

**Notes of Wealden Local Strategic Partnership Meeting – 14 May 2008
held at Heathfield Community Centre**

Present

Ian Chisnall	Chair, Churches Together in Sussex
Alison Horan	East Sussex County Council
Martin Small	Policy and Planning, South Downs AONB
Kathy Fordham	NFU Representative
Cllr David White	WDC Councillor
David Chaffey	Assistant Housing Services Director, Affinity Sutton
Lisa Compton	PCT, Director of Patient & Public Engagement & Corporate Affairs
Cllr Chantal Wilson	WDC Councillor
Trevor Leggo	Wealden Association of Local Councils
Richard Watson	East Sussex Downs & Weald PCT
Cllr Di Phillips	WDC Councillor
Ruth Hammerton	Sussex Police (for Neil Honor, Wealden Commander)

In Attendance

Charles Lant	Chief Executive, WDC
Peter Griggs	Head of Public Health & Community Development, WDC
Diana Carlick	Cultural Services Officer, WDC
Nigel Eveleigh	Planning Policy Manager, WDC
Nicky Millward	Policy Officer, WDC
Gill Cameron-Waller	Policy and Partnership Manager WDC
Lucy Dixon-Thompson	Note-taker, WDC

Apologies

Mark O'Brien	East Sussex Fire and Rescue
Cllr Pam Doodles	Leader, WDC
Karen Crozier	Hailsham Trust
Paul Smith	Environment Agency
Teresa Gittins	Action in Rural Sussex, Director of Policy

Notes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising

LAA – negotiations are continuing with GOSE and ESSP Partners regarding indicators relating to additional housing numbers and road maintenance. Ian offered thanks on behalf of the LSP to those working on the final submission.

Post Offices – Tom Stuart (WDC) attending a LGA conference today 'Supporting Local Post Offices'. Post Office Ltd are proposing that the Golden Cross Post Office (temporarily closed due to resignation of sub-postmaster) be relocated to the shop at Deanland Wood Park. Any comments on this proposal should be made to Caroline Hoare, Field Change Advisor, Post Office Ltd, PO Box 2060, WD18 8ZW by 24th June 2008.

Wealden District Council – 10 of the 12 Service areas have now received positive recommendations for the Charter Mark Award, demonstrating excellence in customer service.

The notes were agreed as an accurate record.

Matters for AOB

None

Finance

Copies of LSP budget summary 2007/08 and 2008/09 were circulated. Largest expenditure 07/08 was on LDF support, including meetings, special events and supporting a post to support/commit to the Design Guide.

Announced that Caroline Adcock will be leaving her post. Ian thanked Caroline for her help and support over the years and agreed to arrange for a letter to Caroline to express thanks and good wishes from the LSP.

£20,000 is available for 2008/09 project support. The LSP is supported using accumulated funds and is running on a reducing balance.

Possible Projects for Support

W4Y website – Safer Wealden Partnership requested support to refresh the site. PCT strongly supported proposal, the website has a positive impact on young people and relays health advice effectively. There are 4 sub-groups within the Health Improvement Partnership, each group has been funded with £10,000. The mental health & well-being sub-group has offered funds of £4,000 to refresh the site, **agreed** that the balance of £2000 will be paid by the LSP.

Green Gym – The Community Sport and Leisure Network Group (CSN) have investigated the possibility of running a 'BTCV Green Gym' in Wealden, with the aim of helping more people to do more exercise outdoors, whilst helping the community.

Propose to offer 3-hour sessions at no cost to the participant. Fits well with the aim of the Sustainable Community Strategy. BTCV has proposed 3 options: 1) 3-year scheme including full training of volunteers to continue project at end of the period. 2) 1-year project, no training 3) 10-week pilot.

Hastings & Rother PCT has SLA with BTCV. Rebecca Turner is the Cross County Health Promotion Specialist at the PCT. The CSN group will make contact with Rebecca to discuss best practice, outcomes, proven health benefits etc.

South Downs Volunteers also offer sessions on practical conservation, this can be investigated. Agreed to consider possible impact of voluntary groups undertaking work of the authorities i.e. grass verge maintenance and litter collection.

A number of questions were raised regarding bids for initial funding, insurance and sources for continued funding. Diana will take these to BTCV.

Next meeting of CSN 11th June. CSN agreed to contact Rebecca Turner. Kathy Fordham and Martin Small will be involved in the group if practicable. Also involve Sussex Police, Eastbourne YMCA & Vicky Lawrence from ESCC Rights of Way. CSN will report back to the LSP on 15th July 2008.

Other projects

As resources are so limited, there is no formalised bidding process, projects come to the LSP by partners approaching directly. If any members have suggestions for future projects please let Ian or Gill know.

Act on it – Double Measure c £250 per visit

A scheme where theatre groups visit schools. Evidence shows that using outside groups to visit schools is appreciated and effective. However, must be followed up by the school and embedded in the curriculum. Richard agreed to liaise with ESCC and Act on It to ascertain which schools may have already been targeted and report back.

LSP website

Acknowledged that there is little awareness of the work of the LSP amongst Parish & District Councillors and the public. A joint East Sussex LSP leaflet is going to print highlighting the work of the area LSPs but this is not Wealden specific. Suggested that the website could be re-designed and a communications strategy put in place. GCW to feedback at next meeting.

Local Development Framework

There has been some delay to the LDF programme due to changed circumstances. Three main strands of work are currently being undertaken:

1. Evidence gathering (a list of current studies was circulated)
2. Building & keeping relationships – particularly with infrastructure and service providers, but also including:
 - Working with each of the 5 towns to develop vision statements, leading to town master-plans
 - March 4th - new Parish profile template was launched
3. Reappraisal of where we are with work programmes – planning policy regulations are about to change, and new documents will shortly be issued by CLG including a revised Planning Policy Statement 12 which will set out the latest Government policy for development planning. WDC will be reviewing its Local Development Scheme in the light of these developments.

Engaging Parish Councils

TL reported that there are 10 quality parishes in Wealden, yet there is evidence that parish councils are failing to engage effectively with the LSP. This is a county-wide issue. WALC agreed to help LSP to raise awareness. Suggested a one-sided 'poster' advertising the achievements of the LSP. Trevor Leggo, on behalf of WALC, **agreed** to work with WDC to remind parishes to return Parish templates. Arrange for LSP to present to WALC.

Suggested articles be placed in Parish magazines, WDC Members Bulletin and website. Need to make communications relevant to local people e.g. farmers and residents, showing the value of working in partnership.

Health Improvement Partnership (HIMP)

Richard Watson gave a presentation on the work of the HIMP, which effectively acts as the Health and Social Care sub-group of the LSP and involves representatives from both Lewes and Wealden. The group has clear action plans identifying specific priority health needs. Discussion regarding how often HIMP should feedback to the LSP. Agreed that HIMP would discuss the relevance of particular indicators and feedback anything identifying cause for concern on a regular basis. Full feed-back on indicators to be presented to the LSP annually.

Housing Partnership Review

23rd May, Deans Place, Alfriston. A wide range of stakeholders have been invited to an event to explore barriers to housing delivery in Wealden. The event will operate under 'Chatham House Rule' to encourage participants to discuss in a very open and transparent way. Hope to reinvigorate partnership working relationships and gain a better understanding of issues surrounding housing development in the District. Those partners likely to have a direct interest

should have received an invitation via email, but please contact Gill Cameron-Waller for more information.

Next Meeting

July 15th 2008, Herstmonceux Village Hall.