

## Notes of Wealden Local Strategic Partnership Meeting - 13 November 2007 held at Heathfield Community Centre

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### Present

Ian Chisnall	Churches Together In Sussex - Chair
David Chaffey	Affinity Sutton
Karen Crozier	Community Network
Pam Doodes	Leader, Wealden District Council
Kathy Fordham	NFU
Teresa Gittins	Action in Rural Sussex
Neil Honnor	Sussex Police
Cynthia Lyons	East Sussex Downs & Weald PCT
Mark O'Brien	ESFRS
Paul Smith	Environment Agency
David White	Wealden District Councillor
Keith Whitehead	Wealden District Councillor
Chantal Wilson	Wealden District Councillor

### In attendance

Gill Cameron-Waller	Wealden DC, Policy & Partnerships Manager
Nigel Eveleigh	Wealden DC, Planning Consultant
Charles Lant	Wealden DC, Chief Executive
David Palmer	Wealden DC, Head, Policy & Review
Michelle Patmore	Wealden DC, Community Consultation & Engagement Officer
Tom Stuart	Wealden DC, Policy Assistant
Vicky Thomas	ESFRS

### Apologies

Lisa Compton	East Sussex Downs & Weald PCT
Jeff Hart	Freedom Leisure
Alison Horan	ESCC (for Cllr Tony Reid)
Trevor Leggo	Sussex Association of Local Councils
Peter Minshull	Highways Agency
Martin Small	South Downs Joint Committee
Richard Watson	East Sussex Downs & Weald PCT

**Minutes – matters arising** The notes of the last meeting were agreed and matters arising dealt with under the relevant agenda items.

**PCT Strategic Commissioning Plan & Joint Service Needs Assessment** Cynthia explained the processes behind the development of the SCP and the JSNA. The Department of Health issued strict guidelines which had been followed, and a considerable evidence base had been gathered and interpreted to underpin the findings and proposals. She brought several copies of the health data relating to Wealden District, much of which goes down to ward level. This data is being published on the PCT website, and will be integrated into East Sussex in Figures as soon as possible so that it is available for everyone to use. This is part of an ongoing process and as more data becomes available it will be added to create a more sophisticated picture of health in the area. The Health Improvement Partnerships are reflecting on how partners might help to take things forward, and a number of 'Closer to Home' consultation events had been taking place throughout East Sussex.

**Local Development Framework** Keith Whitehead gave a brief update on the current status of the development of the LDF Core Strategy and an overview of what to expect during the coming months. The next major consultation document will be the 'Preferred Options' later in

2008, but he emphasised that the LDF team valued the ongoing input from and attention of the LSP partners. He introduced Nigel Eveleigh, the planning consultant working with the Council on this phase. Nigel described how there is a relatively narrow window of opportunity to influence the preferred options stage, and identified some ways in which the LSP has the potential to assist, for example

- The structure of the LDF Core Strategy – the eight themes of the community strategy also sit within the core spatial strategy and it would be helpful to explore and understand the relationships – similarities and differences – so that the two strategies clearly fit together coherently.
- The LDF team will be working directly with each of the five main towns in Wealden to understand their local vision and objectives, but it is also important to give due weight to the needs and objectives of communities in the more rural areas. As the LSP has a track record of reaching out to communities, there may be an opportunity to engage with parishes to achieve a more complete understanding.

The Council's LDF Sub Committee had taken a decision on seven points:

- All new settlement options were discarded apart from Lower Dicker and Berwick which would continue to be considered to some extent.
- Sites around Polegate would be rolled forward
- Options would recognise a high urban content
- North Wealden – potential for a fairly even spread of development
- South Wealden – a range of options need to be tested due to a lack of consensus and infrastructure issues
- Contingencies – planning for a possible 20% hike in required housing numbers
- The vision would be founded on sustainability, infrastructure and key themes

In order to make progress with aligning the community strategy and the LDF core strategy the Board agreed that the January meeting would be extended to include a workshop session facilitated by Nigel and Caroline, starting with a light lunch at 13:00, and a short 'business' meeting after the workshop.

Discussing the need for defined input from partners, it became clear that whilst options for development are relatively general, it is difficult to provide specific responses. Emergency services respond to community needs, and there are no clear formulas – for example, an increase in population does not necessarily result in an increase in crime. Partners expressed their willingness to continue to contribute and to work to bring HQ thinking to the table.

**Delivering the Wealden Community Strategy** Tom presented the work he had undertaken in comparing partners' public plans with the community strategy priorities. It was encouraging to see that so many of the theme priorities are being addressed. Partners were asked to check for any gaps, and that their organisations' plans were fairly represented. The next steps are to define a simpler performance management framework with key indicators which we can use to monitor progress. Ideally this should link with performance management of the LDF.

**Potential projects** - Mark introduced the ESFRS bid for funding of £5000 from the monies ear-marked for Community Safety this financial year to support a LIFE course (Local Intervention in Fire Education). Vicky, ESFRS Youth Intervention Manager, explained that they aim to run two courses each year for young people who are at risk of offending in terms of anti social behaviour, criminal damage etc. The five-day courses, held in Uckfield, for 13 –

19 year olds are run on strict disciplinary principles using red and yellow cards as in football. The young people respond well to this approach and there is a 96% attendance rate. Participants undertake a mini fire fighter training, and also have to demonstrate that they have learned, for example about responsibility to others and being less individualistic and other life skills such as healthy eating and first aid. On completion of the course, there is a 'Passing Out Parade'. This provides an all too rare opportunity for these young people to celebrate their success, which reinforces the lessons learned over the five days. £5000 would support a course for 12 – 14 young people, and this could be organised to run in March 2008, which would fall within this financial year. Partners unanimously agreed to support this project and look forward to attending the Passing Out Parade in due course.

**LSP Capacity building** The four areas particularly identified for LSP capacity building are

- Alignment of community planning and spatial planning
- Developing a performance management framework for the community strategy
- A review of the theme partnerships
- Working more effectively with the voluntary and community sector

These areas, along with the LDF will form the basis for next year's LSP work programme.

**East Sussex Integrated Sustainable Community Strategy** The consultation on the draft strategy begins on 20th November 2007 and closes on 12th February 2008 – the full 12 week period in accordance with the county-wide COMPACT. Partners were reminded that whilst there had been no material changes to the Wealden element, context had been added, and it is particularly important to ensure that the over-arching county-wide sections represented Wealden's situation effectively.

**Forward dates for LSP Board meetings in 2008**

Month	Date	Day	AM / PM	Venue
January	15	Tuesday	PM	Herstmonceux Community Centre
March	12	Wednesday	AM	Herstmonceux Community Centre
May	14	Wednesday	PM	Heathfield Community Centre
July	15	Tuesday	AM	Herstmonceux Community Centre
September	17	Wednesday	PM	Heathfield Community Centre
November	18	Tuesday	AM	Heathfield Community Centre

**AOB** Action in Rural Sussex Annual Conference – as time was short, it was agreed to circulate Chantal's report electronically.

**Next meeting** Tuesday 15th January 2008 extended meeting starting with lunch 13:00 – 17:30 at Herstmonceux Community Centre.