

**From Trevor Mee**  
**Economic Development**  
**Ext 6421**

**Aylestone, Eyres Monsell and Freeman Area Committee**  
**Saffron & Eyres Monsell Employment Project Update**

**1. Background**

- 1.1 The Saffron Employment project and the Eyres Monsell Employment Project were funded via Leicester Shire Economic Partnership, Next Step and Leicester City Council with the majority of the money coming from the LSEP. The funding from Next Step was until June 2006 and the LSEP funding is until March 2007.
- 1.2 The project employed two workers one based at the Rolleston Centre and the other at Unit 9 Linwood Workshops, both bases provided ongoing employment related support to Saffron and Eyres Monsell residents. In September 2005 the worker based in Eyres Monsell left to take up a post with Surestart, her current cases were given the opportunity to access the Linwood provision.
- 1.3 Discussions took place with the Job Service Partnership (JSP) to see if the worker allocated to that area of the city could provide additional support. However they too had their own staffing shortages so this was not possible. We also looked at the possibility of using Standby Register staff but nobody on the register had the appropriate skills.
- 1.4 In December the position worsened when the worker based at Linwood left to take up a post at Next Step. We therefore were in a position of having no project workers in place and with limited time remaining on the contracts the likelihood of getting replacement staff in post was minimal.

**2. Current Position**

- 2.1 Renegotiations with the LSEP- they have agreed that the funding for 2005/06 and 2006/7 can be rolled together and that employment related activities could be contracted via a third party as long as the beneficiaries remain Saffron and Eyres Monsell residents.
- 2.2 The existing commitment to providing employment support to these areas will still be honoured, however the intensive one-to-one work / drop in provision provided in the past will not. The new type of provision will focus more on targeted areas of work and may include jobs fairs/interview skills etc.
- 2.3 The Job Service Partnership have now a Job Advisor in place who will have a Saffron/Eyres Monsell remit and discussions are under way to see if the Rolleston base can be reopened on a part-time bases.
- 2.4 Whilst the remaining Community Economic Development Officer based in Linwood will from February work from New Walk Centre her work areas will still include supporting existing commitments to Saffron including the Development Trust.

