

**EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE ADULTS AND COMMUNITIES
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 21ST JANUARY 2014****Communities and Wellbeing – Service Reductions**

- (i) Item S35 – Redevelopment of Snibston - At the request of the Chairman, Mr Voller, Lead Petitioner, addressed the Committee. He requested the Council to reconsider the current proposal which would see a refocusing of the Snibston offer on mining and the scheduled ancient monument. He drew attention to the fact that approximately 48% of the 8047 signatories to the petition resided in the Coalville area and that Snibston was an important local facility. He urged the Council to consider alternatives including partnership options, which would see the retention of Snibston on the current basis.

The Committee also noted a written submission made by the local member, Dr T Eynon CC, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

In reply to questions and comments the Committee was advised as follows:-

- The significant financial pressures facing the County Council had meant that all services of the Council needed to look critically at how they operated and make a contribution to savings requirements;
- The proposals to refocus on mining and the scheduled ancient monument and to reduce the current level of subsidy provided to Snibston Museum would be worked up in greater detail over the coming weeks once the Council had agreed the budget proposals;
- The detailed proposals setting out the proposed new 'Snibston offer' would be the subject of consultation with local community and other interested parties and there would be an opportunity for elected members to contribute to the debate prior to a decision being taken. This further work would include details about the cost of operating the future offer as well as any costs that would be incurred in terms of repayment of Heritage Lottery Fund grants and any costs that would arise from securing the museum's collections. This information together with details of the agreement reached with the National Coal Board regarding the use of the land would be made available to members prior to the meeting of the Scrutiny Commission;
- The County Council had a good track record of working with volunteers and local communities and as part of the consultation on the future of Snibston interested community groups and organisations would be asked to put forward proposals of their own

if they wished. Any such proposal received would be evaluated and would have to demonstrate that it was sustainable.

The Committee expressed the view that given that a significant number of Coalville residents had signed the petition and there was a clear view emerging that Snibston was a valuable local resource, North West Leicestershire District Council should, as a number of other District Councils had done, provide financial support for their local museum. It was noted that the District Council would be debating the matter later in the day.

“It was moved by Mr Sharp and seconded by Mr Charlesworth:-

- (a) That the attention of the Cabinet be drawn to the petition containing 8047 signatures of people requesting the County Council to honour its civic duty and continue to manage and fund this important local heritage site and resource for learning;
- (b) That, whilst accepting the requirement to make the savings identified, the Cabinet be asked to defer the current working assumption to refocus the existing Snibston offer on mining and the Scheduled Ancient Monument and to work with the Friends of Snibston over the next twelve months to develop an on-going and sustainable solution which will retain the existing Snibston offer within the new reduced financial envelope now proposed.”

The motion was put and not carried, four members voting for the motion and five against.

(The Committee was advised that in line with normal practice the contents of the resolution above, which was not carried, would be drawn to the attention of the Cabinet.)