

**Notes of the Wealden Local Strategic Partnership
Meeting held on 6 February 2004**

Present:

Fiona Henniker – Sussex Downs and Weald PCT
Aprile Biggs (for Peter Midgley) – Environment Agency
Councillor Nigel Coltman – Wealden District Council
Ian Chisnall – Churches Together in Sussex
Angela Johnson & Dr Richard Brighton (for Gina Brocklehurst) – Eastbourne Downs PCT
John Kelly – Wealden Federation of Voluntary Organisations
Chief Inspector Rex Matthews – Sussex Police
Councillor Tony Reid – East Sussex County Council
Councillor Tim Sparrow – Sussex Association of Local Councils
Ken Stevens – Federation of Small Businesses
John Hall (for Mike Rogers) – Fire and Rescue Service
Adam Vernon – Learning + Skills Council

Also in attendance: Charmian Allcock, Diana Francombe, Alison Horan, Dr Richard Brighton

Apologies: Liz Cadman, Mary Coburn, Jeremy Leggett, Peter Midgley

1. The Way Forward

The LSP agreed that the Visioning Exercise, which had taken place on 12 January, had been a useful and enjoyable event. The outcomes of that exercise were included in “The Way Forward” Report and had been distilled into ten recommendations, which were discussed in turn.

Recommendation 1: To formally adopt a constitution setting out the roles and responsibilities of the Partners and the Theme Champions.

A proposed constitution was attached at Appendix A to the Report. Subject to some textual amendments, it was formally adopted by the Partnership. Key points were that Wealden District Council should be named as Lead Partner because it had the statutory responsibility to produce a Community Strategy, that most decisions should continue to be reached by consensus and that the LSP should be able to co-opt members as necessary as long as the membership did not exceed 18. The Constitution also set out the roles of the Chairman and the Theme Champions.

Recommendation 2: To request the District Council to seek funding, from Partners and elsewhere, to appoint a full-time Partnership Manager.

It was agreed that the Partnership should appoint a Partnership Manager to drive the Community Strategy forward. That Manager would be formally employed by one of the Partner Organisations on behalf of the Partnership, to be funded from contributions. Councillor Coltman advised the Partners that

Wealden District and East Sussex County Council had agreed in principle to part use of the funds raised from an increase in Council tax on second homes to fund the work of the LSP. This, in the first year, could amount to around £90,000. He suggested it could be used to fund the salary and direct overhead costs for the Partnership Manager. In addition, the Police and Fire & Rescue Service asked that a formal request be made for contributions from those sources. Other Partners could provide contributions in kind, such as providing venues for meetings. It was proposed that, of the money made available, no more than 50% should be spent on the Manager and administration costs.

Recommendation 3: To choose 1-2 cross-cutting projects each year which can only be achieved through joint-working, and to establish Project Sub-groups as necessary.

Agreed. The Theme Champions were requested to contact the Secretariat with ideas for cross-cutting programmes and projects. The Secretariat would produce a short-list of three to four possibilities, to be circulated by email for discussion and decision.

Recommendation 4: To choose a maximum of 10 cross-cutting SMART indicators to measure quality of life in the District.

Agreed. It was suggested that, as far as possible there should be one overarching indicator for each Theme and two more general indicators. The County Council were currently monitoring 80 Quality of Life indicators across the County so it was suggested that the LSP could form a sub-group to work with the East Sussex Strategic Partnership's Quality of Life Sub-Group to select indicators which, as far as practicable, were already being monitored. Dr Brighton volunteered to participate in such a sub-group on behalf of Eastbourne Downs PCT although formal constitution of such a group was left for a future meeting.

Recommendation 5: To undertake triennial surveys with a cross-section of the population to test perceptions and priorities.

Agreed, with the first survey to take place in 2005/6. It was pointed out that the Government Office for the South-East were requesting surveys about "Community Spatial Awareness" which could potentially be linked with these proposed LSP surveys, especially in light of the emerging role for the Partnership in developing Local Development Frameworks.

Recommendation 6: To keep the existing Community Strategy Action Plans updated as a source of joint information about activity in each of the Themes.

It was agreed that it was important not to lose sight of the action plans. It was explained that updated meant keeping the list of activities complete, adding new projects and removing completed projects, as a means of ensuring all of the Partner organisations were aware of activities under each of the Themes. However, it did not mean that the Theme Champion needed to gather precise

statistical information on progress against each target as this information was already being gathered by the delivering organisations.

Recommendation 7: To keep an overview of progress with those Action Plans through annual reports from the Theme Champion (two reports per meeting).

Agreed. It was explained that, in light of recommendation 6 above, the Theme Champions Reports should endeavour to include any key successes and a general overview of progress.

Recommendation 8: To use those Action Plans to achieve vibrant planning within and between each of the Partner organisations, which is in accordance with the Community Strategy objectives..

Agreed, in line with paragraph 3.2 of the agreed Constitution which includes that the Partnership will aim to bring about the strategic alignment and integration of plans, partnerships and initiatives within Wealden.

Recommendation 9: To undertake one or more learning visits each year to other Local Strategic Partnerships.

Agreed.

Recommendation 10: To maintain the LSP website and to produce a bi-annual newsletter reporting successes and seeking feedback.

Agreed. This was part of raising the LSPs profile, making contact with the outside world and communicating wins.

2. Plenary Session

It was agreed that the format of the day, and the speakers/facilitators should be as follows:

Proposed Agenda		Speakers/Facilitators
1.00pm	Lunch (optional) and Registration	
2.00pm	Welcome	Fiona Henniker (Speaker/Main Facilitator)
2.05pm	What is the LSP and how is it trying to add value?	Cllr Nigel Coltman (Speaker)
2.25pm	Overview of Progress so far	Cllr Tim Sparrow (Speaker)
2.45pm	Break into Working Groups x 4	Facilitators:

	2 to discuss: Communication/who are the LSP 2 to discuss: Adding Value/the usefulness of the LSP	Adam Vernon Alison Horan Ken Stevens Cllr Tony Reid
3.25pm	Tea	
3.35pm	Combine into 2 Groups and agree common conclusions	(2 of previous Facilitators/Scribes)
4.25pm	Feedback	Fiona Henniker (Speaker/Main Facilitator)
4.55pm	Concluding Remarks	Fiona Henniker (Speaker/Main Facilitator)
5.00pm	Close	

Reports of the Theme Champions

a) *Leisure*

Ian Chisnall, Theme Champion for Leisure, explained that Leisure had emerged as a key Theme in the residents' survey undertaken in 2002. Priorities had included the need for more local opportunities for walking, cycling and horse riding, locally based leisure facilities, affordable leisure centres, a range of sporting, cultural and arts opportunities and promotion of tourism.

The Cultural Partnership had been formed in November 2002 to create and monitor a joint action plan for the Leisure Theme of the Community Strategy. The Partnership comprised a wide range of people from disparate backgrounds including sport, accommodation providers, Councils, Leisure organisations and businesses, Town Partnerships and educational establishments.

Members of the Cultural Partnership had now formed project specific steering groups such as the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Audit and Needs Assessment Steering Group. Other achievements included the setting up of the Cultural Partnership and establishing its terms of reference, agreeing and monitoring a joint action plan, and holding Themed Meetings to focus discussions.

The Cultural Partnership had, in particular, identified the need for the LSP to review how it, and its Partners, communicate and had suggested a unified publication for the District. Thus the Theme Champion was pleased that one

of the recommendations agreed by the LSP as part of “The Way Forward” was to produce a bi-annual newsletter.

b) Transport

The Theme Champion for Transport , Councillor Tony Reid, began by reminding the Partnership of East Sussex County Council’s responsibilities for Transport, and those of the Highways Agency, District and Parish Councils. He also explained that Wealden had a population of 140,000 people, 1,329km of road and had experienced 14 fatal, 88 serious and 427 minor crashes involving injury during 2002.

The County Council had six strategic objectives, all of which had an impact on transport in the County:

Sustainable Economic Development, which linked with the Prosperity and Leisure Themes, included projects on:

- Visibly better roads (potentially to be included in the Wealden Community Strategy)
- Decriminalising parking (Not yet extended to Wealden, but projects currently in Hastings and shortly to be in Lewes)
- Sustainable Tourism (Currently included in the Leisure Theme)

Enhancing the Environment, which linked with the Environment theme, included projects on:

- Local Area Transport Strategies
- Village Plans (being encouraged by the Wealden LSP)
- Litter Collection

Ensuring Social Inclusion, which linked with the Housing Theme, included projects on:

- Future housing requirements
- Improving Travel Choices by working with bus and rail partnerships

Providing for Safer Communities, which linked with the Safety Theme, included projects on:

- Local Safety Schemes
- Speed Management
- School Travel Plans

Providing for a Healthier Community, which linked with the Leisure Theme, included projects on:

- Cycling Strategy
- Walking Strategy

Promoting a Learning Community, which linked with the Learning Theme, included projects on:

- Cycling, driving and pedestrian training

Parish Plan Grants

It was reported that £500 grants had been awarded to the following Parish Councils:

Buxted
East Hoathly
Hellingly
Herstmonceux
Hooe
Horam
Laughton
Selmeston
Wartling

Grants had been applied for, in the second bidding round (deadline 30 January), by the following Parish Councils:

Danehill
East Dean and Friston
Forest Row
Framfield
Hadlow Down
Isfield
Maresfield
Ninfield
Wadhurst
Withyham
Rotherfield
Hartfield

It was pointed out that if all of the outstanding applications were agreed, the scheme would be oversubscribed. It was therefore agreed that, should the over subscription be only £500, the funds could be found by the District Council.

5. Dates of future meetings

The dates of meetings for 2004/05 were agreed as:

Thursday 3 June 2004, 4pm
Wednesday 8 September 2004, 4pm
Wednesday 8 December 2004, 4pm
Wednesday 9 March 2005, 4pm

6. Any Other Business

a) Regional Structural Strategy

It was suggested that an additional meeting might be called in the next three weeks to discuss how the LSP can contribute to the Regional Structural Strategy.

b) AIF document

Copies of the East Sussex Economic Partnership's summary leaflet, setting out the agreed priorities for the East Sussex Area Investment Framework, were distributed.

c) Sustainability Working Seminar

Partners were given details of a Sussex Wildlife Trust conference, to be held on Thursday 25 March in Crawley. The conference was aimed at people and organisations involved in Community Planning and was intended to demonstrate that the environment could positively contribute to social and economic well-being.

d) IdeA Research Project

Partners were advised that the first article by Solihin Garrard of MakesFive Limited had been published on the IdeA Knowledge website. The article set the scene for the development of performance management in South Tyneside Transformation Partnership and Wealden Local Strategic Partnership. A second article, which would include details of the LSPs Visioning Exercise, would be published shortly.