



## Issues for discussion

### 1. Car Parking

- a. Failure to consult as promised
- b. Public opinion against introduction of charges
- c. FSB concerned about
  - i. damage to commercial infrastructure of local businesses and services
  - ii. cost of collecting revenue
  - iii. administrative cost of handling complaints (outweight income benefits)
- d. FSB's experience of parking charges in similar areas is that the indirect costs of charging or car parking are a serious cash drain to the local authority and very damaging to local business and services.
- e. Car parking charges also have a significant impact on local cohesion – as people have to rush not to exceed parking time

### 2. Waste

- a. What actions have FODDC undertaken to realise the full recovery of the full value of waste materials? (We appreciate this is primarily a county responsibility).
- b. FSB (with 420 members in the Forest) very concerned at lack of promised consultation on action on business waste; although action is being taken on a new business waste scheme.
  - i. who has been consulted on this?
  - ii. what mechanisms exist for proper consultation?
  - iii. what mechanism are proposed for business waste collection and disposal?

### 3. Infrastructure and Energy

- a. Poor infrastructure is a major problem for the economy of the Forest of Dean – roads (affecting supply of raw materials), telephony, broadband, digital broadcasting, and postal services – all making FOD a difficult place to do business.
- b. FODDC very successful in getting broadband into the area – but quality is often worse than dial-up. For example, **DPI**, can't do business over the internet because it cannot transmit large graphics files with the broadband width we have.
  - i. what actions is FODDC taking to make these problems known to the appropriate authorities and agencies?,
  - ii. what strategic alliances are they forming to fight this case?
- c. At our previous meeting, we raised the issues of inadequate stability of electric power - short duration disconnections, spiking and power reductions being almost a daily event. These damage:
  - i. production equipment, especially electric motors
  - ii. data – causing data and file loss.
- d. What actions has FODDC taken following our last meeting on these issues?



- e. What representations is FODDC making about removal of the energy watchdog?

#### 4. Planning

Concern about how the Tesco application has been handled – very different from the way in which small businesses are dealt with. Does FODDC have:

- Environmental impact assessment (assuming site over .5 ha)
- Retail need assessment. Can the town really support another supermarket given its population?
- Phase 1 geo technical statement
- Design and Access Statement
- Statement of Community Involvement
- Ecology impact
- Sustainability (in line with PPS22)
- Draft Heads of Terms for a Section 106 Legal Agreement (see circular 05/2205 for planning obligations)
- FODDC response to Judicial Review?
  - Concern at Tesco's suggestion that FODDC use compulsory purchase to acquire the access from the Co-op. How may this impact on smaller businesses?
- Have all the statutory consultees been notified of Tesco's application?
- Land use:-
  - recreational space in town centre, mining, archaeological, wildlife.
  - Use of site as retail – a1 use class? or sui generis use class?
- Drainage & water run-off
- Roads, access & traffic – significant additional traffic movements (PPG13)
- Impact on water/electric demand
- Bus station
- Impact on the town and the local economy
- How have issues of design, mass, bulk, scale, landscaping, environmental, etc been dealt with?
- Planning contributions (cost/benefit to the Forest community)?
- Legal enforceability of agreements – see Arsenal/Emirates case
- Fit with LDF & RSS
- Impact on townscape – prominent location



In view of issues raise in the Judicial Review, evidently the Council needs to be exceptionally careful.

Will FODDC make copies of documents, etc. as listed above available to FSB.

**5. LABGI Funding**

Not happy that, in present economic climate, it is not largely being spent to help local economy.

**6. FODDC Website**

- a.** Difficult to navigate
- b.** No information about who officers are
- c.** Not current