

WEST WILTSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES

- Minutes of the: **SEMINAR ON MIGRANT WORKERS**
- Held on: **WEDNESDAY 6 DECEMBER 2006**
- Held at: **COUNCIL OFFICES, BRADLEY ROAD, TROWBRIDGE**
- Present: Councillors Batchelor (Chairman), Baker, Blakemore, Brice, Burnan OBE, Carbin, Conley, Content, Davis, Fortescue, Hames, Knight, Manasseh, March, Mounde, Mudge, Oldrieve, Osborn, Phillips OBE, Ridout, Swabey, While and Wiltshire.
- Also present: Nigel Costly, Regional Secretary of the South West TUC, Acting Chief Inspector Glynn Hookings, Sarah Cardy, Manager of West Wilts Wide Citizens Advice Bureau and Alan Mundy, Human Resources Manager at Lyons Seafoods.
- Officers: Chief Executive (AP), Head of Human Resources (SL), Housing Services Manager (NS), Development Control Services Manager (DH), Sustainable Communities Services Manager (RR), Economic Development Officer (KJ), Community Safety Officer(IT), Personal Assistant(LR), Member Support Officer (MS) and Democratic Support Officer (KF)

114. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Lovell, Payne, Rosier and Viles.

115. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Swabey declared an interest as she currently works at the Job Centre Plus.

116. Announcements from the Chairman

Members were reminded that there were two forthcoming extraordinary meetings of the Council, the first one on 20 December to consider the Waste Collection Contract and to receive a presentation from the Job Centre Plus following a request from the Scrutiny Committee. The second meeting would be held on 11 January 2007 to give further consideration to the Local Government White Paper.

117. Introduction

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Seminar and advised that the purpose of the Seminar was to:

- give members a true picture of the migrant workers issue

- to provide information and facts that would help them to allay any fears and concerns their electorate may have and
- to share information on the recent growth in the number of migrant workers within the local community.

The Chairman explained that the Seminar was a partnership of various local agencies coming together to give their particular view on this issue.

The Chairman then introduced the various speakers who would be giving presentations during the seminar as follows:

Nigel Costley – Regional Secretary of the South West TUC.

Glynn Hookings – Acting Chief Inspector in North & West Wiltshire.

Alan Mundy – HR Manager, Lyons Seafoods in Warminster.

Sarah Cardy – Manager of West Wilts Wide Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB).

Contributions were also made by :

Nicole Smith – Head of Housing Services, West Wilts District Council.

Ishti Turner – Community Safety Officer, West Wilts District Council.

Nigel Costley – Regional Secretary of the South West TUC gave a presentation which set the scene by reminding Members and Officers that migrant working is not a new phenomenon, but has been a part of the work culture for centuries. Migrant working was now a global environment rather than a British/European environment.

He explained the benefits of migrant workers and the perceived risks.

The Chairman thanked Nigel Costley for his informative presentation and then introduced Glynn Hookings – Acting Chief Inspector in North & West Wiltshire. who gave a presentation on an overview of managed migration. Glynn Hooking also touched on what the Police were doing and was keen to put the message across that the Police will not tolerate hate crimes against the migrant worker community.

Sarah Cardy - Manager of West Wilts Wide Citizens Advice Bureau thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to take part in this multi-agency initiative and gave details of some of the topics that had arisen through her work at the Citizens advice Bureau.

Nicole Smith explained some of the topics and themes that had arisen through her work as Head of Housing Services at West Wilts District Council.

Ishti Turner, Community Safety Officer, West Wilts District Council outlined the work of the Sparkplugs Project which aims to integrate the Polish migrant worker community

with the local community and the traditional Polish community by adopting an educational approach and a networking facility.

The Sparkplugs Project meets fortnightly at Trowbridge Library where representatives of various agencies attend to speak on relevant migrant worker related topics. Although the project had been well received, funding for it was unclear after March 2007.

Alan Mundy, HR Manager, Lyons Seafoods at Warminster explained why his company employ migrant workers.

A debate then ensued, during which answers to the questions previously lodged by Members and further questions arising from the presentations made were replied to.

The Chairman thanked all the speakers for their input in what had been a very interesting and informative series of presentations.

(7.00pm – 9.40pm)

These minutes were prepared by Kevin Fielding who can be contacted on Telephone 01225 770322 or email kfielding@westwiltshire.gov.uk