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 - University of Derby

the Derbyshire governor
 news from Derbyshire County Council Issue No 22 June 2006

Bold new era for services

Event bursts with talent

Successful youngsters achieve the right balance

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S NEWSPAPER

INSIGHT
 central and south DERBYSHIRE 6 MAY 2006 No. 107

Putting extra cash in older people's pockets: fantastic deal for county Gold Card holders

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TREATING YOUR MONEY IN SAME WAY WE WOULD OUR OWN

saferderbyshire
 NEWS ABOUT HOW WE'RE MAKING DERBYSHIRE SAFER Spring 2006

crime rate falls

burglaries tackling underage sales safety marshals on patrol protecting you from floods taking part in our young people improving road safety

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GOVERNOR

New ideas for special needs considered

Responses are being collated following a public consultation about a blueprint outlining Derbyshire County Council's plans for supporting children with special educational needs.

Governors, pupils, parents, teachers and other agencies that provide support to pupils with special educational needs were all consulted in a review about the way services are currently provided.

The information gained was used to develop a blueprint suggesting ways of delivering these services in the future. This formed the basis of the consultation.

The consultation was held to get the opinions of Derbyshire residents about all aspects of the way services are provided to young people with severe and other learning difficulties, visual impairment, physical impairment, hearing impairment, autism spectrum disorder and specific learning difficulties, such as dyslexia, dyscalculia and dyspraxia.



PLANNING CHANGES: Damian Purdy, a pupil at Ashgate Croft School, in Chesterfield, will be one of the students hoping to benefit from improved services being planned in the SEN review.

Some of the main ideas include:

- Increasing the number of pupils who can get help with special educational needs in mainstream schools without the need for statements
- Developing a greater level of specialism at all 10 special schools run by Derbyshire County Council
- Creating more enhanced resource unit

places in mainstream schools to help children with autism or physical disabilities

- Involving young people aged 14 to 19 with special educational needs more in decisions about their future.

Responses from the consultation will be used to direct the way special educational needs services are provided by Derbyshire County Council in the next few years.

They got the vote!



THE VOICE OF YOUTH: Newly elected Derbyshire Youth Forum members (back row l-r) Owen Bull, Rosie Copeland, Daniel Rudd, Jobie Kirkwood, Kate Bentley, Steph Coupe, Tom Raynor, Lauren Findler, Chris Birks, Toni Hale and (front l-r) Luke Avery, Laura Devergeri and Octavia Quinn.

A record number of young people have turned out to elect members for the Derbyshire Youth Forum and the UK Youth Parliament.

The Derbyshire County Council-run election - called the Big Vote - saw 20,592 votes cast by people aged 11 to 19 using text messages, the hi-line website or traditional ballot papers during a month-long period.

A record 72 candidates stood for the Big Vote elections, with two elected to the Derbyshire Youth Forum in each of

the county's eight borough or district areas. Four candidates were also selected to represent Derbyshire on the UK Youth Parliament.

A high profile publicity campaign, backed by Ellie Crisell from BBC's Newsround TV programme, and more than 100 Hastings events were organised by Derbyshire County Council to make all young people aware of the candidates, their manifestos and the different methods of voting.

Promoting open and honest relationship

Governors and headteachers are being advised to look at new procedures explaining how schools causing concern will be supported by Derbyshire County Council.

The procedures have been changed to take account of the new Ofsted inspection system and the Schools Standards and Framework Act 2005.

The document aims to clarify the roles and responsibilities of school advisors, governors and headteachers and to promote an open, honest and accountable relationship with schools.

Schools identified as causing concern receive additional time and resources from Derbyshire County Council education advisors. This could involve advice, training, monitoring and evaluation to support the work of the headteacher, staff and governing body.

The strategic director of children and younger adults and senior councillors will get regular reports on the implementation of the new procedures.

The guidance can be found by visiting the schools extranet at www.dnfi.org.uk and putting 'schools causing concern' in the search engine.

clerks' corner

The role of clerk to governors is an increasingly demanding one. We talk to SARAH EVERINGTON, clerk to governors at Duffield Meadows Primary School, about her work and the challenges she faces.

Aim to make governors feel part of the team

How has your role as clerk changed in recent years?

I've been a clerk for more than nine years and the role has changed substantially in that time. I used to attend six meetings a year, type agendas and the annual report and then update the school prospectus once a year.

Now there are more initiatives for governing bodies to consider and this is reflected by more meetings (20 last year) and in the workload and involvement required of the clerk.

How do you effectively support your governing body?

I normally bring spare copies of papers in case anyone's forgotten them and have scraps of paper to hand in case a ballot is needed.

As I also work in the school office I have a handle on other issues like budgets and personnel. I find this 'insider' information useful at governors' meetings.

What support do you receive in your role?

The headteacher, chair and governors are always available to offer advice. Derbyshire County Council's governor support office is excellent at providing help and their termly clerks' briefings are very useful too.

It's easy to forget that auditors are also there to advise on best practice. There are a number of websites and publications I find useful:

- Derbyshire County Council's Derbyshire Net for Learning at www.dnfi.org.uk and Government at www.governor.net.co.uk
- The Guide to the Law for School Governors
- The clerk's 'handbook' - available from governor support
- DfES produced governors' newsletters
- Clerks' corner in the Governor newsletter

What advice would you offer new clerks?

Don't panic or worry if your first few meetings seem a blur - a sea of faces all talking about things

you don't understand. It will all fall into place eventually. If in doubt about anything - ask.

I find it helpful to number the agenda items. I then put a similarly numbered Post-it note on the relevant papers. At the start of the meeting I lay out the papers in number order. It means I can easily grab the relevant papers during the meeting and it keeps the governors focused if they can see the mountain of work to be covered!

Remember governors will have done a day's work before getting to the meeting so a sense of humour helps when dealing with a heavy agenda.

How do you support the induction and retention of new governors?

● Induction
 We sometimes appoint 'mentor' governors to guide new members.

All governors are invited to meet the headteacher and look round the school when the children are present. Governors are also encouraged to attend training courses.

I send all new governors a welcome pack containing past and current agendas, contact numbers and documents explaining policy and current issues in the school.

● Retention

We rarely have a vacancy. We try to make governors feel needed and part of the team. If I feel a governor is frustrated or upset at a meeting I contact them the next day to try to resolve the issue. It is important everyone feels their voice is heard and their opinion valued.



PART OF A TEAM: Sarah Everington, clerk to governors, (right) meets with headteacher Chris Watkins about issues at Duffield Meadows Primary School.

Things to do in the summer term

- Consider and agree the procedure for the nomination/election of the chair and vice-chair in the autumn term
- Review performance management policy and clarify arrangements for the coming year
- Agree content of the school profile and school prospectus

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SAFER DERBYSHIRE



Work in Langley Mill involved tidying up a memorial garden

THE Big Derbyshire Clean Up is all about improving life where you live and hundreds of you have done your bit to make your community a nicer place.

Many of you are also still hard at work continuing projects which started as part of the countywide campaign last summer.

We asked you to tell us the things you were concerned about in your community and how we could help you tackle them.

Dedicated teams of police, council and community safety partnership staff then offered the support you needed to get involved and tackle issues like graffiti, vandalism, litter and anti-social behaviour.

It was a real team effort involving people of all ages and here's a round-up of just some of the improvements you made:

AMBER VALLEY

THE TOM NORMAN Memorial Gardens in Langley Mill has been given a good tidy up. A fence, new paths, a seating area, new plants and improved lighting will soon be added to the gardens. In Somercoles an area at the end of Blackstone Close, known locally as 'the dump' has been transformed into a park. The area has been cleared of brambles and weeds, gates have been installed to keep motorbikes out, and the area has been re-planted.

NORTH EAST DERBYSHIRE

DANESMOOR, Holmewood, Killmarsh and Eckington all had clean ups in the summer - and more than 40 tonnes of waste was removed from each area.

Residents helped to clear back overgrown shrubs at Devonshire Terrace in Holmewood and planted 2,000 bluebells. Benches and information boards giving the history of the area were

CHESTERFIELD

EIGHT streets in the Middlecroft area got a clean-up in November - 13 tonnes of bulky household waste including 32 TVs and 19 fridges were taken away. Volunteers helped to pick up litter and remove graffiti. A small group of offenders, supervised by the Probation Service, cleared an overgrown area of shrubs and litter and planted bulbs.



Skateboarders helped to clean up their park in Wirksworth



Teams of litter-pickers made a real difference in Ilkeston.

EREWASH

WEST PARK in Ilkeston was given a clean up by local volunteers who filled a van with rubbish from a litter-pick. Graffiti was removed from park buildings and a specialist coating used so any further graffiti can be easily removed.

St James's estate in Long Eaton had a free bulky waste collection day and residents helped with graffiti removal. Litter-picks have also taken place on Petersham Green in Long Eaton and in the Gallows and Larklands areas of Ilkeston. Residents also removed graffiti from play equipment at the Gallows play area.

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE

AN AREA outside Small Thorn Place flats in Woodville had a good tidy-up. Weeds were removed and skips provided for residents to get rid of rubbish.

In Swadlincote the bus station railings were given a new coat of paint and the Rinkway passage near High Street cleared of litter. A new fence and better lighting were installed at Newhall Cemetery. Bollards were also put in across the entrance in Oversetts Road to stop motorcyclists using the parkland.

HIGH PEAK

NEW MILLS residents have been busy making their community a nicer place. They've removed graffiti, repainted railings, cleared overgrown trees on the Sott Valley Trail, improved an alleyway near New Mills Primary School, created a raised boardwalk on the footpath at Mousley Bottom and put up new direction signs, picnic benches and waste bins. Pupils from the town's primary schools have also planted bulbs at the war memorial in High Lea Park. Meanwhile, Gamesley residents got involved in litter-picks, community skip drops and clearing rubbish left in local woodland.

DERBYSHIRE DALES

THE HURST FARM estate in Matlock had a clean up and rubbish collection day. A huge amount of rubbish was thrown out by residents and local children had a busy time litter-picking. Two recycling sites - Artists Corner in Matlock Bath and Shawcroft in Ashbourne - have been tidied and weeds removed. They've also had a new lick of paint and new signs are on order.

BOLSOVER

LAND just on the edge of Creswell Model Village had been used by fly-tippers, used by motorbikes and become overgrown. It's now been cleared of rubbish and stripped of all overgrown vegetation. Most of the site has been re-seeded with grass and a community garden started. Some derelict garages have been removed and a new parking area built. New paths and fences have been installed and street lighting has been improved. Residents say it will be a great place for children to play football and now feels part of the village.



Volunteers cleared away rubbish of all kinds in Creswell



Residents of all ages got involved in Long Eaton

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MEEM MATTERS (2002-2003)



"Supplier Diversity and Ethnic Business in the East Midlands" conference

Buying in a better choice

Conference takes first steps towards bridging gap between EMBs and mainstream purchasers

PURCHASERS of business services in the East Midlands are denying themselves a wider choice of potential deals.

"A lack of knowledge and information" is making purchasing organisations unaware of – and inaccessible to – an important and emerging group of suppliers.

The first steps towards bridging this gap were taken by Minority Enterprises East Midlands (MEEM), the first regional business network of its kind in Europe.

In conjunction with the First Enterprise Business Agency, MEEM held a workshop to discuss initiatives to increase the number of EMBs supplying goods and services to both public and private sector organisations.

Now a task group has been set up to look at developing a programme of action regarding procurement.

"Supplier Diversity and Ethnic Businesses in the East Midlands" – at the Mount House Hotel, Nottingham on April 29 – featured key speakers from Race for Opportunity, the Commission for Racial Equality and de Montfort University, Leicester.

"Ethnic minority businesses (EMBs) face problems accessing public procurement and making good use of other market opportunities," says MEEM project manager Jelani Ghulam.

"These problems may be related to EMBs being smaller than average and concentrated in particular sectors. It is also reported that many pur-

chasers lack the knowledge and information about potential EMB suppliers and use formalised tendering practices, which deter EMBs."

Mainstream senior decision makers – representing Business Link, local authorities, the NHS, army, police, fire service, environment agency and other organisations that carry out procurement – attended.

"Our objective is to identify steps to develop the supplier diversity agenda in the East Midlands," adds Jelani Ghulam. "The Department of Trade and Industry's Ethnic Minority Business Forum has identified supplier diversity as one of their key priority areas and the government is keen to encourage more public sector procurement opportunities for EMBs."

"Businesses face problems accessing public procurement and making good use of other market opportunities"



ABOVE: Ian Harrison of East Midlands Development Agency addresses the conference. Looking on are (from left) Sasha Barton of the Commission for Racial Equality, Duncan Sedgwick of Race for Opportunity, Mr Juma, chairman of MEEM, and Professor Mander Ram of de Montfort University, Leicester, and the Small Business Research Group. RIGHT: Sasha Barton speaks to delegates about amendments to the Race Relations Act. BELOW: Food for thought... delegates take part in a breaktime discussion. BELOW LEFT: An official line-up of the speakers.

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Would-be ethnic minority businesses, government support agencies, local authority business networks

Minority Enterprises East Midlands

Full project management - writing, design, print and distribution