

**When telephoning, please ask for:** Member Services  
**Direct dial** 0115 914 8481  
**Email** memberservices@rushliffe.gov.uk

**Our reference:**  
**Your reference:**  
**Date:** 12 January 2015

To all Members of the Community Development Group

Dear Councillor

A meeting of the COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUP will be held on Tuesday 20 January 2015 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 21 October 2014 (pages 1 - 7)
4. New Energy Initiatives - Solar

The Executive Manager - Communities will give a presentation.

5. Review of Parish Forums and Conferences

The Executive Manager - Communities will give a presentation.

6. Work Programme

The report of the Executive Manager - Operations and Corporate Governance is attached (pages 8 - 9).

### Membership

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

**Microphones:** When you are invited to speak please press the button on your microphone, a red light will appear on the stem. Please ensure that you switch this off after you have spoken.

**NOTES**  
**OF THE MEETING OF THE**  
**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUP**  
**TUESDAY 21 OCTOBER 2014**

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

**PRESENT:**

Councillors T Combellack (Chairman), S J Boote, B Buschman, J E Fearon (Substitute for D G Bell), Mrs M M Males, G R Mallender, E A Plant, F A Purdue-Horan (Substitute for L B Cooper) and J E Thurman

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Rob Crowder Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire (RCAN)  
Nicola McCoy-Brown Economic Development Nottinghamshire County Council

**OFFICERS PRESENT:**

D Banks Executive Manager – Neighbourhoods  
D Hayden Transformation Manager  
D Mitchell Executive Manager - Communities  
E Walters Democratic Services Assistant

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Councillors D G Bell, L B Cooper

**7. Declarations of Interest**

There were none declared.

**8. Notes of the Previous Meeting**

The notes of the meeting held on Tuesday 15 July 2014 were accepted as a true record.

Councillor Boote provided an update on raising the issue of public toilets with Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire and informed the Group that he had raised the topic for consideration as part of the 2015 Parish Forum work programme. The Executive Manager – Communities confirmed that he was still collecting feedback from the Parish Councils to develop the work programme. Councillor Boote stated that Councillor Clarke had said that he would raise the issue at a meeting of East Midlands Councils to see what other authorities were doing.

**9. Update on Delivery of Rural Broadband in Rushcliffe**

Nicola McCoy-Brown gave a presentation on the level of coverage of fibre broadband in Rushcliffe and how it was proposed this would increase in the future. The aim of the programme by the County Council was to push the level of fibre optic coverage from 86% and bridge the funding gap up to 95%.

1 million kilometres of fibre would be laid and 400 new green fibre cabinets would be installed across Nottinghamshire. So far 19 kilometres of fibre had been laid and 11,586 premises had already been passed by the fibre optic network. However, the owners of those properties needed to sign up and pay to get the upgraded service as it would not happen automatically as it was an opt-in service.

In response to a question from Councillor Fearon regarding the relative merits of copper cable and fibre optic Nicola McCoy Brown agreed that the copper cable was less effective. She informed the Group that the connection from the street cabinet to the properties remained the same under the scheme but this programme upgraded the cable going from the exchange to the cabinet. There were insufficient funds to deliver fibre optic all the way to the premises, though the scheme brought it as close as possible given the funding. In answer to a further question from Councillor Fearon the Group was informed that Radcliffe-on-Trent had good broadband coverage by Virgin Media which was a private provider and not included in the BDUK role out programme.

In response to a question from Councillor Boote, Nicola McCoy Brown informed the Group that BT were the only partner working with the programme, not Virgin Media. The network was an extension of BT's existing network as this was the logical solution. However, there was a choice of Internet Service Providers. Whilst BT were responsible for the uptake, Openreach were carrying out the work on the streets.

Councillor Plant asked about the communication strategy and was informed that this had several parts. The staff working on the streets had been provided with leaflets, and the cabinets had stickers on them informing people that Broadband was coming. The Internet Service Providers also had an obligation to post out leaflets. In addition there was a website which stated where cabinets were located and the date the Broadband went live in that area including a postcode checker. The issue had also been covered in Rushcliffe Reports and the Rushcliffe quarterly business newsletter. Nicola McCoy Brown drew attention to the Facebook page and asked for Councillors to encourage people to go online to gain information. The Executive Manager – Communities expressed the view that most people found out about internet developments in their area by seeing the workmen on the street and questioned whether there was a telephone number on the Openreach vans. The Group was informed that the weblink was clearly visible on the side of the vans.

The Chairman asked if the communication strategy made it clear to people that they had to sign up to get the Broadband and that they would not receive it automatically. The Transformation Manager stated that to date this had been made clear in the literature as people were referred to the Frequently Asked Questions on the County Council's website, however he would look into making this message clearer in future. Councillor Plant also made it known that she felt that the communication strategy was essential and that it needed to make clear to residents that the broadband facility was available to access. Nicola McCoy Brown informed that the County Council were recruiting a Community Engagement Officer who would visit Parish Councils and carry out work which she was currently conducting.

Councillor Buschman requested to know how many of the 3,740 premises to which fibre broadband was available had actually signed up to receive it. Nicola McCoy Brown stated that this figure was not known because BT were reluctant to share the information due to commercial reasons. However, there had been some movement on this point and they were working on getting access to information on which areas had a large takeup.

The Transformation Manager emphasised the key point was that as a result of the programme the properties had the choice to sign up for the broadband should they wish. Councillor Buschman asked an additional question on how unique Nottinghamshire was in implementing this scheme and was informed that most other Councils were doing the same. Nottinghamshire had the largest European Funding allocation for delivery of broadband. Councillor Buschman stated that he was of the view that this was a good programme though he was surprised that the information regarding how many properties had signed up for broadband was not available. Nicola McCoy Brown advised that a robust assurance process was in place. She agreed to provide a further update on the issue of take-up. In answer to a further question from Councillor Bushmann Nicola McCoy Brown stated that there was no set fee and the price range for the broadband ranged from £15 to £30 a month. It could vary depending on the package that the residents purchased. This programme delivered the infrastructure for the broadband access not the packages which come under the Internet Service Provider. In response to Councillor Fearon it was clarified that the fibre optic broadband provided by BT allowed residents to use a variety of different Internet Service Providers via their cables.

The Chairman asked whether Rushcliffe residents who had Leicestershire post codes would get their broadband provision from Nottinghamshire or Leicestershire. Nicola McCoy Brown stated that there was some cross border provision. The Chairman suggested that the Nottinghamshire County Council website should state that residents who were unclear should check the website of adjoining councils. This comment was taken on board by Nicola McCoy Brown. The Chairman asked what alternatives were available for post codes that were not going to get fibre optic broadband. In reply Rob Crowder mentioned other providers, including 4G and Sky in addition to the microwave technology.

In answer to a question from the Chairman, the Group were informed that the difference in size of the cabinets related to the capacity, and if the capacity of a cabinet was oversubscribed than additional cabinets might have to be installed in the same location. An example from Bassetlaw was given where in Shireoaks cabinets of the 288 size had already reached capacity.

There was a discussion regarding the areas in Rushcliffe which were not covered by BT fibre optic broadband and how this information was depicted in white colour on maps which had been submitted as part of the presentation. Councillors felt it would have been helpful if the areas covered by Virgin Media were shown on the map as well. The Chair stated that if this information was received then the authority could look at which organisations could supply Broadband to those vacant areas. Nicola McCoy Brown informed that it would not be possible to produce maps with that information because it was commercially sensitive at this time. There was a non-disclosure agreement in place.

Rob Crowder provided clarification on the terminology and stated that the 10% of the region which would not be upgraded to receive broadband was known as “the white bits”. This should not be confused with the white areas on the map which might be covered by private sector broadband. Rob Crowder also stated that it was the distance of the copper wire from the cabinet that dictated the broadband speed which was why some farmers had been saying that their service had not improved. Notwithstanding this, a huge number of people had had a fantastic improvement. Rob Crowder gave some details of how Bassetlaw were approaching the issue. They had been looking at other ways of delivering the broadband such as using churches and other tall buildings to bounce microwaves off. This system would complement the fibre optic services in the area. It would cost £180 to buy the boxes for this system and a £30 monthly fee. Sharps were setting up the equipment and Focus was handling the billing. Rob Crowder advised Councillors to think strategically about the different options for the Rushcliffe area as the Bassetlaw system used existing broadband backbone infrastructure to run their service and any replication of this would require investment on infrastructure.

Councillor Fearon questioned whether Nottinghamshire County Council and RCAN were in direct competition over the different services they provide. Nicola McCoy Brown responded that her organisation shared the same vision as BT and that fibre was the most future proofed method. You could not have microwave by itself in a particular location. There needed to be a fibre backwall. The availability of the product provided by Sharps meant that there was a choice in the market for some of the hardest to reach areas in the County.

Councillor Boote questioned whether the microwave technology was affected by fog or heavy rain and the answer given was that there were issues of that nature. Nicola McCoy Brown was of the view that having fibre directly to people’s homes was the ideal solution though unfortunately it was too expensive for hard to reach areas.

Councillor Purdue-Horan raised the issue of brand new homes not having broadband and questioned whether in agreeing planning permission for housing developments the provision of broadband could be part of the agreement. The Executive Manager – Communities agreed to look into it though commented that it would be difficult to have a one size fits all procedure for every size and type of development.

Councillor Combella concluded by referring to the 2.5% of premises which might not receive fibre broadband at all. Rob Crowder confirmed that there would be a few thousand homes which would not get fibre optic broadband to the cabinet and would therefore see no improvement.

## 10. **Investigation of New Energy Initiatives**

The Executive Manager - Communities introduced this item which was to give the opportunity for Councillors to feedback their views and questions on shale gas extraction (fracking) following the visit to the British Geological Survey. He was interested in specific questions for the Environment Agency in view of the water usage requirements of the process. Councillor Combella stated that

there was a need to know what areas of information the Environment Agency could provide as well as understanding the process from the point of view of a fracking company. The Executive Manager – Neighbourhoods informed that the role of the Environment Agency was detailed on their website.

Councillor Boote raised the question of what happened to the water after the fracking process was complete. Councillor Boote also advised that Rushcliffe should not copy the way fracking has been dealt with in the United States of America and should learn our own lessons in the United Kingdom.

The Chairman pointed out that Councillors were provided with maps at the British Geological Survey and those should form part of a briefing note. The Executive Manager – Communities was happy with this.

Councillor Fearon wanted to know about the regulation of fracking and codes of conduct. He wished to find out from the Environment Agency whether they had sufficient staff, such as skilled engineers, to deal with fracking issues.

The Executive Manager - Communities confirmed that the proposed briefing note would aid Members if any applications for shale gas extraction were submitted within the Borough. The briefing note would cover; the potential for fracking in the Borough; the current methodology for extraction; the policy/regulation framework in operation; the different role of authorities in considering and deciding an application and the potential impact on the Council and the local economy.

Councillor Buschman was of the view that Rushcliffe Borough Council should be more involved in the process of approving fracking applications such as conducting site visits. He was concerned that the Council would get the blame for any negative consequences of fracking. Councillor Fearon did not believe that visiting sites would be appropriate. The Executive Manager – Communities stated that the County Council would be the regulatory body and that Rushcliffe would be a consultee.

Councillor Mallender said that the Green Party was not in favour of fracking as they preferred the use of renewable fuel sources not fossil fuels. He pointed out that the location of the wellhead was not the only problem because the impact could be several miles in either direction underground. This could be under housing estates. He went on to discuss what could be seen on the surface as a result of fracking such as open pools of water and said that in reality it could be very messy. Councillor Mallender also questioned how fracking fitted in with the Council's aims to reduce its carbon footprint. He pointed out that there could be a large amount of vehicle movement as a result of fracking and lorries in particular could have an impact on the community.

Councillor Mrs Males expressed how much she had enjoyed the visit to the British Geological Survey and felt that the information gained would also assist with the Development Control Committee.

Councillor Fearon felt the Group needed more understanding of what a fracking site could look like above ground.

Councillor Plant felt that she required more information and that a further visit to the British Geological Survey would be beneficial.

The group agreed the recommendations contained in the report

## 11. **Work Programme**

The Transformation Manager suggested that broadband delivery be covered in 12 months time and this was agreed.

It was suggested that the YouNG Group could present to the Community Development Group in March 2015 and the Chairman agreed. Councillor Mrs Males informed that the next YouNG market would take place in November 2014 in East Leake.

The Executive Manager – Communities offered to move the item on Solar Energy which had been scheduled for January 2015 further back if further consideration on fracking was required.

Councillor Mallender raised the issue of the HS2 train line and referred to the announcement on the route which would be made on 27 October 2014. The Executive Manager – Communities informed that he had no further information on what would be in the announcement and Councillors would have to wait until the details come out on 27 October 2014. The Executive Manager – Communities stated that HS2 would only feature on the Work Programme again if the Council was invited to provide further consultation comments.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.



## Action Sheet

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUP - TUESDAY 21 OCTOBER 2014

Minute Number	Actions	Officer Responsible	Response
9 – Update on Delivery of Rural Broadband in Rushcliffe	<p>a) Produce one map with the current broadband network via BT boxes, overlaid with the purple colouring showing the areas in which this project would be delivered.</p> <p>b) In the second phase of the broadband role out, produce maps showing private coverage, the better broadband for Nottinghamshire coverage and the likely areas not to have coverage at all.</p> <p>c) Nicola McCoy Brown to provide a further update on the possibility of obtaining figures of Broadband take-up in Rushcliffe.</p> <p>d) Officers to look into whether the provision of broadband could be included within the planning process</p>	<p>Transformation Manager</p> <p>Transformation Manager</p> <p>Transformation Manager</p> <p>Executive Manager - Communities</p>	<p>As part of Contract 2 (2015) Nottinghamshire County Council will be revising the Intervention Area and reproducing the maps. Northamptonshire County Council have devised an interactive map, They would like to explore whether they could replicate this for our county. As the timelines for this are as yet unknown Members will be kept updated on progress.</p> <p>BT has proposed to provide geographical reporting of take-up data at ward level on a quarterly basis as part of their routine reporting. BT already reports on which cabinets have gone live (and which 7 digit postcodes they serve and the speeds), and will also provide a quarterly forecast showing the cabinets due to be built and the relevant postcodes. They will also report on take-up for cabinets grouped by age and degree of rurality compared with corresponding national averages (please note that this data is covered by the CSI provisions in the contract). It will therefore be possible to target take-up campaigns on areas served by new live cabinets and to measure the impact at the level of wards, as well as to compare overall performance with the rest of the UK. BT intends to roll out these proposals imminently.</p> <p>Whilst it is encouraged the provision of broadband cabling cannot be insisted on as part of a planning application</p>
10. Investigation of New Energy Initiatives	That the maps provided to Members at the British Geological Survey should be included within the briefing note.	Executive Manager - Communities	These will be included as part of the Briefing note to Members



**Community Development Group**

**20 January 2015**

**Work Programme**

**6**

**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
20 January 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Energy Initiatives (solar)</li> <li>• Work Programme</li> </ul>
17 March 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• YouNG update</li> <li>• Work Programme</li> </ul>
May 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encouraging economic prosperity</li> <li>• Work Programme</li> </ul>

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