



Action for a Better Charnwood

June 2008

Our meetings which are generally held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7pm at JSH, Wards End, Loughborough. Details can be found at <http://www.bettercharnwood.org.uk/>

Charnwood's Agenda 21 Campaign

County's Long Term Residual Waste Project

County Councillor Max Hunt, 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 all Leicestershire authorities are committed to 58% recycling.

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. 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.

A full range of technology options were evaluated, including:

- Energy from Waste (EfW)/Incineration
- Mechanical & Biological Treatments (MBT)
- Gasification / Pyrolysis
- Autoclave

Factors determining the choice of system are:

Associated recycling performance levels

'Unproven' technologies scored poorly
Deliverability & bankability was rated very important

LATS (green tax on landfill use) compliance also high priority

The Implementation of the Leicestershire Waste management strategy council briefing of April 2008 does briefly mention reuse and reduce. ABC believes that addressing these would help greatly with the waste problem.

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Area Forums and Charnwood Sustainable Community Strategy

At our meeting in May, 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 has a question time. Some issues will be discussed in detail.

There are special topics decided by the previous meeting. Senior officials are present to field questions and report back. Area Forums *which meet at locations throughout the borough* 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 305 5823.

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 08.

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

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

A key function of Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) is 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. *One would ask if the centrally decided closure of post offices really consistent with this?* 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.

The Sustainable Community Strategy provides a strategic framework for the Local Development Framework (LDF). The LDF provides the spatial and physical dimension to this strategy. The draft Charnwood Sustainable Community Strategy is available at: <http://www.charnwoodtogether.com/> Tony Stott’s recent talk to ABC on: <http://www.bettercharnwood.org.uk>

Future Meetings in 2008

All of meetings start at 7pm.

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

September 4 A presentation on Charnwood Transition Towns . Please note this is a Thursday.

