

Notes of the Lewes District Local Strategic Partnership
Held on Monday 24 September 2007

Present:

Tracey Evans (Chair)	Newhaven Strategic Network (TE)
Debby Matthews (V.Chair)	South Downs CVS (DM)
Owen Clifford	Lewes District Council (OC)
Sally Harper	Lewes District Council (SH)
Sue Moffat	Planning, Lewes District Council (SM)
Ian Kedge	Environmental Health, Lewes District Council (IK)
John Ticehurst	East Sussex Fire and Rescue (JT)
Peter Laverick	Sussex Police (PL)
Jon Webber	Lewes Town Partnership (JW)
Tom Hawthorne	Rural Voices Rural Choices (TH)
Jayne Boyfield	East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT (JB)
Marlene Caines	Lewes District Council

1. Welcome & Apologies

Apologies received from:

Ian Chisnall (Churches together in Sussex)
Cllr David Gray (LDC Lead Councillor, Community)
Ila Mazundar (Sompritti)
David Hughes (Lewes District YMCA)
Richard Watson (PCT)
Penny Shimmin (NSN)
David Walters (Lewes District Association of Parish & Town Councils)
Kate Entwistle (Environment Agency)

2. Notes of the Last Meeting/Matters Arising

East Sussex Integrated Community Strategy: OC will update later in the meeting.

Progress through Partnerships Self-Assessment: SH will update later in the meeting.

Local Area Agreement/East Sussex Strategic Partnership: PL will check with Viv Johnson who was going to check with Amanda Hodge at ESCC re: projects LAA are working on where targets end in March next year.

JT proposed the Minutes of 25 June 2007 to be a true record, seconded by TE.

3. Election of Chair & Vice Chair

No other nominations were received and TE and DM were happy to stand as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively. JW nominated both and this was seconded by TH and all in favour.

3A. Update on Local Development Framework (LDF) (by SM)

The Preferred Options for the Core Strategy was published in November 2006. The results are still being analysed. In the meantime, GOSE has altered criteria so these changes have to be taken into account. The Core Strategy now needs to be taken on to the next stage. A vast amount of evidence is being gathered; one piece is a housing market assessment of the district. There are various different housing markets, the Lewes District relates partly to Brighton and partly to Mid Sussex.

The District Council has commissioned DTZ who will be announcing the results of the first phase of the housing market assessment at an event on 8 October at Pelham House, Lewes. Invites have been sent to stakeholders, elected members, the local community, private sector partners and Chairs of the Area Partnerships.

GOSE want the LDF to include the location of growth, numbers in major settlements and major sites within those settlements. Analysis of potential sites is happening at the moment. The South East Plan inspector's report has just been published. The District and County Council believe that there is not much room for manoeuvre they are requesting that the allocation for the Lewes District remains unchanged and they will wait to see what the Minister says. The issue needs to be discussed with stakeholders and after analysis of possible sites, will be published next year. Lewes DC is currently considering sites across the whole district and there are no views formed as yet.

The South East Plan states the district has to accommodate approx 4,000 homes in 2006-2026 being achieved without extending urban areas.

Lewes DC needs to go to GOSE with the revised timescale but it is not ready to send the new local development scheme as this is still being worked on. PL said that 4,000 new houses potentially represent 4,000 victims of crime, disruption to the local area, community impact which may impact on police services. Where do the police feature in the planning scheme?

SM responded that the police are a key stakeholder when sites are considered in this process and infrastructure is critical. The issue about identifying needs for services will have to be identified in the LDF e.g. Shortfall in health, funding of the services is changing because the Housing Green Paper is proposing to change from the present system to funding through a planning/tax fund on the rising value of land. Government is talking about introducing this in 2009. Further, it has not decided if it will be funded directly locally or through a pot. Section 106 Agreement may not be around then. May be a levy on the value which would go into a pot elsewhere.

JT was concerned about the impact that this development will have on Fire & Rescue services. There is already an issue in Peavehaven - amount of time taken to get to back of Peacehaven - may need to look at relocating the Fire Station.

SM has met with Graham Presland to identify health services.

Action: SM will send out a note of the latest in terms of timetable to SH for distribution to the group, in order that partnerships can organise their bodies.

TE is trying to ensure that issues that are statutorily required for LDC are contained in the revised community strategy with an aim to having a better environment for our residents within our district.

4. East Sussex Integrated Community Strategy & Lewes District LSP Community Strategy (Owen Clifford)

The county document is entitled "East Sussex Integrated Sustainable Community Strategy". Government incorporated the need for sustainability in a big way. A Lewes district chapter will be contained in the document as well as the other districts and boroughs in East Sussex. The Lewes District chapter will incorporate thematic priorities established within the district as well as input from the Area Partnerships. It's important to make sure that it reflects what is happening in the various Area Partnerships as well as District priorities.

County timetable:

Draft version sent to County.

From Friday 28 September : Work on integrating the draft chapters.

By November : First consultation Countywide for 12 weeks.

Feb/March 2008 : County will include all feedback from the consultation to revise the County document.

Late May/June 2008 - the strategy will be published.

Lewes District Sustainable Strategy will contain more detailed action plans around each of the themes and Area Partnerships.

7 themes condensed into 5 headings:

Affordable Decent Housing:

Safer and Stronger Communities: To reduce crime and disorder. Crime Reduction Partnership looking to produce new strategy from next April.

Healthier Communities: Driven by the Health Improvement Partnership. Close to having targets and action plans. Draft received within the last few days.

Prosperous Communities: SH & TE looking at this with the County Council's Economic Development team.

TE mentioned that Sussex College will also be assisting in the process and it will take some time to get all this together.

Access to Learning for Everyone: Lewes District Children's Partnership will be looking at the educational achievement options. Set of targets agreed at District and County level for those in full-time school.

Action: OC will circulate to the LSP members various draft documents as and when they become available over the next few months.

Timetable - Aim to have final draft by December to present to the next LSP meeting. Following that there will be a 12 week consultation period from January to March next year. The document will then be published in May in line with the county strategy.

There are various people providing input for the strategy. Heads of themes will be headed up by County, District and Area Partnerships. Priorities for the action plan will all come from the strategy.

For the county strategy, each individual thematic partnership is responsible for its own target areas. The LSP has a monitoring role to co-ordinate all of this. Sue Harvey (LDC) has been putting this together and will look at each chapter and see what information is available to report on each theme.

PL expressed concern that there will be too many targets and too many priorities. SH explained that up to 35 targets will be identified, these should be based on the priorities of the strategy. This can be sorted before the revised LAA process comes in.

Part of function of LSP is, once the evidence is determined for all the themes, is to look at it all strategically. There is information from East Sussex in Figures of current issues within the district. In terms of equality, where are the worst areas for education etc. Are there areas within the district that should be a focus? The totality of information will be considered and where issues are within the district and what as an LSP should be done with it.

5. Dynamics of Place

A Dynamics of Place Workshop is being co-ordinated by East Sussex LSPs to be held in Hailsham. The day will look at various issues including how people travel to work and shops, approach leisure activities, where business are located, the flow of traffic of people on the roads and where the demands are. It will look at understanding the towns and how they inter connect with each other. If an increase in prosperity is wanted and businesses need to be attracted to relocate here, an understanding of where all the suppliers are is needed. The data gathered during the workshop will be used to inform a Dynamics of Place chapter in the county sustainable community strategy. For all stakeholders with interest in East Sussex, it is relevant for them to attend this workshop which will be funded by the Progress through Partnership programme. Invitations went to key stakeholders in East Sussex. Very few organisations from the Lewes District have so far responded.

Action: SH will email invite to JB.

6. Local Area Agreement/East Sussex Strategic Partnership - East Sussex Assembly

Last week TE attended workshops on Affordable Housing and Youth Strategy at the East Sussex Assembly. The Assembly considered how the East Sussex Local Area Agreement is addressing issues that are hard to tackle. A variety of issues were highlighted. These included housing development looking at land, people wanting to build executive homes which this does not address affordable housing issue in this district. In addition, tackling youth issues and engaging youth, the environment, health, prosperity and learning.

DM also attended a group at the conference looking at childhood obesity. This covered access to play and walking to school. Priorities are set nationally with County wide targets. These fit all of our concerns and the question is how to fit them in a place that is most logical?

PL suggested that Brendon McGowan, Youth Participation Officer, could be invited to the next meeting. He may be able to consult groups that he manages. They visit schools and present a short film on what the issues are for young people.

JB - Joint Children's Commission - Alison Smith.

TH - RVRC - Ringmer Youth Engagement event 27 November. The event will ask young people what their issues are within their villages and activities they would like to see developed. Regarding a child member attending the LSP, who would they report back to? They are unlikely to be in touch with what is going on.

OC recalled that a member of the Youth Parliament in the past sat on this membership. This might be a solution for a strategic overview.

7. Progress through Partnership Funding - update & spending proposals

SH distributed a paper entitled "PtP Update". The programme originated from comments by LSPs saying they have limited capacity. There was a consultation exercise and a self-assessment questionnaire which was completed in May. Subsequently Progress through Partnership was formed which is a capacity building programme for LSPs in the South East. Each LSP has £6,000 worth of credit to draw down and spend against self-assessment outcomes. LSP Co-ordinators and Chairs have agreed to pool £2,000 each to an East Sussex pot for joint capacity building activities which leaves £4,000 to be spent by the LSP. How the money should be spent needs to be decided.

SH referred to the outcomes of the self-assessment as a start to making a decision. She outlined the weaker areas. Then followed a discussion about potential spending ideas.

TE - Governance - closer links with the District Council and may be at an Area Partnership level some support needed to help local partnerships with links with their Town and Parish Councils.

Restructuring of the LSP membership.

Crime Reduction Partnership - strengthening the links.

The LSP identifies the governance, membership, opinions; then make it easier for information to be sent back to partners.

DM suggested an induction for new members to the LSP which would include partners outlining what they can bring to the LSP and the understanding these realities and why the partnership works.

SH reminded the group that the money does not have to be to pay a person but can be for an event but it has to be spent between now and March. Training could be in the form of event or one to one mentoring.

It was suggested that a District wide stakeholder conference be held with as many partners there as possible. Then follow up with an issues specific conference e.g. issue of affordable housing (approx £2,000). Then use the remaining £2,000 to update the LSP's website and to put together a tool kit to act as an induction pack to the LSP.

TE said it's important to understand partners' priorities and the differences between them.

PL - Might be able to find different priorities and a common view of what is most important. Agreement of something to benefit all of us.

IK felt it would be useful to have an event for LSP and its stakeholders to learn about the framework we are working within, what everyone can bring to the meeting and contributions respective partners should be making. What can LSP do for us and what I can do for the LSP?

Event suggested for December when we have brought together all the different themes in draft with a series of workshops led by the themes. These are the issues, priorities and resources.

SH said we need to work on membership and linking to the themes and why people should be here.

JB suggested an induction and refresh the terms of reference making sure the right people are attending the meeting.

JW - This fits with a December meeting. Everyone gets an induction pack.

TH - People representing will understand more about the LSP and understand about its partners. Parish Councils should also be invited.

SH - Website still needs updating and could use a bit of money to sort this out.

East Sussex Strategic Partnership is planning two conferences. If they were held Lewes District wide, they would have to be for the right reason. This would mean that the quarterly meetings would run much more smoothly. It's a big ask to get key stakeholders to allocate time to a couple more seminars in their busy diaries.

JB said that if an update on LSP could be provided this would allow someone else in her team to be involved when necessary.

TH would rather see money spent on induction pack than another event.

TE - Could tap into one to one mentoring and get people to come and spend a day with someone who can answer all their questions as to what is happening within the LSP. This is already funded via a scheme within PtP called Practioner Associates and will not affect the £4,000 available. PL expressed interest in this.

TE passed around a paper and invited all to specify what they would want in terms of the Practioner Associates scheme. There are 15 Practioner Associates in the region. Activities can be organised at the convenience of those involved and can involve visits, meetings, mentoring etc.

Options for the £4,000:

- Website.
- Induction Pack.

Money held by PtP. TE asked if anyone has any requests for an event between now and March that would be of use to them and other people, to let SH know by the end of tomorrow.

Action: SH will email partners immediately requesting for further ways to spend the PtP money so that partners not in attendance had a chance to express their views. JB suggested a Road Show at a couple of venues with different organisations to explain what the LSP aims are; boards and posters could be used, pitch up somewhere for an hour or so.

Action: SH will complete the PtP proforma outlining potential projects once views from partners are received.

8. Housing Market Assessment Stakeholder Conference

DM will be attending the conference on 8 October 2007 at Pelham House 4.00 - 6.30. DTZ carried out the market assessment of Lewes District and will be organising a presentation with workshops and discussion groups. Following the conference, DM will email her report to everyone. TH will also be attending.

9. Construction Charter

TE has not taken this forward as it has integrated to a bigger project.

10/11/12. Information Sharing by Partners/Area Partnership & thematic groups' issues/Any Other Business

TE:

Newhaven - will find out tomorrow if successful with the bid to take step beyond what Sue's team have been doing as part of the LDF process. She explained that she is involved in detailed spatial planning work with individual developments and that there is a lot of support from SEEDA to take this forward. NSN is also looking at flood risk assessment and a new traffic model within Newhaven and surrounding areas.

She attended a session of Towns and Managers' Meetings. Worthing has been successful with business improvement in its borough. They consulted businesses regarding the proposal of an additional 1.½% on their business rates to enhance the businesses and centres of the towns. Could look at doing this Lewes district wide.

She has been asked if Lewes would be willing to host the next Regeneration Seminar on Sustainable Procurement and the Carbon Footprint. There is a possibility of a bid, looking at police authority undertaking a project which includes the evacuation process and terrorist threats. This would be paid for externally. TE would be pleased to discuss further if anyone wishes to contact her outside the meeting.

DM:

REGEN Partnership and Seaford Partnership working on youth issues developing various projects around the Shed Project. This can be circulated on paper.

South Downs CVS AGM 18 October at the new village hall in Cooksbridge and will showcase youth initiatives plus a Brighton University Partnership project.

JT:

A27 issues: road traffic crashes - another death on 1 August on the A27. The campaign has not moved forward. JT waiting for Nigel Waterson to contact him for discussions on the A27 problem. Working with the police on the short term. Longer term option would be a dual carriageway.

Life Project: Funding was not forthcoming although the Life Project still went ahead last week with 12 youngsters showing anti-social behaviour. This was a successful course but the outcome will not be known until their behaviour is reviewed after some time. The intention is to run two life courses next year. Trying to secure £5k for each life course and have approached Tesco, Waitrose and Sainsburys for funding.

PL:

Special Constable killed last week in an accident on A26.

Police Authority meeting Thursday in Lewes.

Series of street meetings set up with the Crime Reduction Partnership along the coastal strip, Ringmer and Lewes - going to where there are specific problems. The CRP will be getting local people to complete a questionnaire at these events in order to gather strategic intelligence to be used to set the future priorities of the CRP.

JB:

There are two PCTs across East Sussex with a single management team. AGM to be held on Thursday.

Trying to get tight timetable strategy condition plan for the next 5 years on health needs assessment for East Sussex, including sexual health and teenage pregnancy. Consultation will follow. Important document in terms of linking with the LSP. Health needs assessment for East Sussex being undertaken.

JW:

The Lewes Town Partnership has been struggling because Kim Lanning the Development Worker, has been ill.

It is conducting a tour around the town describing what it used to be like.

Training for looking after fruit trees this autumn.

Trying to get signs up for the farmers market in Lewes.

Trying to set up a youth group in Lewes and working with the police and the YMCA.

David Hughes of the YMCA is leaving. AGM will spotlight working on public toilets.

All these issues are related to the outcomes of the Market Town Health Check.

Unfortunately the Partnership was not going anywhere and there was a need to do something very positive and public so the market town health check has been put on the back burner. There has been no recent input from the District Council, no officers or Councillors from District or Town Council have attended. JW stated that he feels that the partnership is slightly disengaged from the Council at the moment and would welcome some input.

SH pointed out that if you want someone to attend regularly you have to define why and support can be given where appropriate.

DM advised that Councillor David Gray wants to visit all the partnerships.

IK:

The Valuing the Environment Group is working actively to write its chapter for the community strategy. He tabled a sheet entitled "A Valued Environment". The Group would like to see lot of other partnerships engaged and offered an open invitation to do that. IK asked everyone to read the sheet and to let him know if there are any huge gaps or anything obviously wrong.

He would like the action plan emailed to partners and is keen for organisations to let him know how they can contribute to the theme e.g. clean green agenda, open spaces, sustainability, tackling climate change. This will be circulated for bigger consultation.

TH:

Rural Voices Rural Choices AGM last week: Will be regrouping at management committee level. Terms of reference and governance - decisions are taken on issues on a consensus basis. Meetings are well attended but predominantly by Parish Councils.

Community transport bid for the southern area - waiting to hear on this. This is an extension of a scheme in Kingston area with taxis. Hope to have £6k of funding. Linked up with Bluebird in the area.

Speed Indicator Device - Barcombe to have it this week, Glynde will have it soon. Invite traffic officer to meeting in November.

Youth Engagement - 2 events will be held at Ringmer Community College and Chailey School to canvass young people about what facilities & opportunities they would like in their villages and how they can be addressed.

Village Action Plans - working with Mark McTaggart, Action in rural Sussex to encourage villages to update or produce an action plan.

Princess Royal Hospital - potential downgrading. Lack of trust, people not being listened to despite consultations.

Sustainability - setting up small sub group looking at the rural areas.

Next meeting - will concentrate on issues affecting smaller parishes.

The meeting closed at 11.45 a.m.