

NEW DEAL : NEW HORIZONS

**Minutes of an Economic Development Theme meeting
held at the Blakenall Village Centre
on Thursday 15 May 2008 at 6.30 p.m.**

In attendance

- Bill Smith - Local Trader Stakeholder/Chair
- John Jones - Patch Representative 3
- Graham Morris - Patch Representative 11
- Charlie Robertson - Patch Representative 14
- Shaun Fitzpatrick - Patch Representative 15
- Paul Jay - Business Representative Stakeholder

Officers

- Bob Crundwell - Economic Development Manager
- Diane Jones - Theme Administrator

Partners

- Dave Rosser - CAB
- Cheryl Campbell - Seetec
- Ian Race - BC Enterprise
- Marlena Atkinson - Leamore Coordinator
- Mark Godson - B C Enterprise
- Stephanie Hammond - Work on the Horizon
- Jane Kaur-Gill - Walsall Council
- Mark Lavender - Walsall Council
- Andrew Rumble - Walsall BS Partnership
- Andy Haynes - WHG
- Richard Maunders - Addaction Manager
- Tim Johnson - Walsall MBC
- John Price - Walsall EBP

Apologies

- Paul Smith
- Colin Robinson
- Peter Whitmore
- John Brewer

Agenda item		Action
1.	Introduction Introductions were made round the table.	
2.	Declarations of Interest None.	
3.	Minutes of Previous Meeting These were passed as a true record. Proposed Stephanie Hammond, 2 nd Dave Rosser.	

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4.	<p>Matters Arising Not Covered by the Agenda Care Ambassadors – SH had been to a meeting and presentations would be conducted about work within the care industry and what the role is and how to get the qualifications. These will be held in various locations as well as WOTH.</p>	
5.	<p>Project Sustainability – The LAA Perspective TJ spoke about enhancing the relationship between ND and the Council and its other partners, using some of the good practices that New Deal have developed to aid people back into work.. To support employers as well as prospective employees. Walsall Council have received over £5m from the Government Working Neighbourhood Fund to support several initiatives including reducing worklessness in the borough. This is covered by local area agreement targets agreed between Walsall and the Government.</p> <p>TJ wanted the meeting to let him know what the problems are to getting people back into work, e.g. transport, child care, numeracy & literacy problems, self confidence in young people etc. so that a strategy could be worked on to solve the various problems. In addition, to look at other funding options that may be available in the future that can help get people back into work for the whole of Walsall.</p> <p>Following a question session BS thanked TJ and his team for attending the meeting.</p>	
6.	<p>Pathways to Work CC gave a short talk on the Seetec Centre. They have four bases in Walsall, Dudley, Wolverhampton and Sandwell delivering Pathways to Work, a DWP funded initiative to help people off incapacity benefits. They are a private company aimed at getting people into work. Running skills courses, helping with CV, giving confidence for interviews etc. They work closely with JobCentre+ and also have links with other agencies. BC explained that one of the major issues in the footprint was lack of confidence in getting back into work and also the culture of unemployment, Mum and Dad do not work so why should the children. Pathways to Work supports employers as well as potential employees, picking the right person for the right company.</p>	
7.	<p>Project Updates</p> <p>a. Work on the Horizon – no questions were asked about the report but well done from the meeting.</p> <p>b. Financial Counselling & Benefit Take-Up – this showed an upturn in clients and this will rise as the cost of living</p>	

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	<p>rises. DP is looking to do preventative work and training courses on debt management. He handed out a draft report and asked if replies, suggestions could be given to BC by the 2nd June.</p> <p>c. KS4 Transitions – JP handed out a newsletter, which showed an article on New Deal and the ‘Smart Choices Plan’. 170 employers attended a workshop and it will now be run in other schools.</p> <p>d. Business Incubator - there was a little concern about the numbers, but beer mats and flyers have been distributed and 2 applications are presently going through and 2 more are in process. MG is also in discussion with banks and letting agents as well to inform possible clients about the scheme and how they are able to help.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>Driver CPC – this will become compulsory from September 2008.</p> <p>BC thanked SH for compiling the report and told the meeting that Walsall College are thinking of taking the Driver CPC on board. The report requires refinement and work is still ongoing. A question was asked if this also applied to foreign drivers as well.</p>	
<p>9.</p>	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>InCom have 40 apprenticeships on offer and only 25 have been taken up. SH and SF are in discussion about they can be used to benefit youngsters.</p> <p>AH - WHG told the meeting that Hollemeadow would be fully operational in August and suggested that the August theme meeting could be held there so that members would be able to have a look round. The meeting agreed that this would be possible.</p> <p>The Work on the Horizon website is up and running and has links to other partners.</p> <p>The theme agreed that the meeting on 26th June should be a one item agenda and to invite Tim Johnson and his team to attend to discuss the problems and solutions for a enhanced working relationship with the Council and also other partners.</p> <p>The Chair would like Paul Rowlands to attend this meeting as well.</p>	<p>BC</p> <p>BC</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>Dates of Future Meetings</p>	

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	Thursday 26 th June 2008 – Project Sustainability Thursday 21 st August 2008 – to be held at Hollemeadow Thursday 16 th October 2008 Thursday 11 th December 2008	
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