

# The Community Strategy



Dummy photo... one of LSP or community would be better

## What is a Community Strategy?

The Local Government Act 2000 places on principal local authorities a duty to prepare “Community Strategies” for promoting or improving the economic, social and environmental well-being of their areas, and contributing to the achievement of sustainable development in the UK.

The Community Strategy will ensure that the various bodies who provide services to the public:

- Are better co-ordinated
- Are responsive to the needs and concerns of local communities
- Are delivered in the ways that suit people who depend upon them, and
- Take account of the needs of future generations.

### The Wealden Community Strategy

was published in 2002 and covers a notional 15 year period until 2017

## How is a Community Strategy delivered?

A Community Strategy is delivered through partnership working. Public, private, community and voluntary sector organisations all have a part to play in improving the quality of life. These organisations group together under one umbrella to form a **Local Strategic Partnership** or **LSP**.

There are 16 members of the LSP and each one represents a key agency or organisation with a remit in the Wealden District. 8 of the members also act as theme champions for each of the eight theme partnerships:

- **Housing**
- **Safer Wealden**
- **Access**
- **Leisure**
- **Prosperity**
- **Learning and Skills**
- **Health and Social Care**
- **Environment**

**In addition to these themes the LSP has an overall objective to consider equalities, social inclusion, rural issues, sustainability and the needs and aspirations of the young and the elderly across all the main theme partnerships.**

The theme groups include representatives from a wide variety of agencies and organisations operating in the Wealden District with an interest in that particular area of activity. They aim to meet approximately four to five times a year and a number of these groups welcome new members and are keen to establish links with community partnerships

Each theme group has produced an action plan listing their main objectives and how they intend to address these. The actions plans are reviewed on a regular basis and include:

- Progress to date
- Key priorities for the future
- Challenges and opportunities for new ways of working with other theme partners.

Communities involved in preparing or implementing action plans may find the fact sheets and key contacts list a helpful starting point. They have been prepared on a theme basis and offer a number of prompts which interpret the community strategy at a local level.

See our website for further details:

**[www.wealdencommunitystrategy.co.uk](http://www.wealdencommunitystrategy.co.uk)**

The Local Strategic Partnership is responsible for delivering the Community Strategy and influencing their partner organisations in order to progress the Action Plans developed by each of the theme groups.

There are no prescribed rules or guidance imposed from above, however, the representatives of the member organisations must have the authority to speak for their organisation, to sign up to the long term vision and to commit resources to implementing the action plan, where relevant.

Day to day organisation is outlined in the constitution which can be viewed on the website.



Dummy photo

### **What is a Parish or Market Town Action Plan?**

A Parish or Market Town Action Plan is a vision of how you would like your village or town to be. For many communities it has been a stepping stone to applications for other grants and an opportunity to mobilise more interest and activity through volunteer support.

### **Making the Link between the Community Action Plan and the LSP**

The Local Strategic Partnership have agreed to accept Community Action Plans which have been prepared on the basis of extensive community consultation, are holistic and have the full support of the Parish or Town Council.

Action Plans can take a variety of forms according to the needs and wishes of each area. However, in order to facilitate dialogue with the statutory agencies and service providers there is a need to summarise the key priorities or actions so that the LSP can relate to them according to their own areas of responsibility with the Community Strategy ie, the eight themes – Housing, Safety, Access / Transport, Leisure, Prosperity, Learning, Health and Social Care, Environment.

# Wealden LSP

## Local Strategic Partnership

Proposals can then be looked at by the relevant theme partnerships who will make recommendations as to the level of support and funding which can be provided, if any. These will be agreed by the LSP as a whole in accordance with an agreed protocol.

Local communities have expressed a clear need for the statutory agencies and service providers to recognise their Action Plans and take on board the proposals in a pro-active and fully integrated manner.

**A process is required to ensure this happens and the following table suggests one way of achieving this:**

<b>CATEGORY A</b> <b>Community Projects</b>	<b>LSP Response</b>
<p>Locally managed or implemented Provides activity in line with the Community Strategy but does not necessarily require input from LSPmembers to achieve outputs.</p>	<p>Agrees principle and provides confirmation and support in writing; Strengthens case for activity; Used to add weight to funding applications where appropriate; Offers chance to apply for LSP Community Pump Priming Fund.</p>
<b>CATEGORY B</b> <b>Community Projects</b>	<b>LSP Response</b>
<p>Initiative which requires process or policy changes at operational level on behalf of statutory agencies/service providers</p>	<p>LSP Members offer professional support and advice; Consider changes in own activity to be more responsive to community need; NB Must take account of resources and competing demands across the district. Prepares a full considered response in writing, outlining what can and can't be done and reasons why.</p>
<b>CATEGORY C</b> <b>Community Projects</b>	<b>LSP Response</b>
<p>Larger projects which are likely to involve capital investment and /or infrastructure on behalf of statutory agencies and may take place over the longer term; Tends to fall outside the remit of the local community but has significant impact on the locality</p>	<p>LSP considers provision of funding and/or making significant changes to infrastructure in order to meet community objectives. Likely to be linked to overall strategy for a wider area. Agrees to work in partnership where activity affects the local community. Prepares a full considered response in writing, outlining what can and can't be done and reasons why.</p>

**If you have any comments or suggestions regarding this process please contact  
LSP Co-ordinator Caroline Adcock Tel 01892 602743 E-mail [isp@wealden.gov.uk](mailto:isp@wealden.gov.uk)**

Examples of Community Action Plans which have prioritised their activities in line with the Wealden Community Strategy can be viewed on our website and further reports will be posted as and when communities submit their main priorities to the the LSP for consideration and response.

The LSP will provide feedback to each community in writing and this will act as an informal contract which will be subject to monitoring and evaluation.

In doing so, the LSP recognises that the relationship between the LSP members and the community is a two way process which demands commitment and respect on both sides.

Opportunities exist for both the community and the statutory agencies to help each other deliver their aims and objectives, and to some extent this may involve trade-offs and compromise. The Community Action Plan should not be prepared in a vacuum. The vision must be realistic and take account of requirements such as the need to prepare for more housing if it is to be taken seriously. This will enable both the LSP and the Local Planning Authority to work with the community to achieve a more satisfactory outcome. In return, the community can expect a level of support and investment which enables them to fulfil their aspirations, providing they are in harmony with the Community Strategy and can be delivered across the District within a framework which observes the constraints of budgets and statutory responsibilities.

In order to facilitate realistic planning and embody best practice, the LSP are funding **Action in rural Sussex** to provide mentoring and support to communities undertaking Action Plans.

The LSP will try to make expertise available to those communities in order to stimulate best practice and plan effectively.



## Funding Opportunities

Wealden LSP Fund can provide modest grants to enable communities wishing to carry out Action Plans providing they have not already received funding from elsewhere.

Local projects identified through the Action Plan process which have LSP support and require limited funding to achieve objectives can apply to the LSP Community Pump Priming Fund. Maximum grant likely to be in the region of £1,500.

For further details please contact LSP Co-ordinator Caroline Adcock Tel 01892 602743 E-mail [lsp@wealden.gov.uk](mailto:lsp@wealden.gov.uk)

There are a number of other appropriate sources of funding which organisations and individuals can apply for such as the Wealden District Council Community Fund and the East Sussex Strategic Partnership "Making a Difference" Grants programme.

It is unlikely that funding will be made available from both the Wealden LSP and Local Authorities for the same project