feedback their comments to Joy.

Reports from sub-groups and partner organisations

- **Health White Paper.** Proposals for the NHS including reorganisation of PCTs to GP consortia were noted. The Link's consultation had so far encountered general opposition to the Paper.

- **Older Persons Forum.** Mick Court had unavoidably sent late apologies. Some concern was expressed that the forum does not appear to be engaging with the Intergenerational Charter initiative whereas the Youth Council appear to be embracing it and trying to go ahead without input from older people. It was suggested this should be addressed at the next forum meeting on 6th December.

- **Mental Health Forum.** The forum is supporting a joint event of BDC and CABD on workplace stress to mark World Mental Health Day on 11th October

- **Local Sports Alliance.** The Alliance is looking to set up a joint website with Active Together for the District. Active Together have published a new action plan for the next 6 months. Free Swimming funding was withdrawn in July but extended locally until the end of September with the possibility of some limited free sessions going forward at Enderby Leisure Centre.

- **Voluntary Sector Forum.** This is now being chaired by Darren Walker. The format of future meetings is being considered.

- **Vulnerable Persons Forum.** The forum is now meeting successfully every month. Service providers bring individual cases to the meeting for consideration of support needs. Issues are being picked up by different agencies and addressed.

- **Community Forums.** It was felt that the Big Society is a subject that people wish/need to hear more about.

A separate Community Venues workshop (a partnership event

between LCC/BDC/CABD/VAL and the RCC) was held on 30th September and had been very well attended by members of the community involved in running local venues, village halls etc. The biggest topic discussed was around funding matters.

Mike Lee reported how in the South Forum area parish councils are working more closely together as a result of the Forum.

CJ – The Scrutiny partnership is challenging the Community Forums and how they could better attract people and be more interesting.

- **Neighbourhood Management and Stronger Communities.** It was noted that the *funding for both initiatives comes to an end in April 2011*. It is hoped that some of the work in Enderby will be continued with local people organising a large village event next summer.

The final report for neighbourhood management will be drafted by the end of December as Karri Aston is going on maternity leave.

Continuation/sustainability of the Neighbourhood Action Team (NAT) is doubtful due to funding and perhaps dependent on the Big Society agenda and resources, if any. The NAT was planned as part of the 2 year funded project but any exit requirements/strategy will be considered in the final report.

A Question Time evening in Enderby with a panel including local parish, district and county council members, the police and the Gypsy and Traveller Council has been arranged for 9th November. It is hoped that following the event some more members of the public may be encouraged to attend the Central Community Forum regularly.

A volunteering recruitment drive is taking place in Blaby town centre on 15th October.

The District Cultural Festival will be repeated next year at Brockington College on 23rd February.

- **Blaby District Community Grants.** Two grant panels had been held so far this financial year with applications up on last year. Two more rounds remain.
- **RCC work in the District.** A number of parish plans in the district are being supported and suicide awareness training workshops are planned. A detailed report of the RCC district work has since been circulated.
- **VAL work in the District.** 19 volunteer drop-in sessions had been provided in the last quarter resulting in 58 volunteer enquiries. Fixed drop-ins are being replaced with visits to meet people on request.
- **Leicestershire LinK.** The latest newsletter and annual report are available on the website. Under the White Paper proposals the LinK will be replaced with ‘Health Watch’ which will also cover social care and will be organised in line with GP consortia. It is likely that changes will be phased in from November 2011 through to November 2013.

7.2

Community Safety Partnership Update – Teresa Neal

ASB

Every District in the County has seen a reduction in ASB, although this could be attributed to a change in the recording of incidents i.e. offenders are being advised now that any record of ASB could show on a CRB check at a later date and the Police are discussing issues with parents

and young people rather than recording them. Blaby has seen the largest reduction.

Crime

Figures as at Monday 25th October

Total Crime 317 incidences below

Serious Acquisitive Crime 9% reduction target – 103 incidences below = -15.4%

Burglary dwelling (which is an area for focus) 15% reduction target – 67 offences below = -27.7%

Theft of motor vehicle 3% reduction target = -26%

Theft from motor vehicle (which is an area for focus) 5% reduction target – 1 incident below

Assault without injury – 25 incidences below = -14.7%

Common assault – 26 incidences over (there doesn't seem to be any particular pattern to these incidences/ all the cases are different). This will be one of the main focuses for the second half of the year.

Serious Acquisitive Crime

- 30 properties have benefited from the Home Security Scheme.
- The Smartwater project continues to be promoted as part of all activities. All Parishes have been contacted about holding Smartwater within their Parish Councils
- BDC is funding a Blaby LPU undercover vehicle which is used to target prolific offenders in the District of which there are currently 40, and this has had a real impact
- 30 search warrants have been executed, which relate to Serious Acquisitive Crime, Drugs, Child Abuse Images, Money Laundering and a myriad of other offences.

The priority for the LPU will remain Dwelling house burglaries and the continued reduction in that area and theft of motor vehicles.

Substance Use

- The Substance Use Prevention Officer is now in post, working 3 days at Blaby and 2 at Oadby & Wigston. To date she has 15 cases and is working with a range of people. She is also going into schools to work with young people and parents.
- A Children's Worker is now in post and she is working with vulnerable families. An update will be given on this work at the next meeting.
- A joint alcohol initiative has taken place across the district focusing on particular public houses which have been identified via the JAG. This has resulted in one public house having their licence taken off them.
- The Domestic Abuse Assistant post has been recruited to working two days a week and employed via CABD which has enabled her to tap into carer's forum and mental health forums.
- The Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator is currently working across

	<p>Blaby and Hinckley and Bosworth, which is putting some strain on resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long term funding for the Substance Use Officer, Children’s Worker and Domestic Abuse Assistant posts (31st March 2011) is at risk and an exit strategy will need to be devised for the individuals who are currently receiving help. <p><u>Raising Public Confidence & reassurance through building stronger neighbourhoods and reducing ASB & hate incidents.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New ASB officer is now in post • Vulnerable Person’s Forum has been set up and is running effectively. The forum meets monthly, providing real support to individuals. • BB19 Youth provision 1, 279 young people engaged with over summer programme, term time project starts 13th Sept. BB19 is now being recognised as a community facility and not just for young people. • First Contact number of forms completed up to end September is 71 target for end of year is 100, although we are trying to achieve this by mid October. Blaby is the best performing District that is not using the County central system • ASB Protocol in processing of being finalised will be on the web by end of October. Will also be involved in the County Review of the tiered approach to ASB. • Hate Incident reporting has dropped considerably because we have not has a lead officer in post. Set ourselves a 10% increase on last year’s figures. This is something that will be targeted over the next 6 months • Positive behaviour campaign has been pulled, looking at using funding to tackle the ASB incidents currently happening In Henley Crescent, Braunstone Town. <p>Despite funding cuts the Community Safety Partnership have still been able to operate all of their projects successfully.</p> <p>JL – Is there anything happening around Halloween/Bonfire night? TN – A joint programme between the Fire Service/Police and BDC. BB19, diversionary activities will be taking place, extra police will be out using memo cams, every school in the District will receive safety information and no trick or treat here posters have been produced.</p>
<p>8 8.1</p>	<p><u>Children and Young People Theme Group</u> Theme Group Update – Rod Freer</p> <p>The Locality Partnership Group has been meeting regularly and has discussed many issues. The Surestart programme has been progressing satisfactorily and all contracts and service level agreements are being thoroughly evaluated by the Locality Partnership Group at present. A full report will be brought from the Partnership to the next Board meeting.</p> <p>All service level agreements and many staff contracts cease on 31st March and cannot be renegotiated until we have some further indications</p>

	<p>of future finances following the spending review – whilst it was stated in the Spending Review that funds for Surestart would be protected in ‘cash terms’ there was little indication regarding the allocation processes.</p> <p>Over 5’s – The Positive Activities for Young People programme, which includes programmes provided through the BB19 bus are now all committed and the first round of projects are currently being evaluated and will be reported back on at the next Locality Partnership Group meeting and subsequently to this Board.</p> <p>The Pavilion held an extremely successful programme of summer activities</p> <p>The Big Lottery and Blaby District Council’s programme of installation of play facilities is now complete with the commissioning of the younger children’s play equipment at Fosse Meadows which is designed to attract young people to the countryside.</p> <p>Youth – County Youth Services are currently undergoing restructuring and refinancing and the Locality Partnership Group will need to reflect on the outcome and implications of this in due course. CEW – The Youth Service are experiencing drastic reductions and face a very difficult process in terms of targeting provision.</p> <p>Youth Council – The Youth Council is to hold its annual conference in the Council Chamber in early December and this is now in the planning stages. The Older Persons Forum have not responded very well to the idea of an intergenerational event therefore the young people are going to go ahead and organise their event and invite some older persons to attend</p>
9.	<p><u>Date and Time of Next Meeting</u> Thursday 27th January 2011, 10.00am, Council Chamber</p>