

NEWS RELEASE

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Food for thought at networking lunch

The importance of creating and developing assets for community enterprises was the subject of the first networking lunch held recently by Derby City Partnership and Regeneration East Midlands. The lunches aim to encourage anyone involved in neighbourhood renewal and regeneration work to share experiences and develop wider networks across the city. Rachel Elliott, Chief Executive of Ibstock Community Enterprises Ltd was guest speaker and gave the experience of Ibstock – a coalfield priority area in Leicestershire. When the community suffered increased unemployment due to pit closures and the local bank closed, the reduction in incomes and the lack of access to cash posed a real threat to the 35 retailers in the community.

But it was particularly the loss of access to cash to spend in Ibstock which really got the community engaged. This led to the creation of Ibstock Community Enterprises Ltd which over the past eight years has set up a community shop, three community facilities, provided 20 community services and supported 50 local businesses to name just some of its successes. To ensure the sustainability of its work, Ibstock Community Enterprises Ltd realised the importance of owning assets and the need to differentiate between several types of assets. It was this key message that Rachel emphasised to her lunchtime audience.

In thanking Rachel for her informative presentation Helen Osler, Director of Derby City Partnership said. "There are some really useful lessons here for Derby's social enterprises. The purpose of these lunches is to share good ideas and best practice so more people can be inspired by and benefit from successful working in the city and the region. We are delighted to link with Regeneration East Midlands to provide these networking opportunities."

Susan Hallsworth, Skills and Knowledge Manager from Regeneration East Midlands explained "Regeneration East Midlands is one of nine centres of excellence in regeneration. The key aim of the organisation is to enhance the effectiveness of regeneration activity across the East Midlands by providing a range of programmes, courses and networks so people can learn from each other. We are always looking for people and partners to work with."

Derby City Partnership networking lunches and study visits are a great opportunity to meet new people and discuss local and regional issues. To find out more please contact Clare Labram, Learning and Skills Broker, telephone 01332 256932. A case study on Ibstock Community Enterprises Ltd can be found on www.renewal.net

Ends

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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Derby City Partnership is an alliance of organisations working together to create a better Derby.

Members represent

- public services
- local businesses
- community and voluntary groups
- individuals who live or work in Derby.

Since 1995, Derby City Partnership has been working to:

- develop closer and better working between organisations
- improve services and facilities
- attract funding
- make best use of all resources
- bring the work of all partnerships in the city together

Derby City Partnership is also the Local Strategic Partnership, delivering the National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal in the most deprived neighbourhoods of the city.

www.derbyes.co.uk

Regeneration East Midlands aims to improve regeneration activity through:

Better people, better practice, better intelligence and better organisation. Membership is free. For further details contact Susan Hallsworth, telephone 0115 979 2960

Ibstock Community Enterprises Ltd - ICE is a village-based development trust set up to address local economic decline and the loss of banking facilities. It now owns two buildings, one of which houses a one-shop-stop with cash point, building society agency and community resource centre. The other is being converted into managed workspace. Structured as a co-operative, membership is free and open to anybody living or working in the rural parish of Ibstock. A recent survey shows how local businesses have benefited since the introduction of ICE's banking resources.