

**THE BENEFITS OF JOINING THE
TRANSITION TOWN MOVEMENT
WORKING PARTY**

North West Leicestershire



Senior Scrutiny Officer: Keith Gordon (01530
454538)

Overview and Scrutiny
Committed to Improvement

Next meeting: 6.30 p.m. on 5 July 2010

Venue: Board Room, Council Offices, Coalville

The Monitoring Officer would like to remind members that when they are considering whether the following items are exempt information under the relevant paragraph under part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 they must have regard to the public interest test. This means that members must consider, for each item, whether the public interest in maintaining the exemption from disclosure outweighs the public interest in making the item available to the public.

A G E N D A

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3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS	-

Under the Code of Conduct members are reminded that in declaring an interest you should make clear the nature of that interest and whether it is 'personal' or 'prejudicial'.

3. Recommendations

Members of the Working Party to consider conclusions and recommendations

Circulation:

Councillor G Dalby
Councillor C Meynell

Councillor A Saffell

USE OF CONTRACTORS WORKING PARTY MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday 19 May 2010 – 6.30 p.m.
Council Chamber

Attendees

Councillors

G Dalby, C Meynell, and A Saffell

In attendance J Legrys

Officers

Keith Gordon, Senior Scrutiny Officer, Sue Haslett, Head of Place Shaping, Wendy Jones, Sustainability Officer - Team Leader

1. Election of Chairman

Councillor A Saffell was nominated for Chairman of the Working Party.

Resolved that Councillor A Saffell be elected Chairman of the Working Party.

2. Apologies for Absence.

There were no apologies for absence.

3. Declarations of Interest

Councillor C Meynell declared a personal interest as he knew a witness through his employment.

4. Benefits of Joining the Transition Town Movement

The Senior Scrutiny Officer gave an introduction to work of the working party, outlining the Terms of Reference.

5. Evidence

a. North West Leicestershire District Council - Sustainability

The Sustainability Officer - Team Leader outlined the Transition Town Movement and gave details of the activity of the District Council referring to the inaugural meeting of the Green Footprints Community Network. There were no official Transition initiatives in the district. There were no Transition Districts. Somerset County Council had become a Transition Council in response to a number of initiatives within the county. North West Leicestershire had adopted the Green Footprints Challenge

Over a thousand residents had signed onto the Challenge, the council's recycling

rate had improved further and the Council had introduced the Warm Front Scheme and trialled electricity monitors. All of these activities would help reduce CO₂.

The Council followed the same aims as the Transition movement but did not adhere to 'such a rigid recipe'.

In response to Members' questions, the Sustainability Officer - Team Leader and the Head of Place Shaping recognised the need for changes to emphasis in the Planning and Building Control Services to meet energy conservation targets.

b. Ashby 2020

Carl Benfield of Ashby 2020 outlined the activities of the organisation that had been established earlier in the year with the aim to involve the community in making Ashby sustainable. It was important to involve the community from the start in actions that would have immediate and tangible effects.

Ashby 2020 was linked closely with the Transition movement but felt that a more 'down to earth' approach was necessary to encourage community participation.

In response to Members' questions, Carl Benfield agreed that the involvement of the District Council in the development of Ashby 2020 was not appropriate. The District Council could contribute through adoption of appropriate planning policies. The development of new technologies was to be encouraged but the production of renewable energy sources (water, wind, solar) was essential to enable these technologies to show their real potential.

c. Friends of Thringstone

Nita Pearson of Friends of Thringstone outlined the activities of the Friends of Thringstone, formed in 2005. The organisation had developed a variety of activities including planting (Leicestershire in Bloom), themed meetings for members, linking with other organisations in the area and the acquisition of grants to undertake improvement works in the area.

In response to Members' questions, Nita Pearson confirmed that the organisation's activities had encouraged community ownership and participation. The organisation had always worked in conjunction with other organisations within the area to encourage wider awareness and participation.

d. Friends of Holly Hayes Wood

Adam Raine of Friends of Holly Hayes Wood outlined the activities of the Friends of Holly Hayes Wood in rescuing, improving and maintaining the wooded area. The organisation had grown in confidence and competence in developing a proper business plan for the future of the area and using the site for community benefit. The group had seen community interest and assistance as well as a significant reduction in anti-social behaviour in the area. The organisation had always been successful in attracting grants for its activities, working closely with but remaining independent of many other organisations and agencies.

In response to Members' questions, Adam Raine confirmed that the organisation had received considerable help and advice and had developed a business plan for future development of the area in line with the aims of the organisation.

e. Ward Members

Councillor J Legrys welcomed all the activities outlined as consistent with the aims of

the Transition Movement. He saw a role for the District Council in leading and assisting in the development of local initiatives. The Council must also take a business position and plan for the future in the provision of its services. The Council needed to look to a wider area beyond its immediate boundaries to work together and in conjunction with others for the future of the community. The Council needed to debate these issues.

During discussion, Members thanked the witnesses to the examination for presenting details of their organisations' activities and identified future service delivery planning and planning policies as areas in which the Council can demonstrate support the principles of the Transition Movement even if it was felt too proscriptive or unnecessary to join the Movement.

6. Recommendations

Members agreed that a further meeting be held to assess the evidence and compile a final report.

The meeting closed at 8.10 p.m.