

# NEW DEAL : NEW HORIZONS

Charity Number 4582937  
A Company Limited by Guarantee  
Registered in England

**Employment Theme  
Minutes held at  
Blakenall Village Centre  
on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2007 at 6.30 p.m.**

### In Attendance

John Jones Patch Rep. 3 / Vice Chair / Acting Chair

### Officers

Bob Crundwell Employment Theme Manager  
Paul Smith Community Development Worker  
Tom Davies Administrator

### Partners

John Brewer Steps to Work  
John Price Walsall EBP  
Stephanie Hammond Work on the Horizons  
Dave Rosser CAB  
Josie Cox Project worker Day Programme  
Tony Jeavons Chamber of Commerce / Leamore Ent. Park  
Peter Whitmore Independent Consultant

### Guests

Aric Lacoste ERS

- Apologies**  
Councillor Phillips  
Jean Jevons  
Roy Jones  
Bill Smith  
Charlie Robertson  
Paul Jay  
Graham Morris  
Ian Homard

Agenda Item		ACTION
2.	<b>Introduction</b> Introductions were made round the table.	

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3.	<p><b>Declarations of Interest</b>                  Declarations were made from the following:                  John Brewer                  John Price</p>	
4.	<p><b>Minutes of Last Meeting</b>                  These were approved with noted amendments.</p>	
5.	<p><b>Matters Arising not covered by the agenda</b>                  JP stated that the KS4 project had been granted funding through the Education Theme at a recent meeting.</p> <p>Amendments to minutes: John Brewer had sent apologies and was not present at the previous meeting; agenda item 6.b. should have been titled Financial Counselling and Benefit Take Up; and the word “spread” in agenda item 10. should have been replaced with the word “spend”.</p>	
6.	<p><b>Projects Updates</b></p> <p><b>a. Work on the Horizon</b> – A written report was presented to the group. Steph Hammond agreed to provide figures for the next Employment Theme meeting detailing the number of young people that applied for the construction project and the number of applicants that had been accepted. JB explained that Steps to Work would happily repeat the project, but a discussion with WHG would be required.</p> <p><b>b. Financial Counselling &amp; Benefit Take-Up</b> – A written report was presented to the group. DR was asked if CAB would be able to conduct an exercise to ascertain the reasons for their success over the coming months. DR stated that this would be possible and that he would report the findings at the next Employment Theme meeting. John Brewer raised the issue of possible expansion, but BC explained that this and other similar issues would have to be discussed after the evaluation of the project had been conducted.</p> <p><b>c. KS4 Transition</b> – A written report was presented to the group. JP explained that Walsall EPB are currently investigating a construction program that could be applicable to KS4 transition students.</p>	

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7.	<p><b>Employment One Stop Shop Evaluation</b></p> <p>AL gave a detailed oral presentation on the evaluation findings to the group. He highlighted the strengths and weaknesses of the project and gave recommendations to take the project forward.</p> <p>It was agreed that the evaluation demonstrated that the project has been a success and that the original targets may have been a little unrealistic.</p> <p>It was agreed by the group that the final evaluation should be completed by Friday 14/09/07, but that more should be provided if required.</p>	
8.	<p><b>Engagement</b></p> <p>BC explained that the Theme Group had identified over a year ago that more engagement with employers was required. BC reasoned that as there is no national initiative for engagement with employers, the Theme group had no examples or guidelines to follow.</p> <p>JB stated that he had received positive comments regarding the shop, but also accepted that there are issues around engagement with employers. He reasoned that addressing these issues should be a priority over the next six months along with raising the profile of the project amongst employers.</p> <p>JJ stated that despite his initial doubts regarding the location, he felt the shop had been successful.</p>	
9.	<p><b>Project Sustainability</b></p> <p>BC explained that New Deal would not be providing the shop with financial assistance after 2011 and that a community enterprise could keep the shop going. BC suggested an enterprise involving recycling washing machines, other household items and computers.</p> <p>JB reasoned that an electrical expert would have to be consulted in relation to the feasibility and safety of such an enterprise.</p> <p>TJ stated that legal requirements for such an enterprise</p>	

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	would have to be investigated as new regulations in regards to recycling household items had recently been introduced.  AL stated that he had worked with a similar enterprise in Wiltshire and that he may be able to provide any necessary information.	
10.	<b>Any Other Business</b> No other business was discussed.	
11.	<b>Dates of Future Meetings</b> Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2007	