

Notes of the Lewes District Local Strategic Partnership
Held on Monday 26 March 2007

Present:

Tracey Evans (Chair)	Newhaven Strategic Network
Owen Clifford	Lewes District Council
Sally Harper	Lewes District Council
Cllr Liz Lee	Peacehaven & Telscombe REGEN
Cllr Shirley James	Rural Voices Rural Choices
David Walters	Town & Parish Councils
David Hughes	Lewes YMCA
Insp Alan Costello	Sussex Police
John Ticehurst	East Sussex Fire and Rescue
Andy Chalmers	GOSE
Debby Matthews (V.Chair)	South Downs CVS
Penny Shimmin	Newhaven Strategic Network
Amanda Hodge	East Sussex County Council
Kate Entwistle	Environment Agency
Ian Kedge	Lewes District Council
Sue Harvey	Lewes District Council
Ralph Taylor	Lewes District Council
Jon Freeman	Seaford Town Partnership
Marlene Caines	Lewes District Council

1. **Welcome & Apologies**

Apologies received from Andrew Ogden, Meg Stroude, David Rogers, Stephen Gauntlet, Ila Mazumdar, Ian Chisnall and Chief Insp Neil Moscrop

2. **Notes of the Last Meeting/Matters Arising**

SJ proposed the Minutes of 25 September 2006 to be a true record and seconded by LL.

Partnership Improvement Programme: SH will be attending the launch of this programme on Wednesday. The programme will offer capacity support to LSPs in the form of peer reviews, a website, training etc. £6k credit will be available to the Lewes District LSP for training purposes. A Self assessment questionnaire will have to be completed before the money can be drawn down.

3. **East Sussex Integrated Community Strategy - Owen Clifford/Sally Harper**

OC reported that the Visioning day was held late last year. East Sussex LSP Co-ordinators and Chairs will be meeting on a quarterly basis and there is a proposal to develop a Countywide sustainable community strategy into which the five district boroughs feed their strategies. LSPs are still awaiting guidance from Government which is expected early next year. Barbara Pratt, the Eastbourne Co-ordinator, is sitting on the Government lead group responsible for writing the guidance.

A report was circulated electronically for this meeting which outlines the proposal for the county approach. It will be important to find a balance for bringing together the community input with the wider strategic issues. OC and SH have a meeting this week with the other Co-ordinators to discuss it.

PS asked how this will work where we have locally generated area groups and other districts have thematic groups. If we value the local input into this, how do we structure what happens at a local partnership level so it is fed into at a County level?

The East Sussex Community Strategy will be a high level document but underpinning it will be the LSP's action plans. We will consider how the local issues map into the Local Area Agreement, Area Investment Fund etc. Job of the LSP is to take the local issues and match them with the issues and feed them into the County priorities.

AC said there will be some funding through the Local Area Agreement.

AH commented that this project has come from the district and boroughs. It is not the County Council imposing a structure. The LSP Co-ordinators saw a unique opportunity to grab common priorities for the County with local action plans still coming through. It is moving forward in terms of where the Local Area Agreement is going, important that the partnership is really strengthened.

Way forward for this project:

OC and SH will work with the rest of the Co-ordinators and keep LSP informed at the next stage.

4. Lewes District LSP Community Strategy - Project Outline Sue Harvey - LDC Corporate Performance Officer

As the strategy is in need of a refresh and update, Sue Harvey is co-ordinating the project at LDC to revise the strategy whilst aligning it to the District Council's aims and objectives plus changes made since 2003.

She outlined the following key points:

- Way to move the LDC community strategy forward - Briefing Note "A way forward for the community strategy" handed out to the meeting.
- Aim to get an up-to-date sustainable strategy for Lewes District.
- Need to develop our strategy and move it forward based on clear evidence of need.
- Developing clear and sustainable action plans and targets.
- Keeping a focus on the area partnerships.
- Consultation involving stakeholders.
- Clear terms of reference will help support this further.
- Make sure it integrates and delivers for Lewes District.
- SMART and auditable action plans - more robust arrangements around performance management and governance.
- More detail around key theme areas - housing, young people etc.
- Cross links between these are important.
- Recognising different needs in the different areas of the community. Project managed approach to this. Keeping in close contact with the LSP.

Sue H handed out to the meeting paper entitled "The Lewes District Sustainable Community Strategy - An Approach".

TE said we have a draft community strategy and waiting for the White Paper but would welcome this project that will help and support us. Everybody's input and thoughts needed on this project as this proposal is in its very early stages.

5. **Environment Theme:** Ian Kedge

Paper handed out to the meeting "A Valued Environment. Issues in the District - headline facts".

Environmental Theme Group held its first meeting last week.

Issues for the district:

- How do we pull it together.
- Aims and objectives.
- Actions that we think will help us move forward.
- Action Plan.

This links into what Sue H. and Sally H are doing with the project with examples for each of the areas in the district.

There's a need to get the balance of a group that it is effective and moves forward. The commercial side is not represented and this needs to be incorporated with ideas received. This group is represented at the moment by Natural England, LDC, County Council and the Environment Agency.

Group discussed opportunity issues:

- 1) Climate change and
- 2) Respect for Place.

Put these two elements into the aims and objectives and provide an action plan for these changes. The Group will be meeting regularly, initially on an 8 week cycle - as and when necessary.

TE asked for suggestions as to who should attend the group.

PS: LSP in the past has come from the community and the local groups, would want to maintain this. She would like, through Ian's work - certainly from the Newhaven angle, for them to reflect what is emerging from the thematic groups. In Newhaven there are some action groups in parallel and some that are not. Will need to discuss the issues mentioned here. Would want an opportunity for them to have a short life group. Need to have formal feedback into each of the local area partnerships. Welcome this overall but need to maintain this local focus.

Sue H said they are behind the LSP to preserve community theme for local action.

TE - 2 issues:

- How the individual partnerships are going to fit in. Some things can be done electronically for consultation.
- Also this meeting - different stakeholders looking at issues across the district. Time needs to be given for people to receive information electronically so they can go back to their own consultation format.

Sally - Action in rural Sussex are very keen to feed in the outcomes of village action plans and Mark MacTaggart will want to meet with IK and Sue H in the future.

Data and research analysis will give more focus within the district where inequalities are. Some priority areas may be identified.

Sally thanked Sue H for her professionalism and confidence.

DW would like to see more recycling particularly from the commercial point of view. IK agreed. Lot of recycling efforts are on household but commercial waste needs to be touched on. **Action: DW** will discuss with IK.

JT is keen for the Fire & Rescue Service to be involved where they can have an impact, one of the main issues for the district being road traffic accidents - every single road death costs £1m.

LL: Road transport - County started with local transport boards (LTBs). Consultation and steering group would meet again. **Action: AH** to take check meeting dates with County.

JE asked JT if he would be willing to chair a group. LSP will give JT full support and get the right people around the table.

Sally: Meeting planned in May. **Action: Sally** will provide information on this to JT.

As road transport does not fall neatly into any of the present groups, will have to find a way of making this as a priority for the area, possibly through CRP, at meeting with Highways and Police or by expanding the existing group that focuses on the rural areas.

AC confirmed that this does remain a police priority across the County.

Next partnership meeting should update on the rest of the picture with an opportunity to feed back to the LSP.

Diagram to be redistributed showing where all the LSP sub-groups and thematic partnerships link together.

TE: Recommended the group support this project and offer Sue H. support to move forward on behalf of the LSP as a project. SJ proposed and PS seconded.

6. Local Area Agreement/East Sussex Strategic Partnership - Tracey Evans & Liz Lee

The proposed Integrated Community Strategy was discussed at the last ESSP meeting. Also the South East Partnership Improvement Project - £6k available for training. Most of the meeting focussed on the Local Area Agreement.

AH said that the primary role is to develop community strategy for the County and responsibility for developing the Local Area Agreement with integration between LSP and East Sussex Partnerships. Another person has been recruited, so ESCC now have a team of two and will be able to concentrate on information technology/website. All the papers can be found on www.ssp.org.uk. Information on the killed and seriously injured available on the site. Trying to step up integration across the County. Lisa Schreval, Alison Horan or AH will endeavour to attend most LSP meetings.

LL explained that Ian Chisnall has gone as Chair and has been replaced by Jeremy Leggett.

AH said that GOSE has agreed the Agreement which will be formalised and sent out to the partners. Proposal is that we have a new LAA constitution as from April 2008. Discussions with GOSE and CLG to see if this is practicable and whether it would add value. Feeling is where does the local person fit in?. Needs to be recommendation of where each of the LAAs are at the moment. New proposal for multi-area agreements, you can work across local authorities, primarily suggesting for City regions rather than us as a County.

GOSE organised event on 15 March to give an overview of what the CLG is proposing for the new LAA process from next year onwards. Information on the CLG website which outlines future arrangements. This is building on the existing rather than changing completely with the aim is to ensure that there is greater emphasis on local issues. Feeling there has been lot of monetary targets, but this is to ensure that local authorities will have more a streamlined approach.

7. Lewes District Children's Services Planning Group

OC confirmed this is another new partnership emanating out of Children's Trust arrangements for the County and the Children's Trust Executive Group including Chief Executives and other senior officers from public services and other sectors across the County have suggested Children's Service Planning Group for each of the District and Borough areas. Their role will be to co-ordinate all of Children's Services within the district including education, social and leisure to basic crime and disorder; all issues that affect young people. First meeting to be held this Thursday and chaired by OC.

Unsure if this will merge with the Children & Young People's sub-group of the LSP. Will link into the local partnership for children with the senior schools and community, this will fit into the district wide Children's Services Planning Group. The structure will take on board community priorities as well as the wider strategic approach to the County. First meeting will look at who should be on the group, links between that and other children's groups within the District and how to move forward to an action plan. Will be led by Children's Trust. Structure etc will be determined at the first meeting.

OC has made it explicit that there must be strong input from the community and a guarantee that the resources will be there and commitment particularly at County level to meet the resources of this group and would expect resources to be provided through the youth development sources etc. Could be seen as a model for other thematic groups to get behind action plans.

LL saw no reason for the existing LSP sub-group on Children & young people to continue to exist this new one. Part of the problem was that action plans did not happen because of no funding. Don't need 2 groups working on the same thing.

OC said that work is underway with a draft play strategy. That is on a stand alone - there is a small play project group for this.

8. **Area Partnership (including Development Worker Updates)/Thematic Groups' Issues**

No update from Seaford, Lewes or Children & Young People Group. Interested to hear from others who are doing updates.

Action: Sally asked for update from IK for the next meeting and an update on transport.

TE expressed the need for updates from meetings as soon as possible after the meeting date.

Shirley James is stepping down tonight as Chairman of RVRC. TE thanked Shirley for her contribution.

9. **LSP Financial Statement**

Financial statement, prepared by Steve Jump, previously distributed to the group. JT will pursue the Fire & Rescue Service for any contributions. AH advised that Chris Large is the person to speak to.

OC advised the Group that East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service have budget of around £10k p.a. towards partnership working.

10. **Any Other Business**

TE attended conference on ESCC Waste & Minerals Core Strategy Report. TE proposed that with the help of David Walters, they will submit a draft response to the partnership on this consultation document.

RT said that Area Partnerships do not see the connection to the LSP. Need to refine recommendations and comments in the scrutiny report undertaken by the District Council. Important group is aware of the content of these discussions.

Partnership scrutiny report can be found on the LDC website. LDC are working on a response but waiting for guidance and information from the Government. LL and Sue H working on this.

LL disagreed with the comment that LDC did not take the LSP seriously. This is incorrect. LDC takes the LSP and partnership work very seriously.

12. **Date and Time of Future Meeting**

9.30 a.m. on Monday 25 June 2007. Venue to be arranged.

The meeting closed at 11.00 a.m.