

# **Notes of the Wealden Local Strategic Partnership Meeting held on 29 April 2003**

## **Present:**

Fiona Henniker – Sussex Downs & Weald Primary Care Trust  
Councillor Rupert Thornely-Taylor – Wealden District Council  
Maggie Simons  
Chief Superintendent Paul Pearce – Sussex Police  
Chief Inspector Grenville Wilson – Sussex Police  
Debra Shandley – Sussex Learning & Skills Council  
Mike Rogers – East Sussex Fire Brigade HQ  
Mary Coburn – New Downland Housing Association  
Ian Chisnall – Churches Together in Sussex  
John Kelly – Wealden Federation of Voluntary Organisations  
Councillor Tony Reid – East Sussex County Council  
Councillor Tim Sparrow – Sussex Association of Local Councils  
Ken Stevens – Federation of Small Businesses  
Councillor Nigel Coltman – Wealden District Council  
Councillor Edwin Rice – Wealden District Council  
Charles Lant - Wealden District Council  
Charmian Allcock - Wealden District Council  
Diana Francombe - Wealden District Council  
Alison Horan and Sean Nolan - East Sussex County Council

## **Apologies:**

Gina Brocklehurst – Eastbourne Downs Primary Care Trust  
Liz Cadman – Sussex Enterprise  
Michael Fordham – National Farmers Union  
Melanie Hunt – Sussex Learning & Skills Council  
Peter Midgley – Environment Agency  
Aprile Biggs – Environment Agency  
Jeremy Leggett – Action in Rural Sussex

## **1. Matters Arising from the Last Meeting**

Fiona Henniker explained that some work had been undertaken to refine the action plans in consultation with each of the Theme Champions. It was now proposed that the action plans be referred to the Theme Partnerships to ask them to finalise the drafts. Those Partners who had some amendments to be made to the drafts were asked to refer them to the Theme Champions so that they could be taken into account by the Theme Partnerships.

At least one Theme Champion was concerned that their Partnership might not be able to undertake all the required collation of data but it was asked if the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) secretariat would be able to offer help with monitoring in such circumstances. In addition, Charles Lant advised the LSP that each of Wealden District Council's four Corporate Directors had agreed to represent the Council on each of the Theme Partnerships, subject to the agreement of those bodies. After the elections, the District Council would also

make a proposal to each of the Theme Partnerships to consider the appropriate level of Councillor representation.

Several changes and amendments to the list of involved partner organisations were notified and the proposed timetable for monitoring and review of the Community Strategy was agreed. It was clear that one or two of the proposed dates for future meetings were difficult for some of the Partners and therefore it was agreed that the LSP Secretariat would canvass for dates.

<b>Actions:</b>	<b>By:</b>
Formally refer the draft action plans to the Theme Partnerships, via the Theme Champions.	Secretariat
Canvass for the Partners with suggested dates for future meetings.	Secretariat

## **2. Community Strategy Website**

The Partners were advised that four domain names had been purchased by Wealden District Council and registered with an internet service provider. The current pages were being re-designed to reflect the style of the published Community Strategy document. The new design for the site was broadly welcomed although Councillor Thornely-Taylor reported that one of the photographs used in the Health and Social Care section of the Community Strategy document had also been used in another public document. It was therefore agreed that that photograph would not be used in the website design. Debra Shandley also requested that the proposed site be made accessible to those with less developed literacy skills.

It was confirmed that it was planned to make provision for recording the number of times the site was viewed and that the website addresses and email contacts of the partners would be double checked prior to publication. The usefulness of the site would best be judged from any feedback received from users and it was therefore proposed that the item be included on a future agenda of the LSP.

<b>Actions:</b>	<b>By:</b>
Finalise the content of the site, taking into account the comments of the LSP.	Secretariat
Publish the site and launch it with a press release and letters to all the associate partners and local stakeholders.	Secretariat

## **3. Parish Plan Development**

The LSP had previously undertaken to use the £10,000 National Grid Community 21 Award to support the development of Parish Plans. It was decided that small grants should be made available to the Wealden Parishes, aimed primarily at those parishes who had so far not undertaken any work. It was agreed that the grants would be launched at a Parish mini-conference to be held at the end of June 2003 and that the LSP would delegate the power to consider the bids to Fiona Henniker and Councillor Tim Sparrow.

One member identified the need to build a clearer picture of the distribution and needs of ethnic minority groups in the District. It was decided that, while the small fund of National Grid money should not be used to finance research in this respect, this was an important issue and each of the Partners could benefit from pooling information.

It was also reported that Action in Rural Sussex was developing a bid to the Community Fund for a Wealden-based Rural Action Plans Officer who would be employed to support parish councils in undertaking survey work and developing action plans. The bid was welcomed and it was agreed that, rather than wait until the next meeting, the LSP would delegate authority to Fiona Henniker and Councillor Tim Sparrow to endorse the bid before it was submitted.

<b>Actions:</b>	<b>By:</b>
Organise a mini-conference for Parishes in June 2003 to launch the Parish Plan grant scheme	Secretariat
Consider how information on ethnic minorities in the District can best be pooled and report to a future meeting	Secretariat
Endorse the bid by AiRS to the Community Fund for a Rural Action Plans Officer	Fiona Henniker/Cllr Tim Sparrow

#### **4. East Sussex County Council's Draft Community Strategy**

Sean Nolan explained that the East Sussex Strategic Partnership had envisaged the East Sussex Community Strategy as an opportunity to take a County-wide perspective, mirroring common themes, but without duplicating the work of the Local Partnerships.

Reassurance was sought that each of the districts' Community Strategies would be scrutinised to ensure that there was no conflict between the County and the districts' objectives. In addition concern was expressed that local residents might find it confusing to receive a second Community Strategy, especially if specific reference was not made in the document to the District's Strategy. However, it was agreed that the most appropriate way forward was for each Partner organisation to respond individually.

#### **5. Plenary Session**

Charmian Allcock explained that Plenary Sessions had been held in May 2001 and July 2002. These sessions were an opportunity for the Local Strategic Partnership to report on progress to the wider community and to seek views on the way forward.

However, there was no obligation to hold such a session on an annual basis and, as the Community Strategy action plans were still being finalised, it was agreed that such a session might be more useful at a later date. Potential dates for the next Plenary included October 2003, when initial progress could be reported, or early 2004 when several months progress could be reported and ideas sought on actions for the following year.

**Actions:**

Consider the most suitable date for a Plenary Session of wider partners and report to the next meeting.

**By:**

Secretariat

**6. Councillor Rupert Thornely-Taylor**

Cllr Rupert Thornely-Taylor was standing down from Wealden District Council and would therefore no longer represent that body on the LSP.

On behalf of the Partners, Fiona Henniker warmly thanked Councillor Thornely-Taylor for all his efforts during his year as Chairman of the Strategic Partnership. She considered that, without his valued contribution the Partnership would not have achieved so much in such a short time.

**The meeting ended at 5.15pm**