GNP AGENDA

Autumn 2007:
Agenda is the quarterly newsletter of the Greater Nottingham Partnership
www.gnpartnership.org.uk

Hot in the City: the weather may not have been too good this summer but Nottingham is certainly hotting up in terms of regeneration

The Greater Nottingham Skills and Employment Board is recognised nationally as a good model to encourage training and skills to match local people to employment opportunities. The 'Making the Connection' project developed in Nottingham has now helped provide customised training and placed over 400 local people into sustainable jobs in the last twelve months. Congratulations to Nottinghamshire Business Venture; their Business Breaks for Young People programme funded by GNP has been chosen as the East Midlands Regional winner of the 'Enterprising Britain' competition. The national winner will be announced in the near future. The programme works with young people and schools to encourage them to set up businesses and to develop business skills for the future. Developing skills for the future is also the driving force behind a new engineering centre at Top Valley School. The centre, supported by Nat Puri and Toyota provides training opportunities for youngsters across the north of the area and encourages learning of vocational skills. It is equipped with state of the art engineering equipment and a modern car maintenance area. The 'Clever City' event held in July and supported by Cisco Systems was an opportunity to learn how we can harness new technology for the benefit of business and communities in the future. The presentation highlighted how cities such as Nottingham can develop technological advantages to enable us to maintain an economic advantage and also to develop a more inclusive community for our population. Finally, a handful of summer days have provided people with the opportunity to relax and enjoy the New Market Square – largely funded via European funds and emda/GNP. The square is now a fantastic usable space for events, celebrations and specialist markets and has attracted considerable national praise.

Martin Gawith
Chief Executive

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Wheelie Big Breakfast rolls into town

This Summer, office workers, students and shoppers came from all over Nottingham to enjoy a free breakfast at the third Wheelie Big Breakfast event on the Market Square – courtesy of The Big Wheel. Over 200 people attended the event – all of whom travelled there by bike.

Not only was there a free breakfast up for grabs, but there was also a number of bike retailers, including a Halford's Bike Doctor to give advice to new cyclists and run free bike MOTs.

One lucky person managed to get more than a free breakfast and advice that morning and won a brand new bike – courtesy of Evans Cycles.

Wheelie Big Breakfast
21st June 2007

The Big Wheel's Big Day Out: music and arts festival at Nottingham Castle

It's summer festival time again and Nottingham hasn't been left off this year's calendar. On September 22nd, the Big Wheel will be holding its very own music and arts festival – The Big Day Out.

Held in the beautiful grounds of Nottingham Castle, the Big Day Out is an unmissable event on the city's calendar. This year's programme boasts an impressive line up of performance artists and workshops including drumming and circus skills, not to mention the Luminarium – a huge structure of ever-changing colour and sound that is guaranteed to amaze visitors of all ages.

The message behind the Big Day Out is all about green transport and how we use it in Nottingham. The Big Wheel links all types of transport together – giving us more choice and helping us make Nottingham a greener, more pleasant place to live and work.

Other events and activities on the day include:

- Musicians
- DJs
- Healing Zone
- Food stalls
- Picnic area
- Sports activities
- Creative Tent
- Cool Camping Area
- Health check ups
- Public transport information
- Performance workshops

For information: www.thebigwheel.org

Get on Nottingham's Big Track

The next phase of information on Nottingham's Big Track is now live. The Big Wheel has issued a new and improved map to illustrate the ten mile off road route and also an online interactive version.

To help people walk or cycle along the route – running from Trent Bridge to Beeston Lock and popping up at the station, city centre, sports clubs and loads of workplaces – The Big Wheel has produced a podcast in six installments – find it at www.thebigwheel.org.uk and while you're there, check out the fascinating facts on arts, history and the wildlife of the waterways – both human and animal!

Local historian Chris Matthews delved into the riverside's murky past, while Richard Studdeny of CAMRA spent many a sunny afternoon researching refreshment stops along the route. We've also interviewed local residents who have their own tales of the River Trent.

Last year the Big Track was a big success – here's hoping that it can make an even bigger impact this time round. All 30,000 copies went last summer and we are matching that print run for this year.

The Big Track map illustrates Nottingham's ten mile off road route

Robin Hood Exhibition

Following the success of the new hit BBC Robin Hood television series, which attracted over six million regular Saturday evening viewers, Nottingham Castle has commissioned a bespoke Robin Hood exhibition based on the programme that will open in time for the screening of the second series during autumn 2007.

The exhibition will feature the latest audio-visual technologies and will include purpose-made presentations by the cast, behind the scenes interviews and an exploration of the making of the programme.

Visitors will enter the exhibition through a mock-up of Sherwood Forest and will meet each of the programme's characters through a series of specially written pieces before gaining an insight into the filming of the series via a number of displays featuring props, costumes, special effects and stunts.

In order to help stage the exhibition, GNP will provide £35,000 of capital funding to Nottingham Castle to meet the design and installation costs.

The Robin Hood exhibition opens in Autumn 2007

Enterprising Britain Awards

Business Breaks for Young People has been announced as regional winner of the Enterprising Britain 2007 Awards for the East Midlands. Established in 2004, Business Breaks for Young People is an innovative community-based enterprise programme run by Nottinghamshire Business Venture (NBV), and supported by the Greater Nottingham Partnership. The programme works with young people from disadvantaged areas of the city who are either at risk of exclusion or who are excluded from mainstream education. The programme aims to capture their imagination, and then encourage and support them to set up their own business. Each Business Breaks project runs over an eleven month period. Once businesses are established they are supported for at least a further six months. Those that continue beyond this time will continue to receive support from NBV mentors, while retaining links with other agencies and youth projects. Joanna Irons, Deputy Chief Executive of NBV said: 'This project reconnects young people living in communities in the inner city – specifically St Ann's, Sneinton, Top Valley and Bulwell; areas of the city which the media typically associates with deprivation, gun crime, drugs and family breakdown. Through this project we have created an environment whereby young people remain in school and off the streets – developing skills which carry them more easily and successfully into adulthood – enabling them to actively participate in the economy.' Leighton Pollard is just one person who has taken part in Business Breaks. In 2004, along with three other young people, he established a football academy for local children. The Nottingham Football Academy is still running today and plays an important role in the community. Leighton's dedication has paid off and he is about to set off for Atlanta this year, to coach football in summer camps to children ages 5 to 16. Leighton said: 'The Business Breaks project has put me back on the right path. It gave me the push and encouragement to be where I am now.'

Young people involved in the Business Breaks programme

International IT in the Community Conference

Accelerate Nottingham joined a host of organisations including BT, Microsoft and UK Online to present at a two day technology in the community conference at Sunderland University in July.
The event discussed current problems faced within communities and how IT can provide the necessary solutions.
Ian Lockwood, Accelerate Nottingham's Project Development Manager gave delegates an overview of Nottingham's Digital Challenge bid at the event.
For more information, visit: www.connectednottingham.org.uk

"The event discussed current problems faced within communities and how IT can provide the necessary solutions."

Making use of the hotspot in the city's Market Square

CMS Nottingham

Join CMS Nottingham and you can have your own web site built by professional designers – complete with its own domain name for only £400 (£200 for existing users). The CMS Nottingham project is open to organisations in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire that currently have a combined IT and marketing budget of less than £50,000*. Local organisations Nottingham Council for Voluntary Service (NCVS), Neighbourhood Development Company (NDC) and Connected Nottingham are all leading the project. Once built, your site will also automatically be included in the Connected Nottingham portal – part of NDC's Connected Neighbourhoods project.
For more information, email: ian.lockwood @connectednottingham.org.uk

*Offer applicable to not-for-profit and voluntary organisations. Annual hosting charge of £100 for year one and £15 domain name charge every two years.

The Clever City: New ways to work and play in Nottingham

At the end of June, over 100 people attended the Clever City: new ways to work and play in Nottingham event at Broadway Media Centre. Hosted by Greater Nottingham Partnership, Connected Nottingham was a key partner in the event and also linked up with technology expert Cisco to deliver a talk on technology's role in the future of our city.

The Clever City
New ways to work, travel and play in Nottingham

Employers reshape the Greater Nottingham Skills Board

Following recommendations contained in the Leitch Review of Skills, Greater Nottingham Skills Board has undertaken a review of its membership to strengthen employer representation at the meeting table. Newly branded as the Greater Nottingham Skills and Employment Board, the partnership is keen to ensure that they have direct involvement from businesses with first-hand knowledge of skill needs across the conurbation. Three new appointments will all join Jan Stanley from the Federation of Small Businesses and major public sector employers who currently sit on the Board. Their presence will mean that an in-depth knowledge of both private and public sector organisations is shared across the partnership, and the needs of businesses and growth sectors accurately informs future planning.

GNP has also recruited a new member of staff to lead on the Board's future development and delivery of its Strategic Plan. To that end, David Kirkham joined the Learning, Skills & Employability team on 20 August.

Further information on any of the above is available through www.gnlp.org.uk or by calling 0115 950 6371.

MAKING THE CONNECTION

WORKING FOR EVERYONE

Hucknall Market Place

Improvements to Hucknall Market Place are now complete

Improvements to Hucknall Market Place, funded by developer contributions from Tesco and a grant from GNP are now complete. The project has created a major new public open space in the area adjacent to the library and the church and improved other key sites in the town. Ashfield District Council has worked closely with artists, designers and Hucknall community groups, schools and businesses to create unique new public art features to improve the image of the town centre. A wide range of artworks reflecting Hucknall's past has been created – including references to coal mining, textiles and aerospace industries with key figures of local historical interest including Lord Byron and his daughter Ada Lovelace, Eric Coates the composer and Bean Caunt the prize fighter. The artworks have been designed as part of the improvement of a number of public spaces in the town centre to create interesting features relevant to local people and to attract interest beyond Hucknall to support local shopping and tourism. There is something for everyone interested in art and heritage in the town centre. From the imposing bronze miner's statue on Station Road, the painted murals at Baker Street, the unique street furniture and bronze poetry plaques and portraits at the new Market Place to the striking stainless steel 'Flight of Fancy' sculpture outside the Half Moon Pub.

"Ashfield District Council has worked closely with artists, designers and Hucknall community groups, schools and businesses to create unique new public art features to improve the image of the town centre."

State of the art Engineering Centre for Nottingham pupils

Top Valley School has teamed up with Toyota and learning providers Carter & Carter to open a state of the art engineering centre in the city – the first of its kind in the country – with grant support from GNP and emda. In September, the centre will be invited to officially join the UK's Toyota Technical Education Programme (T-TEP) and become the seventh educational establishment sponsored by Toyota in the UK. The purpose-built facility at Top Valley School, in the north of the city, offers extensive training in automotive engineering qualifications for young people aged 14 to 16 and is a resource for serving the wider needs of the local community. Top Valley School's partner schools and schools in the wider community will also make use of the new centre which will help to raise levels of achievement and attainment for many years to come. It marks a sustainable investment for the future of the local community and the needs of the national economy and represents a flagship model for future community partnership initiatives.

Peter Brown, Nat Puri and Rodney Westhead check out the centre with some students

New industrial development at Butler's Hill

Reclamation work by R&K Landscapes is nearing completion at Butler's Hill in Hucknall, which will bring forward approximately 3.2 hectares of employment land, close to the Butler's Hill tram stop on NET Line 1. Managed by Nottingham Regeneration Ltd on behalf of Ashfield District Council, the project is developing disused allotments together with an old landfill site to provide industrial land to meet the needs of local small and medium-sized businesses. The project has been supported by Single Programme and European Regional Development Fund grants delivered through a partnership of GNP, the Alliance and emda.

Giving business space to grow

Work is nearing completion on two new business parks in the Bulwell area. Sandstone Park and Pottery Way are designed to meet the needs of expanding Nottingham businesses.
The construction programme has been managed by Nottingham Regeneration Ltd on behalf of Nottingham City Council. Funding for both projects has come from emda's Single Programme and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) through GNP.
Built on reclaimed brownfield land, the new business parks will offer 35 office units ranging in size from 25m^2 to around 300m^2 and, it is hoped, will create or safeguard around 80 jobs.
The units are scheduled to open later in the year and will be let by Nottingham City Council.

New business park Pottery Way will open later in the year

Greater Nottingham Partnership

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