

2nd December 2003

## **Visionary Conference**

Delegates have hailed the Vision 21 Conference held at QinetiQ on 1st December 2003 a huge success. Over 50 partners from the public, private and voluntary sectors attended "The Way Forward Conference" to give clearer direction and develop added value projects for 2004.

A variety of delegates from organisations such as Malvern Hills Science Park, Worcestershire Wildlife Trust, Farmhouse Flora, Bransford Garden Plants, Malvern Hills Conservators, Worcestershire County Council, Malvern Hills District Council and the Three Counties Showground, took part in several workshop sessions aimed at re-focusing the work of Vision 21.

Five workshop groups were each given the task at looking at two themes from the Community Strategy, such as health or transport in rotation. They were asked to detail what their organisation would be doing within the theme areas for 2004 and then what additional developments they would like to see within that area. The workshop sessions proved a great success with one delegate remarking on their feedback form "thank you for making the day fun!"

The conference was kindly hosted and funded by QinetiQ, who provided delegates with demonstrations of scientific and technological developments carried out on the site.

A great deal of work went into organising the event by the Vision 21 Working Group.

Sue Adeney, Chair of the Working Group commented: "The conference has provided the working group with detailed information about projects and initiatives that will be taking place in 2004 and the near future. It is essential that the Partnership develops these ideas and builds upon the enthusiasm generated at the event in order to make a real difference for the people of Malvern Hills District".

The Vision 21 Working Group is now working to develop these ideas and to start real projects with results that will make a noticeable difference to the community. Examples of successful initiatives established in 2003 are safe routes to schools which has been taken up by nearly all schools in the Malvern Hills District, award of almost 1 million funding for rural bus service improvements and the establishment of a young persons council.

Regular information and updates will be posted on the Vision 21 website that was re-launched in time for the conference; [www.vision21.malvern hills.gov.uk/default.htm](http://www.vision21.malvern hills.gov.uk/default.htm) and anyone who would like more information or details of how to get their organisation involved can use the web contact or call Rebecca Coffey on 01684 862437.