



Action for a Better Charnwood

This is the first issue of the Action for a Better Charnwood (ABC) newsletter which we thought may be more interesting than minutes. We also hope to reach more people and invite them to come to our meetings which are generally held on the first Tuesday of each month. Details of meetings can be found at <http://www.bettercharnwood.org.uk/>

County's Long Term Residual Waste Project

April Meeting

County Councillor Max Hunt, who has been working on the County's project to find a long term solution to the county's waste problem spoke at our meeting on April 8 about the County's Long Term Residual Waste Project. He told us that although Leicestershire Councils are recycling about 40% of domestic waste, much of the rest has been going to landfill. By 2012 Charnwood hopes to recycle 50% of its waste, it hopes eventually to recycle between 50-70%. Melton currently recycles 50% , this includes a free garden waste collection.



A Residual Treatment Infrastructure is needed due to an EU Landfill Directive which requires reducing biomechanical waste BMW to landfill because of the:

- Increasing scarcity of landfill void space
- Increasing cost of landfill disposal (Landfill Tax escalator)
- Environmental Impact of land filling untreated waste

The Leicestershire Waste Strategy Action includes:

- Reduce and Reuse Waste
- Increase Recycling and Composting to 58% by 2016/17
- Develop new Waste Treatment Facilities to reduce dependence on landfill

The Waste Disposal Authority (The County Council) is to

- Increase recycling/composting at Recycling and Household Waste Sites (RHWS) from 40% to at least 60% by 2008/09
- Procure treatment / disposal capacity to meet 2009/10, 2012/13 and 2020 landfill targets

'The State of the Nation 2004' (ICE) estimated that 2,300 new waste treatment facilities will be required to meet 2020 diversion targets. The long-term procurement project aims to deliver an affordable and sustainable solution that will allow Leicestershire to meet and exceed its statutory targets for landfill diversion from 2015 onwards.



Councillor Max Hunt explained the options being considered by Leicestershire County Council. The ball-mill mechanical processor used by Leicester City council was shown on a short video clip. This process is being used by the City Council as it is acknowledged that recycling in cities is not done well, due to a combination of lack of space and culture. Waste goes into a drum where balls mash down the waste, magnets then attract metal, the plastic and paper are separated away. Ten percent of waste still has to be buried and burnt in cement works in Rutland. We were told that at Wanlip some waste is being composted.

Six months ago Leicestershire County Council announced the idea of an incinerator. This led to the panel being set up to examine the County's long term waste strategy. The group visited an incinerator in Sheffield which provides a district heating/energy system. Any remaining dust is made into products. There appear to be no noxious gases and Max said it was a clean process.

However, Leicestershire would need 180,000 tonnes of waste p.a. in order to commission an incinerator and it would be necessary to maintain that quantity. To do this would some recycled products have to be used?

Max told us that the County's tender requirement is that a certain percentage is recycled, by outcome and not by process; Not by specifying incineration or an MBT scheme. He said that it is a requirement that this process is spread throughout the county so that transportation is not increased.

Regarding the Shepshed landfill site, Max said that the quarry is appropriate for composting but not for an incinerator nor an MBT scheme.

- A full range of technology options were evaluated, including:
 - Gasification / Pyrolysis
 - Autoclave
 - Energy from Waste (EfW)
 - Various Mechanical & Biological Treatments (MBT)
- Two recycling performance levels
- 'Unproven' technologies scored poorly
- Deliverability & bankability was rated very important
- LATS compliance also high priority

- On the 24th July 2007 Cabinet agreed a Design, Build and Operate approach

With a 25 yr operational life with PFI as the preferred funding route; This provides for a 50% recycling and composting level. An EfW facility of circa 190,000 tonnes per annum specified (with CHP if feasible). The design and planning stage would start in 2010 with the facility operational by 2014/15.

However we were told nothing about two of the most fundamental elements of waste, these being reduce and reuse. Page 8 of the Implementation of the Leicestershire Waste management strategy council briefing of April 2008 does briefly mention these issues but no more than that. Is Leicestershire addressing these as this would help greatly with the waste problem?

Area Forums and Charnwood Sustainable Community Strategy

May meeting

At our meeting on May 6, Neil Lambert, Chief Executive of Voluntary Action Charnwood spoke to us about Area Forums which give people the opportunity to discuss local services with County, District and Parish Councillors and representatives from other agencies such as the Health Service and the Police. He told us that they are places where people can have their say about how local services can be improved and that they give people a sense of belonging and how they can relate to one another.

Each forum will have a question time. Some issues will be discussed in detail, those about which they have been contacted about before the meeting by email or phone. Through presentations and discussions on these issues, the forum will develop recommendations for further action. These recommendations will be followed up and responded to within 3 weeks of the

meeting, setting out what they intend to do. Where it is not possible to follow up recommendations, clear explanations will be given.

Area Forums will meet 2 or 3 times a year. Details of the meetings can be found at <http://www.leicestershireforums.org> or by contacting Richard Downing on 0116 3055823.

This was followed by Tony Stott, Chair of ABC talking to us about the Charnwood Sustainable Community Strategy. Charnwood Together, which is the Local Strategic Partnership that covers the Borough, has just begun a consultation process in connection with its new **Sustainable Community Strategy**. Responses are required by **30th June**.

The new proposed Charnwood Sustainable Community Strategy is available at: <http://www.charnwoodtogether.com/>
or
http://www.charnwoodtogether.com/~files/events/2008/05/13/consultation_charnwood_sustainable_community_strategy/attachment/0.

Government policy is to promote Sustainable Communities. The Department of Communities and Local Government see a sustainable community as one that is:

- active, inclusive and safe – with a sense of belonging,
- Well run – with effective participation and leadership,
- Environmentally sensitive,
- Well designed and built – in which sense of place is created,
- Well connected – with good transport,
- Thriving – based upon a flourishing and diverse local economy,
- Well served with services that meet people's needs, and
- Fair for everyone – including future generations

(See: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/communities/sustainablecommunities/whatis>)

A key function of Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs), such as Leicestershire Together and **Charnwood Together**, is through a Sustainable Community Strategy to create and deliver a “long-term, sustainable vision in an area”. This vision and the associated priorities will be delivered through a ‘contract’ agreed with central government known as Local Area Agreement (LAA). The Government now puts a stronger emphasis on a ‘place shaping agenda’ with a focus on priorities that will make town, village or community a better place to live. It also puts more emphasis upon performance and delivery with the LAA consisting of 35 negotiated targets (plus 18 statutory education and early years targets). Performance will be reviewed through the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA). The focus is now on the delivery outcomes for the area rather than the performance of individual institutions such as the County Council.

In its new strategy document, Charnwood Together sets out its vision and priorities for a sustainable Charnwood for the period up to 2013-2014. It has a strong focus on “the concerns affecting places and settlements within the Borough” and a strong emphasis on delivering specific strategic objectives in individual communities. Its overall vision remains: **“An improved quality of**

life for everyone living and working in Charnwood.” Four themes have been carried forward from the previous community strategy and these define the main issues to be tackled through the new sustainable community strategy. These four themes are People Matter, Places Matter, Prosperity Matters and Partnership Matters. Each of these themes covers a number of issues and strategic objectives and priorities:

- **People Matter** is about nurturing healthy and strong and accessible communities and involves reducing social exclusion, inequalities and deprivation, promoting healthy living, delivering an effective combination of local services, reducing crime and reducing car travel and improving access by public transport.
- **Places Matter** is about an emphasis on creating safe and liveable areas which are cleaner, greener and safer living environments and linking local actions to improve our living environment and contribute locally to global environmental issues such as climate change.
- **Prosperity Matters** is about maximising the opportunities for a dynamic Charnwood economy through investing in future jobs, buildings and services, especially the sustainability of towns and villages.
- **Partnership Matters** is about supporting and developing joined up thinking and action and involves partners working together across all sectors to deliver actions to implement the priorities of the strategy.

A number of strategic objectives are attached to each of these themes. These are set out on pages 4-6 of the consultation document. A number are of particular interest to ABC. These relate to transport and travel, access to green spaces, climate change, energy and resource usage, high quality development, affordable housing, town and village centres and the local economy.

Delivery groups are to be given the task of developing an action plans. Each delivery group will be given a particular remit. The **Climate Change Group** will be responsible for environment and sustainability issues as well as those relating to climate change and transport.

The Sustainable Community Strategy provides a strategic framework for the Local Development Framework (LDF). In other words, the LDF provides the spatial and physical dimension to this strategy.

If members of ABC have comments and points they wish to make about the strategy, please let me have them via e-mail (tony.stott@vavuprint.com) by **Friday 13th June** so that an ABC response can be formulated to this consultation.

For the slides of Tony Stott's recent talk to ABC on the ABC web site:

<http://www.bettercharnwood.org.uk>

or more specifically at:

<http://cms2.cuttlefish.com/files/12101856460163.pdf>.

Comments

The Department of Communities and Local Government see a sustainable community as one that is well served with services that meet people's needs. Indeed one of the four themes to be carried forward from the previous community strategy, is **Places Matter** with its emphasis on creating safe and liveable areas which are cleaner, greener and safer living environments and linking local actions to improve our living environment and contribute locally to global environmental issues such as climate change. However, soon after issuing this statement the Government was closing local post offices without any local consultation. Can this really be truly meant?

Performance will be reviewed through the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA), but what is this and who is represented on it?

Future Meetings

All of meetings start at 7pm and are at JSH, Wards End, Loughborough.

June 3 Richard Brown of Charnwood Borough Council (CBC) will speak about the core strategy. CBC will be shortly consulting on the new Core Strategy. This is part of the Local Development Framework. In the Spring 2008 edition of Charnwood News it was reported that the Inspectors did not favour an increased allocation in Loughborough but did strongly support the principal of urban concentration as the most sustainable approach to providing for future development needs..

<http://www.charnwood.gov.uk/environment/charnwood2021.html>

General Enquiries & Publications 01509 634769/634929

Local Development Framework & Local Plan 01509 634763/634927/634646

We will also consider The Sustainable developer guide issued by Nottinghamshire County Council and comparison will be made on how Charnwood is tackling sustainable development.

Nottinghamshire Sustainable Developer mini guides can be downloaded from <http://www.sdg-nottinghamshire.org.uk/> or by calling 0115 977 4538

July 1 Ian Drummond, Assistant Director of Transportation at Leicestershire County Council will be speaking on Congestion charging.

No meeting in **August**

September 4 We are hoping to have a presentation on Charnwood Transition Towns. Please note that this is a Thursday.

