



**charnwoodtogether**  
making life better

**CHARNWOOD TOGETHER BOARD EXECUTIVE  
15TH MARCH 2010**

**PRESENT:** Councillor M. Preston (Chair) – Charnwood Borough Council  
Tony Stott – Action for a Better Charnwood  
Neil Lambert – Voluntary Action Charnwood  
Chief Inspector Neil Newell – Leicestershire Police  
G. Parker – Charnwood Borough Council  
J. Walker – Loughborough University

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

S. Boud – Leicestershire County Council  
R. Downing – Leicestershire County Council  
V. Graham – Charnwood Borough Council  
S. McIntosh – Leicestershire County Council  
S. Phipps – Charnwood Borough Council

**APOLOGIES:** P. Marks, A. McInnes and Councillor E. White

**I. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th January 2010 were confirmed as an accurate record.

**2. CHARNWOOD PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

An update report in respect of the Charnwood Partnership for Children and Families was submitted. S. Boud stated that the figures included within the report were correct as of 26th February 2010 and provided current figures to the meeting as follows:

Actual spend: £625,202.46  
Commitments: £12,610.92

Officers continued to look for quick win projects, which would need to be completed by 31st March 2010, however that was proving to be difficult.

In response to issues raised and questions, S. Boud stated:

- (a) During the previous six months a number of projects had come on stream that would continue into the next financial year, for varying amounts of time and other projects would be reassessed. Overall, the first quarter of the next financial year would be in a much healthier position than the start of the current year.
- (b) Funding for the financial year 2010/11 would be the same as for 2009/10. There was the possibility of a further £30,000 of Regional Improvement and Efficiency Programme (RIEP) funding, which was still to be confirmed.
- (c) At the present time, officers were taking soundings from Stakeholders for emerging needs for spend during the next financial year. There were currently more than 26 projects and officers would need to decide how to move forward. There was a mix between universal and targeted services for the more vulnerable and consideration would be given to how to extend services to Anstey, Birstall and Syston with the introduction of new Children's Centres in those areas.
- (d) Experience during the current year has shown that slippage bids take longer to fulfil than anticipated. Therefore the quick win process should begin earlier in 2010/11, by the setting up of a 'quick win bridging the gap' fund.

Members of the Executive stated that they were encouraged by the progress made in respect of spending during the current financial year and supported the proposals for early activity at the beginning of the next financial year.

### **AGREED**

1. that the improvements to spending during the current financial year be welcomed;
2. that early spending during the financial year 2010/11 be encouraged.

### **3. PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING**

Details of proposed spending for four of the seven Charnwood Area Forums were tabled for the consideration of the Executive.

R. Downing stated that following on from the workshops held during the autumn by individual Area Forums to consider projects for the £20,000 available funding for each Area Forum, provisional schemes had been worked up and details of those were submitted for the consideration of the Executive. The other three Area Forums would be meeting during the course of the next two weeks and details of those schemes would be submitted to the next meeting of the Executive.

The Executive considered the schemes as follows:

## **LOUGHBOROUGH EAST AREA FORUM**

(i) Sidings Park Residents Association

To provide funding for architects fees etc. to apply for funding to build a Community Centre.

IT WAS RECOMMENDED THAT £7,500 BE APPROVED.

(ii) Chapman Street Gardening Club

To provide tools and equipment to help a newly formed gardening group to improve the local environment.

IT WAS RECOMMENDED THAT OFFICERS PROVIDE FURTHER INFORMATION IN RESPECT OF THIS PROPOSAL AT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE.

(iii) Shelthorpe Community Gardening Scheme

A scheme to be delivered through CIC to loan out tools and 'labour' to people who had difficulty maintaining their own garden.

IT WAS RECOMMENDED THAT OFFICERS PROVIDE FURTHER INFORMATION IN RESPECT OF THIS PROPOSAL AT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE.

(iv) Shelthorpe Informal Play Area

To redevelop a site situated between Farnham Road and Beaumont Road.

IT WAS RECOMMENDED THAT £5,500 BE RINGFENCED TO BENEFIT YOUNG PEOPLE IN LOUGHBOROUGH EAST.

In response to issues raised and questions, R. Downing stated:

- (a) In respect of Sidings Park Residents Association, some feasibility work had already been undertaken. The Director of Loughborough Regeneration supported the proposed scheme.
- (b) Should the proposed projects not come to fruition, there were other schemes identified at the workshops by the Area Forums that could be considered further.

## **LOUGHBOROUGH NORTH WEST AREA FORUM**

(i) Jubilee BMX and Youth Shelter

To provide either a new youth Shelter or BMX track situated in Jubilee Park or if that were not achievable the money be ringfenced to benefit young people in Loughborough North West.

IT WAS RECOMMENDED THAT IF ORIGINAL PROPOSALS WERE NOT FEASIBLE, £9,000 BE RING FENCED TO BENEFIT THE YOUNG PEOPLE LIVING IN LOUGHBOROUGH NORTH WEST.

(ii) The Hut Kitchen Refurbishment

To rebuild and re-equip kitchen.

IT WAS RECOMMENDED THAT £5,000 BE APPROVED.

(iii) Boothwood School Soft Play Area

To provide a soft play area.

IT WAS RECOMMENDED THAT £4,000 BE IDENTIFIED FOR THE PLAY AREA, WHILE FURTHER INVESTIGATIVE WORK WAS UNDERTAKEN.

(iv) Youth Zone

To provide equipment, including computer games.

IT WAS RECOMMENDED THAT £2,000 BE APPROVED.

In response to a question, R. Downing stated that in respect of the Boothwood Soft Play area, officers had considered the fact that it was based in a school. It would be used as part of summer playschemes and the catchment area for the school covered a large portion of the area forum area. With the wider partnership for the scheme adding to the contributions officers viewed the scheme positively.

## **SHEPSHED AND HATHERN AREA FORUM**

(i) Sheps shed ABC Boxing Club Noise Insulation

To provide noise insulation at the Club.

IT WAS RECOMMENDED THAT £3,600 BE RING FENCED SUBJECT TO A PLANNING PERMISSION BEING RECEIVED.

(ii) Hathern Half Pipe

To install a half pipe on recreation land owned by Hathern Parish Council.

IT WAS RECOMMENDED THAT £5,558.18 BE RINGFENCED TOWARDS THE SCHEME.

(iii) Shepshed Volunteer Centre

To support the Shepshed Volunteer Centre.

IT WAS RECOMMENDED THAT £5,500 BE RINGFENCED TOWARDS THE SCHEME.

(iv) 4th Shepshed Scouts

Roof Replacement.

IT WAS RECOMMENDED THAT £5,341.82 BE APPROVED.

In response to issues raised and questions, R. Downing stated:

- (a) the Scout facility was also used by other groups;
- (b) the Shepshed Boxing Club had been operating without the appropriate planning permission, which was now being sought.

**SOUTH CHARNWOOD (SYSTON, THURMASTON AND WREAKE VILLAGES)**

(i) Thurmaston Boxing Club

Funding towards new premises.

IT WAS RECOMMENDED THAT £5,000 BE COMMITTED TO THE SCHEME UNTIL 31ST MAY 2010 AND THEN BE REVIEWED.

(ii) Syston and District Volunteer Centre

To develop services in conjunction with Voluntary Action Leicestershire, to secure long term funding.

IT WAS RECOMMENDED THAT £5,000 BE COMMITTED UNTIL 30TH APRIL 2010 AND THEN BE REVIEWED.

(iii) East Goscote Skate Park

To provide funding towards equipment for the skate park.

IT WAS RECOMMENDED THAT £5,000 BE COMMITTED UNTIL 30TH APRIL 2010 AND THEN BE REVIEWED.

(iv) Syston Bowling for the Disabled

To provide £3,000 for a new specialist wheelchair or £1,000 for a reconditioned specialist wheelchair.

IT WAS RECOMMENDED THAT £3,000 BE APPROVED FOR A NEW SPECIALIST WHEELCHAIR.

(v) Thurmaston Old School Project

Funding to part fund a programme of refurbishment.

IT WAS RECOMMENDED THAT £1,400 BE APPROVED.

(iv) Thurmaston Events Team

Funding towards a programme of events to engender community spirit.

IT WAS RECOMMENDED THAT FURTHER CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO THE SCHEME AT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE.

**AGREED**

1. that in respect of Loughborough East Area Forum:

- the Sidings Park Residents Association - £7,500 be approved;
- the Chapman Street Gardening Scheme – officers submit a further report to the next meeting of the Executive;
- the Shelthorpe Community Garden Scheme - officers submit a further report to the next meeting of the Executive;
- The Shelthorpe Informal Play Area - £5,500 be ring fenced to benefit young people living in Loughborough East and officers submit a further report to the next meeting of the Executive;

2. that in respect of Loughborough North West Area Forum:

- Jubilee BMX and Youth Shelter – make £9,000 available for either the BMX track and Youth shelter or ring fence money to benefit young people living in Loughborough North West and officers submit a further report to the next meeting of the Executive;
- The Hut Kitchen Refurbishment - £5,000 be approved;

- Boothwood School Soft Play Area – identify £4,000 while further investigative work be undertaken and officers submit a report to the next meeting of the Executive;
  - Youth Zone - £2,000 be approved;
3. that in respect of Shepshed and Hathern Area Forum:
- Shepshed ABC Club - £3,600 be ringfenced, subject to planning permission and a further report be submitted to the Executive;
  - Hathern Half Pipe - £5,558.18 be ringfenced towards the scheme and officers submit a report to the next meeting of the Executive;
  - Shepshed Volunteer Centre - £5,500 be ringfenced towards the scheme and a further report be submitted to the next meeting of the Executive;
  - 4th Shepshed Scouts - £5,341.82 be approved;
4. that in respect of South Charnwood (Syston, Thurmaston and Wreake Villages):
- Thurmaston Boxing Club – commit funding to 31st May 2010 and a further report be submitted to the Executive;
  - Syston and District Volunteer Centre – commit funding to 30th April 2010 and a further report be submitted to the Executive;
  - East Goscote Skate Park – commit funding to 30th April 2010 and a further report be submitted to the Executive;
  - Syston Bowling for the Disabled - £3,000 be approved;
  - Thurmaston Old School Project - £1,400 be approved;
  - Thurmaston Events Team – a further report be submitted to the next meeting of the Executive.

#### 4. LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL UPDATE REPORT

S. McIntosh gave a verbal update report as follows:

(i) Building Schools for the Future

Money to the project in Leicestershire had not been allocated by Central Government. However, the Leader of Leicestershire County Council was committed to the delivery of a through school model and had given a

commitment to the Special School. Consideration was being given by the BSF team in respect of delivery.

There had been many concerns raised by Loughborough East Area Forum to the model and officers would be involving the local community to take account of their concerns.

A further report in respect of the matter was expected to be submitted to the County Council's Cabinet in May 2010.

(ii) LAA Targets and Delivery

The third quarterly report had been submitted to the County Council's Cabinet. The majority of targets remained green or amber indicators.

A number of indicators would be dependent on satisfactory ratings that were expected in the autumn.

Details of the indicators were available from S. McIntosh.

**AGREED** that the information be noted.

5. FUTURE EXECUTIVE AGENDA ITEMS

This item had been included on the agenda to consider items for future meetings of the Executive.

Officers made reference to the following items for inclusion on the agenda for the Executive meeting to be held on 19th April 2010:

- Outline plans for the Charnwood Together AGM;
- Participatory budgeting – update on decisions taken at current meeting and decisions of other Charnwood Area Forums, still to meet;
- Charnwood Partnership for Children and Families – a report to include priorities for 2010/11 and outline allocations.

**AGREED** that the following items be included on the agenda for the meeting of the Executive, to be held on 19th April 2010, taking account of decisions taken elsewhere in the meeting:

- Outline plans for the Charnwood Together AGM;
- Participatory budgeting – update on decisions taken at current meeting and decisions of other Charnwood Area Forums, still to meet;
- Charnwood Partnership for Children and Families – a report to include priorities for 2010/11 and outline allocations;
- AstraZeneca – update report.

## 6. ASTRAZENECA UPDATE

This item had been included on the agenda to allow the Executive to consider the current situation in respect of AstraZeneca.

G. Parker stated that following an announcement by AstraZeneca to close its facility in Loughborough, a meeting with partners had been held at the Council offices on 5th March 2010 to consider the situation.

AstraZeneca had raised three issues, as follows:

- (i) Economic Development as a result of the closure;
- (ii) Employment issues – including the supply chain;
- (iii) Options for the AstraZeneca site.

At the meeting it was agreed to establish more formal governance arrangements with Bill Wells of EMDA. There would be three elements to the structure:

- (i) A steering Group chaired by EMDA;
- (ii) A delivery Group;
- (iii) A Stakeholder Group to include community involvement.

A further meeting at the AstraZeneca site had been arranged for 16th April 2010 to view the facilities. An economic impact assessment would be undertaken by EMDA in respect of the effect on the local economy and consideration be given to mitigate those factors.

There had been preliminary interest in the site and the highly skilled and professional workforce.

In response to issues raised and questions, the Chair and G. Parker stated:

- (a) The lead in time for the closure was two years. That provided time to plan and absorb.
- (b) There was the possibility of staff transfers to other areas of the company.
- (c) Officers had requested information from AstraZeneca in respect of the number of its employees living in the Charnwood area. It was understood a proportion of the employees lived in the Rushcliffe area.

It was proposed that the matter be included on each future agenda as a standing item, to provide update reports.

**AGREED**

1. that the information be noted;
2. that the matter be included as a standing item on future agendas to provide update reports.

7. DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE

Dates for future meetings of the Executive had been agreed as follows:

19th April 2010.

**AGREED** that future meetings of the Executive be noted.