

Cinderford paves way for new college campus



• **Big plans for Cinderford.** From left: Cllr Graham Morgan, urban practitioner Alistair Macdonald, Cinderford regeneration manager Wendy Jackson, John Boutwod of English Partnership, Viver Nanda of Alan Baxter Associates consultants and urban practitioner Steve Walker.

A NEW college campus in Cinderford to rival Gloscol (formerly Gloscat) is up for discussion as the Cinderford Regeneration project takes a big step forward.

Consultants met Forest council officers and representatives from the regeneration agency English Partnerships on Tuesday to start a closer analysis of ideas to improve the town.

Plans are still in the preliminary stages but residents, schools and businesses will be encour-

aged to give their views.

The bulk of the funding for the new campus would come from the Learning and Skills Council and construction students might even be allowed to help with building work.

The campus would offer both vocational courses and foundation degrees, broadening the choice for Forest students.

Other potential projects could include a hotel and leisure centre with training facilities for local students, new homes and

new high quality offices.

A mix of public and private investment will be used for the other development.

A key priority for the planners is to fix the route for a new road to improve access to Cinderford.

Development in the town centre would not require any changes to the existing development plans, but plans for the north west area need an area action plan which will guide planning applications for the next 12 years.

Cinderford regeneration manager Wendy Jackson said: "We are now moving into looking at what is deliverable, especially in the current economic climate.

"Whether or not to have a new lakeside campus and training hotel is a business decision the college still has to make.

"We want to present the college with the options so they can decide whether it would be better to rebuild on their existing site or whether Cinderford would be a better location for them."