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Our reference:
Your reference:
Date: 13 October 2014

To all Members of the Community Development Group

Dear Councillor

A meeting of the **Community Development Group** will be held on Tuesday 21 October 2014 at 7.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Pavilion Road, West Bridgford to consider the following items of business.

Yours sincerely



Executive Manager Operations and Corporate Governance

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Declarations of Interest
3. Notes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 15 July 2014 (pages 1 - 6)
4. Update on Delivery of Rural Broadband in Rushcliffe

The report of the Executive Manager - Transformation is attached (pages 7 - 8).

5. Investigation of New Energy Initiatives

The report of the Executive Manager - Communities is attached (pages 9 - 11).

6. Work Programme

The report of the Executive Manager Operations and Corporate Governance is attached (pages 12 - 13).

Membership

Chairman: Councillor T Combellack
Vice-Chairman: Councillor L B Cooper
Councillors: D G Bell, S J Boote, B Buschman, Mrs M M Males, G R Mallender, E A Plant and J E Thurman

Meeting Room Guidance

Fire Alarm Evacuation: in the event of an alarm sounding please evacuate the building using the nearest fire exit, normally through the Council Chamber. You should assemble in the Nottingham Forest car park adjacent to the main gates.

Toilets are located opposite Committee Room 2.

Mobile Phones: For the benefit of others please ensure that your mobile phone is switched off whilst you are in the meeting.

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**NOTES
OF THE MEETING OF THE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUP
TUESDAY 15 JULY 2014**

Held at 7.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Pavilion Road, West
Bridgford

PRESENT:

Councillors T Combellack (Chairman), D G Bell, S J Boote, B Buschman,
L B Cooper, Mrs M M Males, G R Mallender, E A Plant and J E Thurman

OFFICERS PRESENT:

B Adams	Environment and Licensing Manager
D Banks	Executive Manager - Neighbourhoods
S Cairns	Protection and Safety Manager
A Pegram	Development Control Manager
E Walters	Democratic Services Assistant

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

There were no apologies for absence

1. Declarations of Interest

There were none declared.

2. Notes of the Previous Meeting

The notes of the meeting held on Tuesday 6 May 2014 were accepted as a true record.

Councillor Cooper referred to page 3 of the notes where Shop Front Improvement Grants were mentioned and asked for a progress update. The Development Control Manager said he would go away and find this information.

The Chairman raised page 4 of the Notes regarding the presentation on the Council's work to promote economic development and the paragraph stating that this item should be included in the work programme in twelve months' time. The work programme would be amended to reflect this.

With regard to the request for scrutiny of public conveniences, Councillor Boote informed the Group that public toilets had been written about in other newspapers. The Chairman suggested raising this with Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire and Councillor Boote agreed he would do this.

3. **New Energy Initiatives**

The Executive Manager - Neighbourhoods informed the Group that officers had met with the British Geological Survey and were planning to hold a member awareness session in the first week in August at the Civic Centre during the daytime. It was intended that the talk would be given by a member of the BGS however that person was in high demand at the moment hence the delay.

Councillor Boote gave the name of an independent person Dr Riley who was also qualified to inform Councillors on the subject. The Executive Manager - Neighbourhoods said that Dr Riley would be borne in mind in case the BGS were unable to provide anybody.

The Chairman informed Members that on 11 June 2014 she had attended a meeting between Rushcliffe and Melton Borough Councils regarding the Landscape Capacity and Sensitivity Study to support Renewable Wind Energy Guidance. This had been a productive meeting and some sensitive issues were addressed.

4. **Role of Rushcliffe Borough Council's Regulatory Services in Encouraging Economic Prosperity**

The Executive Manager - Neighbourhoods introduced the topic saying that in the context of promoting economic development it was important to explore the issue of Regulatory Services. Occasionally and more often in the media such services can be perceived as creating barriers to business but hopefully the presentation this evening will aim to showcase how regulatory services are an important factor in building successful and compliant businesses.

The Environment and Licensing Manager, the Protection and Safety Manager and the Development Control Manager gave a presentation on their Regulatory roles. During the presentation several questions were asked by Councillors and comments were made:

The Chairman pointed out that good regulatory compliance could be a marketing tool as businesses could advertise that they had a high quality service and this would attract more customers.

Councillor Cooper asked about the extent of regulation by the European Union and in response was referred to the EU Services Directive as one recent example. Many areas of regulatory activity are covered by EU Directives which are then enacted into UK legislation. In response to a further question from Councillor Cooper the meeting was informed that the EU Directives were not a hindrance and the key issue was whether Regulation was a proportionate response.

The Chairman noted that Regulations could often be hard to understand. The Protection and Safety Manager acknowledged that the role of the Council was often one of a translator helping to explain and interpret the rules to businesses.

The presentation covered the success of the Pub Watch scheme, and in response to a question from Councillor Plant the Neighbourhood Manager informed that almost all pubs in Rushcliffe were involved with this scheme. The presentation also covered the Nottingham Best Bar None accreditation and awards scheme which may potentially be extended county wide and in response to questions from Councillor Plant further details were given of this scheme including the awards ceremony which took place in the summer.

Councillor Cooper asked about Nottingham City Council's Late Night Levy scheme and the likelihood of this being introduced in Rushcliffe. The Environment and Licensing Manager informed that there was no pressure to introduce this scheme in Rushcliffe.

The Environment and Licensing Manager informed that shop theft was a problem in Rushcliffe particularly in the Trent Bridge ward. Discussion was had regarding the security systems in local shops and concern was raised regarding the no challenge situation at the Co-op stores which appeared to be due to a national policy by Co-op.

The presentation covered fly-posting and Councillor Cooper pointed out that posters were often not taken down once the event they were advertising had concluded. The Environment and Licensing Manager informed Members that it was an offence to put posters on any street furniture including lampposts and benches but the Council used their discretion when deciding to prosecute offenders.

The Protection and Safety Manager covered the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme which gave a business a score out of five. This scheme covered all restaurants, takeaways (including vans/trailers), and most shops selling food with the exception of small low risk outlets. She informed that 90% of food businesses in Rushcliffe had been awarded a 4 or 5 rating. It was not mandatory in England for a business to display the score they had been given under the scheme however it was mandatory in Wales. Councillor Cooper asked about the prospects of it becoming mandatory in England and was informed that this was going through discussion nationally but was being held up as some large businesses were against it. Councillor Boote asked if a business was allowed to trade if they were given a zero score under the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme. Depending on the nature of the contravention the Protection and Safety Manager informed that businesses were allowed to trade under those circumstances though this might be whilst they were working with the Council to improve aspects of their Food Hygiene. Councillors were also informed of a Mobile Phone application which would shortly be available which enabled a person to see the Food Hygiene Rating of a business. In response to a question from Councillor Plant about the frequency of inspections the Protection and Safety Manager informed that approximately 80 businesses per quarter were inspected by one of 2 members of staff. Those members of staff also carried out follow-up visits to the businesses and the timescale for visits would depend on the nature of the failings identified by the Council. Following a poor rating, businesses were given time to improve their food hygiene and they could apply for a re-inspection to take place earlier.

The Chairman asked if a similar scheme to Best Bar None could be introduced in Rushcliffe. The Protection and Safety Manager informed that she was looking at awarding a certificate to businesses who consistently attained a mark of 5 on the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme.

The Primary Authority scheme was discussed and in answer to a question from the Chairman the Protection and Safety Manager confirmed that the scheme was a source of revenue for the Council. Currently the Council charged an annual fee for each arrangement which was then supplemented by a further charge of £50 per hour if further work was required. Rushcliffe's partnership with Boots was discussed in positive terms and the Protection and Safety Manager agreed with the view that Boots were using Rushcliffe as a valuable source of advice and information to aid their national compliance.

Councillor Boote asked a question regarding the licencing of street traders in Rushcliffe. The Environment and Licensing Manager informed that he had recently had a meeting with the Senior Licencing Officer regarding reviewing the arrangements for street traders across the Borough and particularly those who frequent the streets around the sports grounds. The Environment and Licensing Manager stated that he hoped to progress this work in the current year however he did point out that the legislation and due legal process of consultation was complicated and took time. Councillor Boote referred to street trader licencing schemes in other areas of the country and asked why this could not be replicated in Rushcliffe. The Environment and Licensing Manager advised that a local solution was required and other schemes could not be copied exactly as they were.

The presentation covered aspects of Development Control and town planning. In response to a question from Councillor Plant regarding the use classes percentages the Development Control Manager explained that the rules were not as rigid as in the past and the previous requirement of 35% of non retail uses was outdated. The new rules state that a balance must be struck between retail and non retail uses. The Chairman asked for further information on this and the Development Control Manager referred to the National Planning Policy Framework which had removed some of the guidance which addressed these issues before. There was no longer a percentage number which must be achieved, though the Development Control Manager was clear that an appropriate mix must be maintained. Current policy looked to avoid creating areas where retail units were isolated amongst a row of bars/restaurants etc. In answer to a question from Councillor Mrs Males it was confirmed that charity shops were still classified as A1 (retail).

The presentation from the Development Control Manager covered some of the planning applications for the Wilford Lane area. Councillor Mallender asked about progress on the approved Sainsburys store and was informed that development had been paused whilst Sainsburys concentrate on other sites. Sainsburys were also awaiting planning permission for a petrol station at the Wilford Lane site.

The presentation made reference to the Rushcliffe Means Business newsletter and the Chairman said that it would be useful if Councillors could receive this. This newsletter was distributed by email and Councillors would be added to the distribution list from now on.

Councillor Plant raised partnerships and other business initiatives going on in the local area. The Executive Manager – Neighbourhoods said he would raise this with the Executive Manager – Transformation and this information could be included in the next update for the Group on the economic development plan.

Councillor Buschman asked if there were any proposals to extend the shopping area on Central Avenue. The East side of Gordon Road was mentioned as a possibility. Councillor Mrs Males mentioned that the Ambulance Station was for sale. The Development Control Manager explained that the town centre boundary had already been extended down Central Avenue towards the Test Match public house to try and encourage more retail premises however this had been unsuccessful. The Council could try and encourage a particular type of development but they could not force a developer to take on a site and construct a certain type of premises. The Council had to respond to the type of applications that came forward.

5. Annual Report 2013/14

The following comments were made about the Annual Report:

Councillor Boote noted that Service Level Agreements were discussed at the Partnership Delivery Group and the Chairman confirmed that this topic had been passed to the Partnership Delivery Group.

Councillor Boote suggested that the Annual Report could include mention of Public Toilets and it was agreed to amend the report so that they were included.

Councillor Cooper referred to the section of the report relating to the HS2 consultation and asked for it to be made clear that Councillors were asked to look at station locations specifically and not the route. The Executive Manager – Neighbourhoods agreed to make this amendment.

Councillor Mallender asked if there had been three or four applications made to the Council for recording assets of community value. After some discussion it was confirmed that during the period 2013/14 there were three applications. Clarification was also given regarding an application involving the Spiritualist Church. It was made clear that this application was from a group of churches one of which was the Spiritualist Church.

6. Work Programme

The Executive Manager – Neighbourhoods informed Members that the presentation on new energy initiatives would require an additional session to be organised with BGS. There were also other topics under the economic umbrella which could be included in the work programme.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

Action Sheet

Community Development Group - Tuesday 15 July 2014

Minute Number	Actions	Officer Responsible
2 Notes of the Previous Meeting	a) Update on Shop Front Improvement Grants b) Council's work to promote economic development to be included again on the Work Programme for 2015	Service Manager – Communities Democratic Services Assistant
4. Role of Rushcliffe Borough Council's Regulatory Services in Encouraging Economic Prosperity	Councillors to be put on distribution list for Rushcliffe Means Business newsletter	Democratic Services Assistant

Responses

Minute Number	Actions	Officer Responsible	Response
2 Notes of the Previous Meeting	c) Update on Shop Front Improvement Grants d) Council's work to promote economic development to be included again on the Work Programme for 2015	Service Manager – Communities Democratic Services Assistant	Emailed to Members of the Group 18 July 2014 Added to the Work Programme in May 2015
4. Role of Rushcliffe Borough Council's Regulatory Services in Encouraging Economic Prosperity	Councillors to be put on distribution list for Rushcliffe Means Business newsletter	Democratic Services Assistant	Complete



Community Development Group

21 October 2014

Update on Delivery of Rural Broadband in Rushcliffe

4

Report of the Executive Manager - Transformation

1. Summary

- 1.1. Over the past two years, Nottinghamshire County Council has been leading a project to deliver rural broadband across Nottinghamshire. British Telecom has been awarded the contract to deliver the infrastructure required in Nottinghamshire as part of a £15.2 million programme.
- 1.2. Members will receive a presentation from the following:
 - a) Derek Hayden – Transformation Manager
 - b) Nicola McCoy-Brown – Economic Development Nottinghamshire County Council
 - c) Rob Crowder – Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire (RCAN)

2. Recommendation

- 2.1. It is RECOMMENDED that the Community Development Group consider and make comments on the presentation from Nottinghamshire County Council officers and a representative from RCAN on the rollout of rural broadband in the Borough and to note alternative solutions being delivered in other areas of the County.

3. Supporting Evidence

- 3.1. Broadband is a connection to the internet that is always on, allowing for constant access without the need to dial up. Fibre-based broadband is normally provided by telecoms companies at a fixed cost per month, and has a much larger capacity to send and receive data to and from the internet than the old dial-up internet connection. This makes web browsing, emailing, downloading and sending files much faster.
- 3.2. As the internet becomes more important in business and domestic life, fast broadband connectivity becomes vital. Broadband bundle packages can now include internet access, telephone and multi-channel TV. The Government is committed to delivering broadband access to everyone in the country, with minimum speeds of 2Mbps and access to a network capable of delivering superfast broadband speeds. Superfast broadband refers to the speed and has been clarified to mean at least 24Mbps
- 3.3. By the end of March 2016, 95 percent of Nottinghamshire homes and businesses will have access to the benefits of fibre-based broadband and the remaining premises in the programmes intervention area will have access to at least 2Mbps by the end of 2016.

- 3.4. Nicola McCoy-Brown, Broadband Programme Manager from Nottinghamshire County Council will be attending to give a presentation on the rollout of rural broadband across Nottinghamshire and progress to date in Rushcliffe.
- 3.5. A limited number of premises, approximately 2.5%, may not receive fibre broadband at all, due to technical difficulties in reaching the area.
- 3.6. Rob Crowder will outline possible solution to those homes (2.5%) that can't access a fibre based broadband solution once the better broadband for Nottinghamshire campaign has ended. There are a range of solutions from around the county which are both publicly or privately funded and Rob Crowder will highlight some of these and how they operate in rural areas.

4. Implications

4.1. Finance

4.1.1. There are no financial implications contained in the report.

4.2. Legal

4.2.1. There are no legal implications

4.3. Corporate Priorities

4.3.1. Maintaining and enhancing our residents' quality of life

4.4. Other Implications

4.4.1. None

For more information contact:	Katherine Marriott Executive Manager – Transformation 0115 914 8291 email kmarriott@rushcliffe.gov.uk
Background papers Available for Inspection:	Nil
List of appendices (if any):	Nil

Report of the Executive Manager - Communities

1. Summary

- 1.1. At the meeting of the Community Development Group held on the 18 March 2014 it was agreed that new energy initiatives should be included in the work programme and that in the first instance, as a priority, investigations should be undertaken in relation to the potential for shale gas extraction 'fracking' within the Borough.
- 1.2. A fact finding visit was subsequently arranged to the British Geological Survey in Keyworth to provide a summary of this technology and the potential reserves that may be located within the Borough. The British Geological Survey is a public sector organisation, responsible for advising the UK government on all aspects of geoscience as well as providing impartial geological advice to industry, academia and the public.
- 1.3. The visit held on 6 August 2014 was attended by 18 Councillors including the majority of members of the Community Development Group.

2. Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that Members

- a) Consider their own findings from the presentation by the British Geological Survey on shale gas extraction;
- b) Identify and agree if any further investigatory works are necessary; and
- c) Support the production of a briefing note for all Members.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1. There has been a lot in the news, from Government and from the energy industry about the need to identify new forms of energy to replace the dwindling north sea oil and gas supplies and our dependence on imported gas which alongside wind turbines, solar farms and anaerobic digesters has brought 'fracking' to the fore as a potential method of extracting gas from shale.
- 3.2. It was acknowledged that whilst any planning application for fracking would be considered by Nottinghamshire County Council as the authority responsible for the County Minerals Strategy, Rushcliffe Borough Council would be consulted on any application within the Borough.

- 3.3. The Group heard from national experts about the geology of the area and the location of potential shale gas reserves within the Borough. This confirmed that Rushcliffe could be a location for future fracking. However, these shale seams were identified at a significant depth well below the water table and a lot deeper than traditional coal mining activities.
- 3.4. The Members who attended the visit considered that they now had a good understanding of shale gas extraction technology and would be in a better position to respond to any concerns should an application be submitted.
- 3.5. The visit did, however, raise further questions particularly in relation to other organisations' responsibilities and the need for consideration of further investigatory work with for example the Environment Agency to understand their position in relation to the likely water usage requirements of any proposal should an application be received.
- 3.6. The summary of this work could result in the development of a briefing note which will educate and aid Members if any future applications are submitted in the Borough. This briefing note could cover:
 - the potential for fracking activity in the Borough
 - the current methodology for extraction
 - the local policy framework in operation
 - the different roles of authorities in considering and deciding an application
 - the potential impact on the Council and the local community.

4. Risk and Uncertainties

- 4.1. The British Geological Survey confirmed that the drilling and fracking operation does use significant amounts of water and that in this instance any approvals for water extraction licences would fall within the Environment Agency remit.
- 4.2. It is currently unknown where this would be likely to take place in the Borough.

5. Implications

- 5.1. The implication would be the large volume of vehicle movements to site to enable a frack to take place which is currently unquantifiable.

5.2. Finance

- 5.2.1. There are no financial implications.

5.3. Legal

- 5.3.1. There are no legal implications.

5.4. Corporate Priorities

- 5.4.1. Maintaining and enhancing our residents' quality of life.

5.4.2. Supporting economic growth to ensure a sustainable, prosperous and thriving local economy.

5.5. Other Implications

5.5.1. There are no diversity implications.

For more information contact:	Name David Mitchell Executive Manger - Communities 0115 914 8267 email dmitchell@rushcliffe.gov.uk
Background papers Available for Inspection:	NIL
List of appendices (if any):	None

Report of the Executive Manager - Operations and Corporate Governance

1. Summary

- 1.1. The work programme for the Community Development Group is developed around the corporate priorities that fall within its remit and takes into account the timing of the Group's business in the previous municipal year and any emerging issues and key policy developments that may arise throughout the year. It is anticipated that the work programme for the year will be developed in line with the priorities identified in the 4 year plan for budget savings.
- 1.2. Members are asked to propose future topics to be considered by the Group, in line with the Council's priorities which are:
- *Supporting economic growth to ensure a prosperous and thriving local economy - Our economy;*
 - *Maintaining and enhancing our residents' quality of life -Our residents;*
 - *Transforming the Council to enable the delivery of efficient high quality services - Our Council.*

2. Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that the Group notes the report and considers any future topics'

3. Reasons for Recommendation

Date of Meeting	Item
21 October 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Delivery of Rural Broadband in Rushcliffe • Investigation of New Energy Initiatives • Work Programme
20 January 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Energy Initiatives (solar) • Work Programme
17 March 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work Programme

Date of Meeting	Item
May 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraging economic prosperity • Work Programme

For more information contact:	Dan Swaine Executive Manager - Operations and Corporate Governance 0115 914 8343 email dswaine@rushcliffe.gov.uk
Background papers Available for Inspection:	Nil
List of appendices (if any):	Nil