

WEALDEN LSP

Minutes of the Meeting on Wednesday 12th July 4 – 6pm At Hailsham East Community Centre

PART 1

1.1 Those Present

Tim Sparrow	Wealden Association of Local Councils and Chair
CI Tony Blaker	Sussex Police
Cllr. Pam Doodes	Wealden District Council and Safer Wealden Partnership
Cllr Nigel Coltman	Leader of Wealden District Council
Cllr Roy Martin	Wealden District Council
Kathy Fordham	NFU
Jessica Britten	Sussex Downs and Weald PCT
Teresa Gittins	Action in rural Sussex
Charles Lant	Chief Executive of Wealden District Council
Nigel Hannam	Director of Corporate Services and Change Management – Wealden District Council
David Phillips	Head of Planning and Environment Wealden District Council
Alison Horan	ESCC
David Palmer	Head of Policy and Review Wealden District Council
Gill Cameron Waller	Policy and Review Wealden District Council

Apologies for absence:

Rupert Clubb	Environment Agency
Paul Smith	Environment Agency (newly appointed theme champion replacing Rupert Clubb)
Ken Stevens	FSB
John Kelly	WFVO
Cllr Tony Reid	ESCC

1.2 Minutes of the last meeting

These were approved as a correct record

Matters arising

Tim Sparrow commented on the LSP's interest in biofuels and hoped that the recently released statement from the Government on energy would provide support for this at the national level. Wealden District Council are looking at the options for local use as part of their greener, cleaner, brighter initiative and have appointed Cllr. Rowena Moore as the sustainability champion. Ideas include the use of biofuels in Wealden's own refuse vehicles and fleet of cars.

Kathy Fordham confirmed that Plumpton College and Blooming Futures are looking at developing a biofuel processing plant but no details available at present.

PART 2

2.1 Feedback on Your Views...You Choose

The response from the stakeholder event on 21st June was circulated and members of the LSP asked to comment on the findings.

CI Tony Blaker raised the issue of speed enforcement since this was the main issue arising from discussion in the Transport, Access and Community Safety workshops and also from the Parish Plans. He explained that limited police resources could not meet community aspirations and therefore any new measures to introduce 30 mph in villages could not guarantee enforcement. Others felt that it was still important to introduce the speed limit since it would have a calming effect on traffic. There is a growing momentum at parish level to push for 30 mph in villages across Wealden and some parishes are willing to organise local action teams to assist in monitoring speeds.

ACTION

1 If speeding is such a critical issue for the community the LSP should push for action.

Ideas might include a conference for villages with examples of best practice from elsewhere in the UK.

2 LSP to use evidence arising from Parish Plans and the Stakeholders conference to revise the Wealden Community Strategy. This should be presented to cabinet for approval and subsequently adopted as a basis for the Local Development Framework.

Re-organisation of the LSP

Now that the LDF process is fully underway the Wealden LSP are keen to support and inform the process by providing input from the updated community strategy and feeding into the consultation as fully as possible.

The LSP also needs to look at its membership to ensure members participate fully, represent key issues in the Community Strategy and integrate with other initiatives such as the LAA, Children's Trust and agenda for Local Government reform. It is important that reorganization takes these issues into account and the new White Paper, due to be published in October 2006, should inform these changes which must therefore wait for its release.

ACTION

Partners to suggest changes for re-organisation in the light of the White Paper and other initiatives

LSP meetings

In view of the fact that input from the Wealden LSP is required for the preparation of the Core Strategy, future meetings should be arranged on a themed basis to allow all members to make comments on particular topics of their choice. This is a particularly valuable opportunity, which will give members a chance to shape the future of Wealden and should be given a high priority and a focus for the LSP. This will not replace the fact that many LSP members are already statutory consultees but LSP meetings with all members present will provide an opportunity for shared information and discussion with possible trade-offs and joint solutions which may not otherwise occur. Some members expressed reservations about the value of providing useful input into the LDF since the general nature of feedback without relevance to site specific information could result in vague statements of intent which no-one could disagree with. Tim Sparrow accepted this but felt that planners and elected representatives needed to deal with site specific issues and that LSP members should concentrate on strategic issues and policies which are nevertheless useful in providing more meaningful input on how to deliver aspirations.

The question was also raised as to how the LSP would respond to issues, which fall outside a theme, such as gypsies and travelers, where a shared focus would help to develop a cross cutting policy or strategy for action.

ACTION

LSP and planners to arrange future timetable for themed meetings and circulate well in advance with briefing notes to ensure members have adequate notice of meetings and can canvas views or invite additional organisations and agencies as appropriate to attend for topics of particular interest.

Comments from LSP meetings will be used to inform the LDF process before draft policies are formulated and presented to the LDF Cabinet Sub-Committee. This offers LSP members a chance to influence policy at an early stage before usual consultation process has begun.

Wealden District Council is not obliged to take on board all comments made by the LSP but it will certainly strengthen their accountability and enable them to fight any challenges more effectively.

2.1 Report from Health and Social Care Group - Fit for the Future:

Jessica Britton gave a brief presentation on the future of the health service in Surrey and Sussex as outlined in the document "Fit for the Future" – further copies available on request.

She explained the main drivers and reasons for change, such as the need to address the overspend (3% of overall budget which equates to £20 million in East Sussex last year); need for more specialist services and medical advances; EEC working regulations which impacts on doctor's hours; fewer generalists and more specialists; need to keep people out of hospital and in the community and increasing numbers of elderly and associated demand on medical services. Jessica then gave options for addressing this including more services to be provided locally. This could be achieved in a variety of ways including expanded GP clinics, more minor injury units, specialist hospitals alongside more general hospitals and more care in the community. The balance needs to be struck between critical mass required for specialist units and easily accessible services, especially for those in rural areas. At present 90% of care happens outside the hospital setting and the LSP were keen that the needs of patients are given due consideration in this argument. Market towns are likely to be the focus for service delivery.

Comments are invited before the deadline of 25th July 06

To Angela Paice, Eastbourne Downs PCT

angela.paice@eastbournedownspct.nhs.uk Tel 01323 747710

Or via the website www.surreysussexfitforthefuture.nhs.uk

Discussion also took place around the proposals to re-organise the PCT's and the Strategic Health Authority. Wealden will be included in the Wealden and Eastbourne area, one of the two PCT's covering East Sussex. These will have separate management structures but may share posts

ACTION

Summary document to be circulated with minutes. Please send your comments direct

2.3 Update on Carnegie UK Trust

Action in rural Sussex and Wealden LSP have submitted a bid to the Carnegie UK Trust to test out a model for improving the links between the LSP and the Parish Plans process. This is an action research project to strengthen community consultation, which could attract a total of £30,000 over three years to demonstrate and evaluate best practice.

ACTION

A copy of the presentation outlining the Wealden Links Project will be circulated with the minutes. The application has been short-listed and will be considered by Carnegie UK Trust on Tuesday 18th July. If successful a further report will be presented to the LSP outlining the scheme in more detail

PART 3

3.1 Updates: East Sussex in Figures.

Paul Treadgold from East Sussex County Council gave an interesting and informative presentation on how to use the EsiF website. www.eastsussexinfigures.org.uk offered to provide one to one support to any member of the Wealden LSP who has further questions

LAA

Nothing to report at present and still discussing reporting procedures with GOSE. The annual refresh and six monthly progress reports are proving quite difficult to achieve since information must be gathered from a variety of partners

ACTION

Alison Horan to circulate the named lead of each of the four LAA blocks for ease of communication.

LDF

The consultation process on the Statement of Community Involvement elicited over 2000 responses. This is well above the average number for most boroughs and districts and demonstrates that democracy is an important process for the people of Wealden. Drop in sessions to explain the LDF process and the role of the SCI were held in a number of our major settlements.

There are still two more weeks for comments as the closing date is 31st July.

ACTION

Please will all members and wider stakeholders take this opportunity to respond to the SCI consultation. This is important, even if you are in full agreement with the proposals, as we want to hear your views.

COMPACT

Wealden LSP has already agreed to sign up to this in relation to direct activity and would endorse membership of organisations represented on the LSP

3.2 Any other business

Members felt that 3pm was a better time to start the meeting compared to the usual time of 4pm

3.3 Date time and place of future meetings in 2006

Wednesday 13th September

Wednesday 8th November

At Hailsham East Community Centre.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THESE MEETINGS WILL START AT 3PM (NOT 4pm)