

WEALDEN LSP

**Minutes of the meeting which took place on Wednesday 20th July 2005 from 4 – 6.30pm
Hailsham East Community Centre**

Those attending:

Tim Sparrow – Chairman of Wealden LSP
Mike Rogers – East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service
Christina Reading – East Sussex Learning Partnership
Ian Chisnall – Churches Together
John Kelly – WFVS
Cllr. Mrs. Pam Doodes – Wealden District Council (for Cllr Nigel Coltman)
Sarah Boden – Town and Country Housing Association
Cllr. Tony Reid – East Sussex County Council
Duncan Savage – ESCC (for Sean Nolan)
Caroline Adcock – Wealden LSP Co-ordinator

Guests and Presenters:

Alison Horan – ESCC
Jan Murphy – East Sussex Youth Service
Sherlyn Barrow – ESCC Global Grants
Caroline Lambert – Hailsham Trust
Amanda Hodge – Wealden District Council – regeneration

Apologies:

Cllr. Nigel Coltman
Jeremy Leggett
C I Rex Matthews
Rupert Clubb
Aprile Biggs
Fiona Henniker
Charmian Allcock

Introduction:

Tim Sparrow explained the format for this meeting and reminded everyone of the aims of the LSP in relation to the allocation of funding. He stressed the importance of partnership working but explained that we now had to decide on the basis of the projects before us in terms of what they were planning to deliver and how this might meet the aims and objectives of the community strategy. In future years this approach maybe replaced by a process which encouraged more strategic bids from partners but the LSP were faced with a number of projects bidding to this current round of funding which required a response. Other funding streams were already offering monies to grant aid projects and we should not be duplicating these.

The position in relation to Global Grants was also explained. Many of the projects submitted would be eligible for match funding from this fund which could mean a considerable reduction on the overall amount required from the LSP. However the need to satisfy Global Grant criteria and the fact that the total project cost could not exceed £10,000 did place certain constraints on inclusion of all bids.

A number of projects may require further work before they could be presented as a firm proposal but the LSP were asked to give their support in principle to those they would like to see developed further. Those which did not gain support may well be eligible for other funding and the LSP is keen to support all applications to help them achieve their objectives and will work with them in order to further this aim.

A final list of projects which are ready to be delivered will be circulated at a later date, following negotiations with applicants which the LSP have indicated their support for.

Presentations:

8 DAMAGE – Fear of Crime young /old – presented by Amanda Hodge on behalf of Act on It

This was a bid for a drama based project to bring members of the younger and older generations together in order to break down perceptions and fears, especially those associated with fear of crime. The aim of this initiative is to build respect between the generations using a variety of media but largely based on drama.

It will be piloted in Heathfield with residents of a housing association with a view to going Wealden wide if successful and subject to further funding being identified. Match funding from the Co-op has been confirmed.

Act on It have a good track record and are now much in demand. Wealden is anxious to use their expertise for local benefit.

Comments:

The LSP were keen to support this project as cross generational initiatives were particularly valuable and yet hard to deliver. Members wanted to know how Act on It propose to develop their ideas eg did they have a business plan? The aim of this bid was to test the water and further developments would depend on outcomes. Further funding would be easier to attract if bids were based on a successful pilot. Other partners maybe keen to contribute funding eg police.

5 Workplace Health – presented by Amanda Hodge for Wealden District Council

Wealden District Council were proposing to run a pilot project to improve the health of their employees and encourage healthy lifestyles. Actions would be evaluated with a view to rolling out the lessons learned to other LSP partners and then Wealden wide.

The project would be delivered in partnership with the PCT and Freedom Leisure. It would include a number of measures including free MOT clinic, free fitness clinic, well being packs, intranet info on healthy lifestyles, workshops, subsidised membership and access to health walks, posters etc. Benefits would accrue to both employees and employers and these would be measured and monitored. Costs of the pilot were likely to be higher than running the programme elsewhere due to monitoring cost in the first instance.

Comments:

The partnership had reservations about funding an LSP organisation and suggested that the initiative should have a wider focus eg by offering benefits to the community

Partners round the table admitted that employee health was an issue they all addressed and there was scope for sharing expertise and best practice using existing resources

The suggestion was made that Wealden should also look at hours of work and the work life balance which is ongoing

The general consensus was that this was something which every partner should take on board as a matter of best practice within their existing organisation without additional resources from the LSP

18 Youth Opportunities in Polegate – presented by Jan Murphy of ESCC Youth Service

Jan is the youth service manager for the western area of East Sussex and has been working with young people in Polegate to explore local concerns around drug dealing in parks and young people hanging around the town. She is working closely with the town council to develop the bid. There is also a need to address the provision of information about sexual health and drugs. Polegate Youth Council has just been set up and will be involved in planning this project. A BMX track and skateboard ramp are already in place but not used to the full. Young people have requested a display and the youth service are planning to hold the event later this year and then introduce a youth worker and sport worker on a regular basis eg 2 nights a week for 6 months. On-going funding will be required if the service continues but this is not part of this bid. Council funding has been cut by 25%

Comments:

The LSP were very supportive of initiatives to engage young people but felt that this needed more input from the local community. The Town Council need to be more involved in raising funds and owning the project. Current activity around the healthcheck could provide the stimulus to get this to happen. The current bid was also for a short period and did not provide long term progression for supporting young people. Other funding opportunities were

suggested as more appropriate for this activity eg. YMCA, Community Sports Fund, Local Network Fund. There was an obvious link to sport and health

17 Feasibility study for use of building – presented by Caroline Lambert of the Hailsham Trust

Caroline gave a brief overview of the successes achieved to date by the Hailsham Trust and explained that the project under consideration would be a wonderful opportunity to develop partnership working between the voluntary and statutory sector. The aim was for the Trust, a not for project company, to lease the building from the Fire Service, assist the extension and refurbishment and then lease part of the new resource to Wealden and Eastbourne Lifeline who are desperate to find suitable accommodation in the right location. This site was considered ideal for their purposes. The building would also provide accommodation available for community use and could provide a focus for community safety. The asset would give the Hailsham Trust a regular income which could be invested in further benefits to the community. An indication was given that resources were available for the work to take place but it was not clear where this money might come from. The Fire Service would not benefit directly from the project but were willing to offer land and share some of the facilities as appropriate

Comments:

The partnership were in two minds about supporting the bid. Although they liked the idea of a providing a shared resource concerns were raised about whether the scheme would go ahead anyway since the LSP contribution would be a very small proportion of the total required. Concerns were also raised about the level of support which was forthcoming from the other partners and a stronger commitment, especially from Lifeline, would be welcome. The deadline of September 2007 was also very tight if all the work is to take place, especially if the development is carried out as a sustainability showpiece.

The following applications had been withdrawn

- 10 Wealden Literary Trail
- 11 World Book Day

- 14 Local Business Awards
- 15 Business Advice Directory

Presentations were not give for:

- 9 Heathfield Rock School

Conclusions:

After listening to all the presentations, Wealden LSP considered each of the projects in turn. Tim Sparrow reminded partners to take account of the criteria previously agreed. There was no need to allocate all the funds if projects did not meet these requirements and funding may be held back until more suitable bids are developed.

Comments were as follows:

No	Project Title	LSP Comments
1	Update of web site	Wealden LSP accept the need to fund in full Likely spend – Wealden LSP £7,000
2	EsiF contribution	Wealden LSP accept the need to fund in full Likely spend – Wealden LSP £8,000

- 3 Support for village plans - year 2 Wealden LSP are fully supportive of the work carried out by AirS in relation to the development of Parish Plans but seek further confirmation of the degree to which funding already provided has contributed to the engagement of communities. The partnership would like to establish a funding structure which provides support which is directly related to the production of parish plans and would also like to take advantage of attracting match funding from Global Grants. Concern was raised that high levels of investment in mentoring could not be sustained long term since the LSP cannot guarantee continuing investment at the same level as before. A sum of approximately £10,000 has been set aside to develop a bid which will achieve these aims.
- 4 Visiting scheme for frail elderly The Wealden LSP are supportive of this proposal and would like to see this merged with project 17 to support elderly residents in Crowborough gain better access to health facilities. Members of the partnership were concerned that volunteers may not be forthcoming but examples of best practice elsewhere eg Hailsham Volunteer Bureau suggest that this is possible and could be used as a role model. In order to benefit from Global Grants an application should be made by Age Concern and therefore the total project cost should not exceed £10,000. The LSP would then be in a position to provide funding of £5,500, assuming Global Grants pay £4,500.
- 5 Workplace Health The Wealden LSP were uncomfortable with the idea of funding one of the LSP partners to provide benefits to their own workforce rather than the community at large. Workplace health is an objective which most larger employers aspire to and in order to have a broader focus the project should seek to include a wider range of partners, within or outside the LSP. Some initiatives are already underway in Wealden District Council to address health issues amongst employees. A more comprehensive approach maybe achieved through partnership working with other large employers such as the Fire and Rescue Service and the Police force who already recognise the benefits of adopting strategies which encourage better health amongst their employees. Ideally the LSP would like to see all the partners achieving similar outcomes by working together to deliver these proposals and demonstrating a model of best practice which could be replicated elsewhere across the District. Having workplace strategies and expertise maybe the first step in achieving this.
- 6 Barriers to adult learning Although this application was withdrawn the Wealden LSP were keen to engage with Learn Direct to identify opportunities for partnership working and will consider how best to draw them into any future activity which the learning partnership may be involved in.
- 7 Summer schools The Wealden LSP gave their support to this project in advance of the meeting since the time scales meant that the project could not go ahead unless a decision was reached by 14th July. A total of £1,865 has been allocated subject to a sum of £1,525 being approved through the Global Grants scheme. Conditions attached to this money will require the adult education providers to work in partnership with other learning initiatives as appropriate.
- 8 DAMAGE - fear of crime / young and old The Wealden LSP were very supportive of this project and felt that the bid could be increased in order to achieve more outputs across a wider area, Act on It will be asked to work with Global Grants to develop their bid and the LSP will match fund the total costs up to a maximum of £5,500, assuming £4,500 is provided by Global Grants.

9 Heathfield Rock School	Unfortunately this project was not presented to the LSP. Whilst the Partnership thought it was a good idea they were concerned that the costs were relatively high and only provided for a one off activity in one community. Other funding streams were mentioned which may be more appropriate and the applicants are urged to contact Action in Rural Sussex and Sherlyn Barrow of the Global Grants fund to explore these in more detail eg Local Network Fund (AirS), Youth Music Programme (100% reimbursement), National Lottery
10 Wealden Literary Trail	Although the applicant withdrew their bid the LSP would like to support the idea and recommend that the cultural partnership assist with the development of the project as appropriate
11 World Book Day	Although the applicant withdrew their bid the LSP would like to support the idea and recommend that the cultural partnership assist the development of the project as appropriate. Adult education have also expressed an interest in the idea and maybe in a stronger position to lead on the proposal at a later date.
12 Wheels to Work/Learn	The Wealden LSP were fully supportive of this bid and anxious that it should link with proposal 16 to provide a road safety event for young people. They were also anxious that money should not be forthcoming until full support for the proposals could be demonstrated by young people and their parents. Further discussions are required to explore potential funding opportunities including money from Global Grants and from Connexions.
13 Research capacity to deliver "Every Child Matters" agenda in Wealden	Wealden LSP recognise the strategic importance of this bid but were unsure how it could provide added value to the existing responsibilities of the statutory agencies in defining the needs of the District in relation to these issues. Further discussion is required with Wealden District Council to explore their needs and develop clearer guidelines if this project is to go ahead. The Learning Partnership may also want to give further thought as to how they propose to add value to the work of other service delivery partners by supporting their aims and objectives through identifying useful links with learning and stimulating partnership working. The LSP may then consider a bid which meets these criteria.
14 Local Business Awards	This application was withdrawn but the concept is fully supported by the LSP and the District Council is encouraged to implement the proposals
15 Business Advice Directory	This application was withdrawn but the concept is fully supported by the LSP and the District Council is encouraged to implement the proposals
16 Safe Drive/Stay Alive	The Wealden LSP were fully supportive of this bid and anxious that it should link with proposal 12 to provide Wheels to Learn/Work for young people. The total amount required from the LSP - £7,000 will therefore be allocated since this project does not meet the criteria for Global Grants.
17 Feasibility study for use of building	The LSP were somewhat divided as to this bid. There was a feeling that it offered a very valuable opportunity to support a worthy initiative but the monies involved in achieving the outcome were significant, in which case the LSP was not essential in providing a relatively modest level of funding for the feasibility study. The main concern was the lack of support demonstrated by the other partners who had not put in any funding of their own. If the Fire Service and Lifeline could demonstrate a modest contribution it may be possible to attract the shortfall from the LSP

- 18 Youth support for Polegate Wealden LSP were again very supportive of the idea but had reservations about funding a one off event in one community only. Concerns were raised that the event may not lead to the progressive support and engagement of young people. Input and commitment from the community was also necessary before this proposal could gain full LSP backing. A number of other funding streams were mentioned which may well be more appropriate including the Local Network Fund. This has a new Community led Sports Fund for grants up to £5,000; The applicant was advised to work with Polegate Town Council (currently undertaking a healthcheck process) , local residents associations, Action in Rural Sussex (Local Network Fund) to explore this in more detail.
- 19 Access to health facilities for elderly See proposal 4
- 20 Youth access provision in rural areas The Wealden LSP accepted that there is much evidence to support the need for young people to access leisure facilities in rural areas but felt that the provision of a mini-bus could only scratch the surface. They felt that offering the occasional benefit to a small number of people on a one off for a very limited time period could do more harm than good. What was needed was a significant county or district wide bid to the Lottery fund for a significant sum of money which could have some impact on addressing the problem. There were further concerns that mini -buses threw up all sorts of problems of their own over and above providing the funding ie lack of drivers, lack of volunteers to run the service. What is needed is an innovative, large scale and high resourced proposal which would be well beyond the capacity of the LSP to fund.
- 21 Advice to tenants/financial literacy Wealden LSP preferred to consider the wider aspects of financial literacy rather than a project which was specific for tenants of social housing. This may have links with other learning initiatives within the learning theme such as Learn Direct. It may also link to the aims and objectives of the Health and Social Care Action Plan (debt advice and take up of benefits) Further work is needed to explore these opportunities and to develop a service which uses existing provision as effectively as possible. Money may then be forthcoming from the LSP to achieve these aims. Courses in financial literacy would also attract Global Grant Funding

Date of the next meeting:

**WEDNESDAY 21st SEPTEMBER 2005 at HAILSHAM EAST
COMMUNITY CENTRE
From 4pm**