

## **Notes of the Wealden Local Strategic Partnership Meeting on 20 January 2003**

### **Present:**

Fiona Henniker – Sussex Downs & Weald Primary Care Trust  
Ian Chisnall – Churches Together in Sussex  
Mary Coburn - Downland Housing Association  
John Kelly – Wealden Federation of Voluntary Organisations  
Jeremy Leggett – Action in Rural Sussex  
Cllr Tony Reid – East Sussex County Council  
Cllr Tim Sparrow – Sussex Association of Local Councils  
Ken Stevens – Federation of Small Businesses  
Cllr Rupert Thornely-Taylor – Wealden District Council  
Chief Inspector Grenville Wilson – Sussex Police  
Charmian Allcock - Wealden District Council  
Charles Lant - Wealden District Council  
Alison Horan - East Sussex County Council  
Sean Nolan - East Sussex County Council

### **Apologies:**

Michael Fordham – National Farmers Union  
Melanie Hunt – Sussex Learning & Skills Council  
Peter Midgley - Environment Agency  
Mike Rogers – East Sussex Fire Brigade Headquarters

### **03.01 Appointment of a Chairman for the ensuing year:**

Fiona Henniker was proposed by Grenville Wilson and seconded by Ian Chisnall to take on the role of Chairman and this was agreed nem con. In standing down from the office, Cllr Rupert Thornely-Taylor indicated how much he had enjoyed acting as Chairman and wished Fiona well in taking forward effective implementation of the Strategy. Fiona responded by thanking him for all he had done to launch the Partnership and to get it off to such a strong start.

### **03.02 Distribution of the Strategy and early reactions to the document:**

Charmian Allcock confirmed circulation of the Strategy during the preceding week to all households in the District packaged with the District Council's draft Local Plan brochure. The two publications were of similar size and appearance and the colours used had complemented one another well.

It had been particularly pleasing to receive a significant number of telephone calls by way of follow-up, many of which demonstrated that people had related the Strategy to their personal circumstances.

### **03.03 National Grid Community 21 Award and other publicity:**

Partners were pleased to receive confirmation of the Community 21 Award of £10,000 which was due to the pivotal role councillors had played in the 2002 consultation exercise and noted that the Award Ceremony would be held on 28 January and attended by Cllr Rupert Thornely-Taylor and Fiona Henniker.

They noted also the shortlisting of the District Council for the Local Government Chronicle's "Councillor Development Initiative of the Year"; also publicity within the University of Brighton's periodic publication relating to the consultation activity.

Partners hoped it would be possible to secure ongoing coverage during coming weeks in the local media on the basis of these awards.

#### **03.04 Work programme for the coming year:**

The paper circulated with the agenda entitled "**Applying the Community Strategy at a local level**" was discussed in the light of perceived expectations. It was felt important to ensure that information came back in a form structured to fit into the Community Strategy whilst taking proper account of local circumstance.

The possibility of local activity forming an appendix to the Action Plan was considered as was the County Council's acknowledgement of the need to take account, in the county-wide Community Strategy due to be published in June, of what was in the emerging Community Strategies of the five Boroughs and Districts within the county.

**ACTION:** Charmian Allcock to liaise (1) with Jeremy Leggett and his staff to prepare a set of draft guidelines to enable parishes to bid for funding from the £10,000 with any awards to be authorised by the LSP; and (2) with Cllr Tim Sparrow, who favoured the idea of a nominated parish contact, over contact with the parishes.

The paper circulated with the agenda entitled "**The role of the themed partnerships**" was discussed.

In discussing possible rationalisation of partnerships, it was suggested there were a number of reasons (some statutory) for existing groups and partnerships and that some of these would be co-terminuous with the District's boundaries, others would not be.

It was suggested that these be mapped, together with what they had achieved and were achieving in order to test what they could contribute to achievement of Action Plan targets. It was felt this was a task for the Delivery partnerships where those had been clearly identified.

Transport was cited as an example of a cascade of partnerships and, in view of these multiple partnerships, Cllr Tony Reid confirmed his willingness to continue as the sole theme champion.

It was felt further consideration should be given to the Environment theme in this respect as the Environment Agency forum (which is being formed across the whole of East and West Sussex) might be too large to be effective.

**ACTION:** Charmian Allcock to liaise with the relevant theme champions and to canvass views on preparation of a draft brief for theme champions to assist them in acting as the conduit to and from Delivery Partnerships; Charmian Allcock to devise a programme of activity for the year in line with the proposals in the paper (to include soundings as to preferred meeting times) and to report back on the nature and cost of the administrative resource required so far to support the LSP.

#### **03.04 Update on the website:**

Discussion on website needs for the future confirmed the desirability of separating out - as far as was practical and cost-effective - the LSP's domain from the District Council's. Following discussion, it was agreed that development of the site should have regard to the fact that - effective though the "Wealden Voices, Wealden Choices" branding was - the words that anyone searching the web were most likely to use were "Wealden Community Plan".

#### **03.06 Local authority budget consultations:**

Partners noted the opportunity to respond to further consultation on the District Council's 2003/04 budget papers. Sean Nolan then distributed a briefing note from the County Council on its budget proposals and confirmed he was happy to take individual comments arising.

#### **03.07 Child Rescue Alert:**

Grenville Wilson drew attention to this initiative, details of which are available on website [www.childrescuealert.com](http://www.childrescuealert.com) and was able to reassure partners that strict rules would be applied on all occasions before the scheme was invoked.

**Ends.**