

Welcome to the fourth issue of Talk Up The Town

the regeneration newsletter for Cinderford in the Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire.

This newsletter from the Cinderford Regeneration Manager contains information about progress being made to regenerate and revitalise Cinderford and its surrounding area.

The Forest of Dean District Council is leading on the regeneration of Cinderford working in partnership with Gloucestershire County Council, the Forestry Commission, the South West Regional Development Agency and the national regeneration agency English Partnerships. The partners are working together to prepare the Cinderford Business Plan which will promote both physical regeneration, and new learning opportunities in the town and its surrounding area. Importantly, the Business Plan will feed into the statutory planning process and will help underpin a new Area Action Plan for the town.

### Cinderford Business Plan

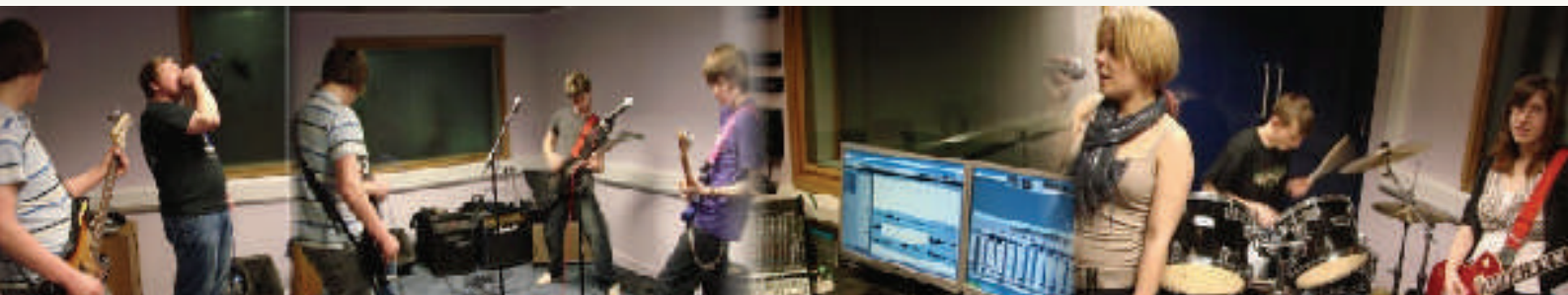
The Business Plan (Dec 07, Halcrow) and other supporting documents are now available to view and download from the website [www.cinderford2016.net](http://www.cinderford2016.net) Paper copies of the executive summary are available on request. This important document is being used to secure National Coalfield Programme and other public sector funding to initiate delivery of several priority projects.

A second phase of consultancy work to complete an Area Action Plan (AAP) for Cinderford is being planned for the Spring. The Business Plan provides a sound base upon which to develop the AAP as a new statutory planning document as part

of the District Council's Local Development Framework. Local residents and businesses will have a further opportunity during 2008, to comment upon the AAP before it is submitted to the Government Office South West.

### Cinderford MusicSpace

The long awaited arrival of Cinderford's very own music studio and practice space is now open. MusicSpace is located within the grounds at Heywood School and required a complete overhaul of the former caretaker's bungalow. The project attracted £28,000 from Cinderford Regeneration Board's *Quick Win* funding in 2006.



MusicSpace's new control room and local bands testing out the new space.

**Please send any comments or queries you may have about this newsletter**

**to Wendy Jackson, Cinderford Regeneration Manager: telephone 01594 812645**

[wendy.jackson@fdean.gov.uk](mailto:wendy.jackson@fdean.gov.uk)

[www.Cinderford2016.net](http://www.Cinderford2016.net)

A formal launch is planned in the Spring to showcase some of the bands and solo musicians now using this fantastic facility. Mark Bick, the project manager for MusicSpace said:

*“It has been a tough 3 years to get this project funded, off the drawing board and now finally up and running. I would like to applaud the many local volunteers who have spent many hours fitting out and decorating the building – they have done an excellent job.”*

MusicSpace is currently open as an after-school club for 11 to 16's on Wednesday and Thursday 3.15 to 5.15pm. To book practice rooms people need to contact: Mark on 01594 825667, or ring Tom or Dan at the building on 01594 825124.

## Bio-energy visit to Shropshire

On Monday 28<sup>th</sup> January, 16 members of the Cinderford Regeneration Board and Consultative Forum and other local stakeholders will be making their way to Shropshire to visit two very different bio-energy plants.

The first site visit will take in a bio-mass generator at Harper Adams College in Newport. Wood fuel technology is something the Board are taking a keen interest in, to discover whether wood fuels can support the energy requirements for future commercial and residential development in Cinderford.

Greenfinch in Ludlow is the second stop (shown below), and this will give people a chance to see a bio-waste digester in action. Anaerobic digestion (AD) turns organic waste into 3 useful resources:

- Methane rich biogas
- Concentrated fibre soil conditioner
- Liquid fertiliser



Forest Community Media will be joining the group and are planning to record the presentations and interaction during the day. This audio work will then air as part of the regular Tuesday lunchtime Regeneration Programme. The first twenty minute segment will be broadcast on 5th February between 12 noon and 1 pm. An edited version of the Programme will be available from the website [www.cinderford2016.net](http://www.cinderford2016.net)

## Business Breakfast at CKS Ltd, Forest Vale

Wendy Jackson, the Cinderford Regeneration Manager and Martin Davidson, Project Manager for the Miners' Welfare Hall will be two of the guest speakers at the next Cinderford Business Forum's breakfast meeting at CKS Limited on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> February. Wendy will be updating Forum members about the progress being made to regenerate the town.

Businesses interested to find out more will need to book a place by contacting Tina Norman at the Parklife office Tel. 01594 450058.

## Sewing Fest!

Joanne Lewis, the Cinderford Community Learning Co-ordinator has been working with the GL14 Community Project to organise a new event to help people use a sewing machine. Funding from the Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities has been used to buy a new machine and pay for an instructor to demonstrate its capabilities. The drop-in event will take place on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> February, at Bromford House in Hilldene.

Bromford Housing Association and Two Rivers Housing are kindly helping to promote the event to their tenants. Sara Weaving from GL14 will be also be on hand during the day and is hoping that as people have a go with the new machine, that they may also want to join her Textile Group. The Group are planning a Community Textile and are looking for other enthusiasts to help design and produce a fantastic public artwork.



## Wheels to Work

Joanne Lewis has also teamed up with Sunrise Training in Cinderford to pilot a new training programme that targets unemployed people and offers them a chance to learn to drive and brush up their basic maths and English skills at the same time.

Three local women have started the new course being delivered by Sunrise and Cinderford-based driving instructor John Underhill, in a bid to improve their future job prospects. This first course will complete in April and will be need to be evaluated before further places can be offered.

The following training courses and taster sessions are all currently available free or at a reduced cost if you live or work in Cinderford:

- **SAGE accounts** 1 evening per week over 10 weeks
- **Textiling** 1 day per week
- **Food Safety Certificate (level 2)** 1 day course
- **Personal motivation** 1 three hour workshop
- **Basic maths and English (level 2)** flexible drop-in sessions

**Contact Wendy Jackson for further details.**



## Miners' Welfare Hall

Sadly, the planned refurbishment and extension of the Miners' took a step backwards in late November last year.

The Lottery confirmed that it would not be providing any funding from the £50 million Community Buildings Fund to support this project. This Lottery Fund received over 2,000 applications looking for a total £588 million to support their projects.

Undeterred by this setback, the Miners' Welfare Hall Steering Group are working with architects GCP based in Bristol to review the refurbishment and new build cost estimates and will be investigating a range of options to take this project forward.

Around 60 current and prospective users will be contacted to identify whether there is still enough interest to justify investing in the proposed new build extension.

In March, a revised business plan will be presented to English Partnerships (EP), in a bid to secure Coalfield Programme funding to transform this building.



*Miners' Welfare Hall - front elevation*

## Community Projects

On 26<sup>th</sup> November 2007, Cath Stenson the District Council's Community Regeneration Manager and Wendy Jackson met with over 30 people keen to promote their community projects. The drop-in session at the Belle Vue Centre, has enabled Cath and Wendy to pull together a list of potential projects that are looking for funding to get them off the ground.

A number of funding bodies will be contacted over the coming months to explore what help there may be. Progress will be reported at the next Cinderford Consultative Forum meeting at 6.30 pm on 3rd March at the Wesley Hall, Belle Vue Road, Cinderford.

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