

**Notes of the Lewes District Local Strategic Partnership**  
**Held on Monday 25 June 2007**

**Present:**

Tracey Evans (Chair)	Newhaven Strategic Network
Owen Clifford	Lewes District Council
Sally Harper	Lewes District Council
Liz Lee	Peacehaven & Telscombe REGEN
Melanie Cutress	Rural Voices Rural Choices
Viv Johnson	Sussex Police
John Ticehurst	East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service
Debby Matthews (V.Chair)	South Downs CVS
Kate Entwistle	Environment Agency
Jon Webber	Lewes Town Partnership
Ken Walker	Sompriti
Marlene Caines	Lewes District Council

1. **Welcome & Apologies**

Apologies received from Ian Chisnall, David Hughes, Andy Chalmers, Ian Kedge, Ila Mazumdar, Teresa Gittins, CI Peter Laverick and Rosalyn St. Pierre.

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

The minutes of the previous meeting were noted as 26 September 2006, this should have read 18 December 2006.

JT proposed the Minutes of 26 March 2007 to be a true record which was seconded by VJ.

**Matters Arising:**

A separate environment group has been set up and will meet in 2 weeks time. This is one of the new sub-groups that reflect the themes of the community strategy. There will be more emerging groups as the themes are taken forward. Stakeholders have been invited to the meeting as above on 11 July at 11.00 a.m. in Southover House. If any members of the LSP wish to attend they should contact Ian Kedge at Lewes District Council. A quarterly report will be circulated to LSP members.

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

SH attended a meeting of the East Sussex LSP Co-ordinators last week. They are working to develop a common approach for an East Sussex Integrated Sustainable community strategy. The document will contain various joint sections plus each district or borough LSP will have its own separate chapter. Details of the outline structure, which has more or less been agreed, was passed around at the meeting.

The timetable for the production of the joint strategy has been ratified by the East Sussex Strategic Partnership - Cllr David Gray is the Lewes District Council's

representative. There is no district officer/LSP Co-ordinators' representation although they can attend as an observer. The final integrated strategy needs to be completed by May 2008 meaning that a draft should be ready by December 2007. The draft district or borough chapters need to be completed by the end of July.

It's now crucial that Lewes DC Planning Officers responsible for the Local Development Framework's Core Strategy considers how the two documents can be aligned.

The next themes that are being reviewed will be Community Safety and Facilities. Then will follow learning and skills and the local economy. Sue Harvey, Lewes DC's Corporate Performance Officer, is helping to move this piece of work forward.

TE suggested that LSP partners should arrange for an appropriate substitute if they cannot attend a meeting.

**Action: SH** to establish what support ESCC could give in developing the themes Education & Learning and Skills. Education could potentially fit with the Lewes District Children's Services Planning Group, although OC, as Chair, would need to discuss how this might work.

TE - suggested that some smart overlapping of priorities are established so organisational representatives have their meeting attendances reduced. SH reported that a county evidence sub-group has been set up which is trawling through performance indicators, data sources and evidence relevant to community strategy themes.

JW asked if sub groups would be set up for all the themes. SH advised that some are already set up and others will follow as the themes develop.

#### **4. Progress through Partnership Self-Assessment - Lewes District LSPs strengths and weaknesses**

A self-assessment exercise of the LSP had been undertaken by TE, DM, SH and IC which was necessary in order to access the £6,000 training support budget under the Progress through Partnership Programme. The Self assessment was completed by SH on-line and submitted by the May deadline. The self-assessment was divided into LSP themed areas, which scored as follows:

Governance -	amber
Vision and Strategy -	amber
Performance Management -	amber
Leadership -	amber
Delivery and Impact -	green

The responses from all LSPs will be collated by the Progress through Partnership Programme Manager who will then have a meeting with each LSP Co-ordinator to run through capacity needs and training issues which will lead to training courses or other training solutions. The self-assessment will have to be repeated in 6 months or one year to see how the LSP has improved.

TE explained the reason why all the themes were not green - that the re-writing of the community strategy is not complete which will be by December pending the publication of the White Paper in 2008.

For every question and section in the self-assessment, a training option was offered. A common theme for training was consistently requested which equates to training issues to be potentially facilitated via the LSP Managers' network, LSP Member events, Action Learning Groups, Themed Workshops, Tailored Development Support or sector specific workshops.

**Action:** SH to produce a summary to be emailed out to LSP partners, so that they can report back to their partnerships/organisations stating that the LSP is satisfied to be amber and that it is in the middle of a process that will work towards green.

SH explained that we do not have to be green to draw down the money. Barbara Pratt, the Eastbourne LSP Co-ordinator, will be looking at all the summaries for East Sussex. There is an idea to pool each £6,000 making a fund of £36,000 for East Sussex which could be used to provide joint common training events and activities.

## **5. Proposed Construction Charter and the Local Development Framework Process**

TE met with Sue Moffatt (SM), Assistant Director of Policy and Planning at LDC, to discuss how the LSP can support the Local Development Framework and use best practice of others who have developed a Construction Charter. SM felt that TE working for Newhaven Strategic Network, can bring this to the Local Strategic Partnership and if the LSP agrees it is of benefit to produce one for the Lewes District then SM will then propose this to Lewes DC's Cabinet.

TE highlighted that there is much construction work happening over the district in housing estates, new builds, updating of existing housing stock, factories etc. All the contractors are committed to finding local people to deliver the contracts and to accept training opportunities (especially in Newhaven). This could be training for a small family business that could sub-contract the work. It would provide opportunities for 14-19 year olds to have work placements as part of the colleges and schools £1.2m educational programme.

JT said that Fire & Rescue Service are keen to ensure that new builds are fitted with sprinklers as standard and that by promoting a Construction Charter at the strategic level of the LSP is a good idea.

MC asked how the charter would be enforceable. TE said that Sue Moffatt is looking into this. Who is employing or co-ordinating the student placements are different matters plus CRB checks and supervision systems will be required. The LSP can look at how successful this has been elsewhere and how it has been enforced. There will be a minimum of 15 students on the course in September 2008. There is £1.2m capital money allocated towards a new skill centre on Denton Island.

Schools will have to work together for the provision of the placements. Transport will need to be looked at as well as safety issues. A construction plan and strategic

charter might help support the funding staying in the district. An update on this will be brought to the next LSP meeting.

**Action:** Tracey will produce a draft charter and circulate by email with a date for responses. Also the Local Development Framework process - Sue Moffatt has explained there is consultation on preferred options which will feed into the LDF. There are many issues so having a LDF based on strategic investigation will be good for the district.

KE asked if Lewes DC is producing a supplementary document about planning. SH said that we have a sustainability check list which planners use. Sue Moffatt will also be looking at a flood risk management strategy and this will feed into planning application requirements. Development contribution - identify what community informal and other assets are wanted so you have a clear idea up front before these things come along.

Population expanding - more children equals more play facilities plus long term needs as an integral part of the documents, such as in 20 years time when they want to buy a house. Our role to support this process is important.

## **6. Safer A27 Campaign**

This came from Lewes District Crime Reduction Partnership. JT handed out a map showing the number of accidents and deaths on the A27 between 1 January 2001 and 7 May 2007.

Fire & Rescue are concerned at the road traffic accidents in our area. No huge problem with fires. Statistics from 1 January 2001 - 7 May 2007 show 12 deaths on the Lewes to Polegate section of A27 and not a single death on the dual carriageway. JT asked that the LSP supports the campaign to make the A27 safer.

The Fire Authority has sent a joint letter with Sussex Police to the Highways Agency, to get the road upgraded to a dual carriageway. There is also a campaign petition for signatures.

There may be other solutions, such as lowering speed limit to 40mph but this could have the opposite affect - frustration of drivers and opportunity to overtake would be taken which could result in more accidents. At present the long term aim of the campaign is to construct a dual carriageway. In the short term there will be a focus on targeting those talking on mobile phones, not wearing seat belts, children not properly restrained in the vehicle etc

MC asked about speed cameras or flashing signs to slow down.

JT said that Highways would have to agree but will not allow static signs as there are too many signs on the road and would cause more accidents with people trying to read them.

JT sent a copy of a letter to Norman Baker asking for his support but his response was that he felt the dual carriageway would not improve the situation.

LL attended a meeting with Norman Baker, Sussex Police, Highways Agency and Fire Service - the idea of a dual carriageway was brought up but there is no

willingness on the part of the Highways Agency to move forward. The MP for Eastbourne is very supportive and is trying to arrange a meeting with the Roads Minister which JT will attend.

LL: Pressure on the Highways Agency should continue.

JW: said that the Residents Association in the Nevill had given general approval of the idea and support.

JT advised that the Department of Transport estimate £1m is the cost of a single death (traffic disruption, deliveries not being made on time etc). Also emergency staff are personally affected with the horrible things they have to deal with and sometimes resulting in some leaving the emergency services as they cannot cope.

TE asked if everyone was in favour of the group supporting the campaign.

KE: In principle, agreed but the environmental impact is quite significant.

LL People should be encouraged to go by public transport.

TE said that we want these people not to have died in vain. We should look at every single vision. She proposed that the LSP supports this and LL seconded but to be aware that the environmental impact should be considered alongside other options.

TE will meet separately with JT regarding the letter.

The Beddingham roadworks are obviously causing long delays so car sharing should be promoted. Different businesses could group together to form a car sharing scheme. The LSP could look at whether we can target supporting people, perhaps an MP - Jason Sugarman. Beddingham crossing is an ideal place to put up posters "go by train".

Suggestion of speaking to Middle Farm about signage "we're glad you arrived safely, be careful going home" or "be patient when you are waiting to pull out into the traffic". JT will provide updates regularly.

MC Public transport - deals should be brought in before 9.00 a.m. to encourage more people to use this method of getting to and from work.

## 7. **Local Area Agreement/East Sussex Strategic Partnership**

No representative at this meeting from East Sussex. It should be Cllr David Gray.

**Action:** VJ will email Amanda Hodge at ESCC regarding projects LAA are working on where targets end in March next year.

## 8/9. **Area Partnership/Thematic Groups' Issues and Any Other Business**

Written reports have been received from the partnerships.

MC - RVRC - lack of Government funding for initiatives - this has not been put in the report.

Funding issues to be added to the Agenda.

JW - Lewes Town Partnership - he has spoken to Shirley James about RVRC. Seaford website is busy with lots of things going on but the town partnership one shows nothing going on. The partnership has no representation from the Town or the District Council. It has chosen 4 very quick win situations. Concern is on climate

change and the need to reduce our dependencies on fossil fuels and hope that Councils will shift their focus on to this. The Lewes TP will want to look at this in the future.

DM - Lewes Town Partnership - youth issues - all the other area partnerships have youth as a focus but in Lewes Town there has been a gap on this. Opportunity to bring in David Hughes and discussion with OC to draw the best learning from the area partnerships, focus on good practice and funding opportunities.

LL - REGEN - Report from Peacehaven - change of administration in Telscombe Town Council put too many restrictions on an event which then had to be cancelled. Climate Change Event upcoming - Community schools and groups, local police station will be involved highlighting climate change.

Crime Reduction Partnership funding -the 14% cut imposed by GOSE via ESCC has been passed directly on to the local action teams. The cut will affect what the CRP can achieve at a local level.

*Life project:* Running for one week at Lewes Fire Station involving 14 youngsters teetering on edge of crime, Good success rate - 80% of the youngsters don't re-offend even after 3 years on. CRP was going to give £5k but this has now been lost and the Fire Service match fund this through the wages of the people that manage the project. JT desperate to tap into other money because the project is 50% arranged for September and is on the verge of failing.

DM will send JT details of a small grants pot, which is probably only up to £500. DM will look at sources of grants.

OC - Joint letters from County Council, Strategic Partnership and others sent to Tony Blair and Gordon Brown saying you can't retrospectively reduce budgets when they have already been agreed.

VC - Get together all of neighbourhood sergeants. Use task group to look at provision and trying to get more of the Lewes Group task group for the rural areas. Transport is the problem getting people together.

LL - Met with the Student Council and told them event had to be cancelled. Organising another festival 'Out of the Ordinary'. Peacehaven doing battle of the bands type thing with local bands plus workshops, circus skills. Event during a weekend in September.

JT expressed willingness to talk to any groups that have regular meetings to talk about modern fire service with emphasis on road traffic crashes.

TE - This weekend Fish Festival on Saturday in Newhaven with Dieppe market, Chinese market. Night before in the market at West Quay - free event by Chamber of Commerce inviting any business to go along and meet each other - type of net working event. Tracey and uniformed officer will go to businesses tomorrow along with the Chamber of Commerce to tell them about the event. 7.30 West Quay Lawns.

On Sunday at the Fort - exchange programme with a French artist. 2 - 4. Normal entrance fee.

Email Tracey for further information.

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

9.30 a.m. on Monday 24 September 2007, Telscombe Cliffs Civic Centre

9.30 a.m. Monday 17 December, 2007. Venue to be confirmed.  
The meeting closed at 11.00 a.m.