

**Note of Wealden Local Strategic Partnership meeting 12 May 2010,
Heathfield Community Centre, Heathfield.**

Present:

Ian Chisnall – Chair, Churches Together in Sussex
Monica Akehurst - NFU
Liz Alsobrook - Action in Rural Sussex
Tracy Evans - Downland Housing Association
Cllr Linda Francis – Willingdon & Jevington Parish Council (representing southern parishes)
Teresa Gittins – Action in Rural Sussex, Director of Policy
Jeff Hart – Freedom Leisure, Managing Director
Brian Hughes - East Sussex County Council
Claerwyn Hughes - Environment Agency
Alison Jeffery - East Sussex County Council
Cllr William King - Maresfield Parish Council (representing northern parishes)
Katherine Perrin - 3VA
Matthew Smeeth - Youth Cabinet member
Sheila O'Sullivan - PCT
Neal Robinson - East Sussex Fire and Rescue
Lisa Schrevel - East Sussex County Council
Sue Shoesmith - 3VA
Louis Thursfield - Youth Cabinet member
Les Webb - Campus Training
Rowan Westwood - Connexions
Cllr David White – WDC Councillor
Cllr Chantal Wilson – WDC Councillor

In Attendance

Gill Cameron-Waller – WDC, Policy and Partnership Manager
Alex White – WDC, Policy Officer
Jeremy Leach - WDC Public Health Development Manager
Helen Markwick - WDC Cultural Services Manager
Louise Clark - WDC Active Wealden Officer

Apologies:

Cllr Gerald Carter - Polegate Town Council (representing town councils)
Alison Culshaw - Jobcentre Plus
Lisa Compton – PCT
James Davies - Youth Cabinet member
Cllr Pam Doodes – Leader, WDC
Nigel Eveleigh - WDC
Alison Fryer - Jobcentre Plus
Garry Frostick - Highways Agency
Cllr Roy Galley – WDC Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning & Housing Delivery
Charles Lant – WDC, Chief Executive
Cllr Di Phillips - WDC Councillor
Julia Pope - Sussex Police
Ken Stevens – Federation of Small Businesses
Andy Beatie – South Downs Joint Committee
Adam Chugg - 3VA

1. Welcome and introductions

Ian Chisnall welcomed everyone to the meeting particularly those who were attending for the first time to discuss youth matters, and with special thanks to Matthew Smeeth and Louis Thursfield for coming to address the meeting.

2. Minutes of last meeting

These were agreed.

3. Support for young people

Ian Chisnall reminded members that following previous discussions at earlier meetings today's debate was to focus on issues facing young people and the support available from partners.

Louis Thursfield and Matthew Smeeth outlined the work and campaigns of the Youth Cabinet and UK Youth Parliament. The Youth Cabinet had organised a 'Big Vote' in November 2009 to establish the issues of concern to young people in East Sussex. The ballot had asked people to vote on 7 issues, the top two issues - transport and environment - will become the campaign issues for the Youth Cabinet for the next two years. The Cabinet intends to discuss transport issues with local bus companies to see what can be done. On environmental issues they hope to focus on use of renewable energy - particularly in schools - saving resources, and recycling. A key stumbling block is shortage of funds to support campaigns. Matthew said that any offers of support from partners would be gratefully received. Previous campaigns have included: young people and smoking; places to go and things to do; and young people, drugs and alcohol. The Youth Parliament has also campaigned on transport, access to further education and extending the national curriculum to include politics and sexual relationships.

Alison Jeffery welcomed the engagement of the Youth Cabinet and gave an overview of the services provided by the County Council. She pointed out the likely constraints on budgets in future and stressed the increasing importance of collaborative working. Brian Hughes circulated some background information on services for children and young people in Wealden and went on to explain some of the services in more detail.

In general discussion members thought there may be merit in considering: Youth Cabinet participation in the Climate Change Partnership for East Sussex; greater engagement of partners with the Youth Cabinet - for example, explicitly contacting them as part of consultations on strategic planning issues such as Local Transport Plans and Local Development Frameworks; inviting them to attend ESSP Assembly meetings; whether organisations should try to include young people in their governance structures, for example through 'youth boards'.

Summarising the discussions Ian Chisnall said that the LSP had the capacity to bring people and ideas together - for example, blending a combination of funded and voluntary services to enhance provision of support. He suggested that each organisation should consider a check list of how they engage with young people - example attached at Appendix A. He asked that if members had any other specific thoughts or suggestions for action they let Alex White know.

Action: All

4. AOB

Gill Cameron Waller asked members if they could consider further nominees to take part in the rural deprivation project focus groups as the first round of interviews had not yielded as much information as had been hoped. Brian Hughes suggested he may be able to help.

Gill circulated a note updating members on Broadband following the LSPs response to Government consultation. A key issue was to decide how the LSP takes action forward. She asked that partners consider the options suggested in the note and come prepared to discuss these - and any other ideas - in more detail at the next meeting. Lisa Schrevel said that ESSP was considering similar issues and asked for any information held about what the absence of Broadband provision would mean for local communities and the economy.

Action: All

Alex White informed members that a detailed update on the Council's Local Development Framework Core Strategy was planned for the next meeting.

11. Next meeting

The next meeting of the LSP will be at **10am on 27th July 2010 at Council Offices, Pine Grove,**

2010 Board meetings

Month	Date 2010	Time	Venue
July	27	10 - 12.30	Council Offices, Pine Grove
September	8	10 - 12.30	Council offices, Vicarage Lane, Hailsham
November	17	2 - 4.30	Uckfield Civic Centre

Appendix A

Example check list on engagement with young people:

Issue	Already do	Will consider	Not appropriate/relevant
Youth board/representatives on main board			
Include young people in consultations			
Support to Local Youth Cabinet members			
Active engagement of young people in projects/initiatives			