

NEW DEAL : NEW HORIZONS

Charity Number 4582937
A Company Limited by Guarantee
Registered in England

**Employment Theme
Minutes held at
Blakenall Village Centre
on Tuesday 8th May 2007 at 6.30 p.m.**

In Attendance

Bill Smith	Trader Stakeholder/Theme Chair
Charlie Robertson	Patch Representative 14
Tony Jeavons	Business Park Coordinator
John Jones	Patch Representative 3
Peter Jay	Local Business Stakeholder
Graham Morris	Patch Representative 11

Officers

James Kelly	Interim Programme Manager
Bob Crundwell	Employment Theme Manager
Diane Jones	Theme Administrator

Partners

John Brewer	Steps to Work – Chief Executive
John Price	Walsall EBP
Keisa Pennington	Addaction
Roy Jones	Steps to Work
Louise Powell	Walsall MBC
Peter Whitmore	Regeneration Manager Black Country Consortium
Dave Rosser	CAB

1. Apologies

Jean Jevons
Ian Homard

Agenda Item		ACTION
2.	Introduction Introductions were made round the table.	
3.	Declarations of Interest Declarations were made from the following: John Brewer Roy Jones John Price	

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4.	<p>Minutes of Last Meeting These were accepted as a true copy. Proposed: Graham Morris, seconded: John Brewer.</p>	
5.	<p>Matters Arising not covered by the agenda John Brewer pointed out that the article about the Construction Training Programme featured in the Sunday Telegraph had not come from Steps to Work. An article was been produced for the New Start magazine and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation on the success of the construction programme.</p> <p>Meetings had been held with Leamore Business Park and work placements for New Deal residents are now in operation through the Work on the Horizon shop.</p> <p>Amendments to minutes: Charlie Robertson's apologies to be put in. Graham Morris to be put in the attendance sheet.</p>	
6.	<p>Projects Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Work on the Horizon – 2,500 new people have gone through the door since the shop opened 2 years ago. Leamore Business Park work is coming through to the shop and Bob C said that they must engage with the employers. b. Leamore Enterprise Park – Newsletters had been sent out to 140 companies 3 times in the park. Mail shots were done to the member companies of Leamore Park. There were not a lot of jobs about at present but this should pick up in the next 3 months. c. Financial Counselling & Benefit Take Up – Since its peak after Christmas it is now levelling off. Bill Smith said that the graphs once again showed a clear picture immediately. d. KSA4 Transition – Richard Cole working on the Construction Project run through New Deal and Work on the Horizon had won a top award at the Walsall Lifelong Learning. In fact 5 awards were awarded to residents from the New Deal area. <p>The evaluation has now been sent out and after the evaluation work has been completed there will be close working links between Employment and</p>	

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	Education.	
7.	<p>Future Projects</p> <p>2 articles had been received from Paul Jay about future training. More and more bureaucracy is being put on employers e.g. Health & Safety, qualifications etc. New Deal to work as ‘middleman’ for employers/employees in support for the “Train to Gain”.</p> <p>John Brewer asked about an environmental project re: clearing fly tipping, graffiti etc. covering the footprint area.</p> <p>The BVC has the training room facilities, conference room which need more marketing. We need to let organisations know what is available at the BVC. More publicity is urgently required. Also look at the whole of the footprint area for what training and conference rooms are available e.g. Blakenall Community Centre, Stan Ball Centre, Electric Palace. James Kelly to pass the lack of publicity on to senior management.</p> <p>Another project could be a Walsall Safer Taxi/Private Hire scheme. To ensure that passengers get the correct help and assistance when required. Bob Crundwell to speak to a taxi driver offering transport for the handicapped in the footprint.</p>	<p>JK to inform senior management</p> <p>BC to action</p>
8.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Bill Smith asked about the sustainability of the employment theme up to and beyond 2011. A paper to be prepared on the direct and indirect sustainability of the employment theme for the next meeting in July. James Kelly did point out that senior management were working on this at the present moment and he would keep the theme up to date on this.</p> <p>Work on the Horizon evaluation is now in hand and will shortly be advertised.</p> <p>Figures on worklessness borough wide are not improving. JSA (Job Seekers Allowance) is currently registering 1,500 people a month.</p> <p>The area is losing direct industrial jobs as factories close</p>	<p>BC to action</p>

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	<p>down. Work is now small companies doing finishing work and dependant on the larger companies for support.</p> <p>John Jones stated that doctors now had to wait for medical reports as they were now typed in India as it was cheaper. This does not encourage employment in administration. He was present at the Over 50s Celebration held at the Blakenall Village Centre when the spokesperson mentioned what money was been put into Blakenall. This was repeated on several occasions until John pointed out that New Deal covered Blakenall, Bloxwich East and Leamore not just Blakenall.</p> <p>Once again the lack of communication was prominent as the speaker did not know what the New Deal area covered.</p>	
9.	<p>Dates of Future Meetings Thursday 12th July 2007 Thursday 6th September 2007 Thursday 1st November 2007</p>	