

## Peacehaven and Telscombe Regeneration Partnership

### *Education and Training Working Group*

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April - 11am at the Peacehaven House Project**

#### **Agenda:**

**1. Present:** Liz Lee (Working Group Leader)– Lewes District Council, Linda Burnett – Resident, David Brindley and Jeanette Brown- Sussex Downs College, and Donald Shier (Minutes) – House Project Partnership Support Worker.

**2. Apologies:** Anne Palethorpe - University of the Third Age, Gill Short and Rosie Boxer - Sussex Downs College

**3. Minutes of the last meeting** were read and agreed as correct except for one thing. This is that Sussex Downs College did not mean to say that they will be making a single A4 sheet of information on adult classes for Peacehaven. David Brindley told us that the special single page flyer giving information for Telscombe Cliffs was only done because the classes in the Telscombe Civic Centre were a new thing. There are two possible things that might make the college produce a single sheet for Peacehaven: 1. If someone outside the college gives them some money to pay for this and 2. If Peacehaven Community School become more co-operative with helping the college to run adult/evening classes at the School. David appreciates that it is unlikely that Peacehaven residents will look through the college adult education prospectus to try to find the few classes that are on in Peacehaven. Peacehaven residents are also unlikely to look through the prospectus because they are not likely to think of going to classes in Lewes or Denton Island. This is because of the difficulties in getting to Lewes, and even to Denton Island, for those without cars, especially in the evening. (Do the timings of the classes in Lewes and Denton Island fit in with the times of the buses to Peacehaven, especially the ones for people to get home in the evenings?).

**4. Matters Arising from the Last Minutes:** David has yet to contact Michael Lamb, the Peacehaven and Telscombe Youth Forum Co-ordinator, to consult him about young people's needs for education and training and the problems they have in accessing this in this area.

**Peacehaven Community (Secondary) School.** Liz Lee wrote to Councillor Rupert Simmonds. He is the East Sussex County Council's lead councillor for Education Services. She told him how our group is unhappy about the way the school is not available for use by the community in the evenings. [David Neighbour, County Councillor for Telscombe Cliffs, also sent an e-mail to Councillor Simmonds saying the same thing.]

Liz received a response from Ian Woodland who is ESCC Education Department's Grounds Maintenance Manager. It looks like he was asked to look into our complaints. He says that he is also unhappy that the school is not available for use for community based adult education. He will arrange a meeting with all the people concerned to see if they can "hopefully take this forward positively" (This is all very complicated now since there seem to be so many different organisations involved in running a school: The teaching staff, The County Council Education Department, The Private Company who manage the buildings, EMCORE, and someone else called "our partner Provider (PSL)"). David Brindley will attend this meeting. He will let Liz Lee

know when it will be so she can also attend. Liz will also write to Estelle Morris who is the central government's minister for education, to bring the problem to her attention

Liz highlighted that, in the letter from Ian Woodland, he describes adult education classes at the school as a "new use". Liz believes that it should have been agreed, when the school was planned, that a "community" school should be used for adult evening classes, so it should not be a new use. Cllr Neighbour, the teaching Staff and the school governors are horrified by the situation. The college do not think it is an option for them to pay extra to overcome some of the problems identified by EMCORE. Liz Lee agrees with them. The college runs adult classes in three other schools: Denton Primary School, Grays Primary School, and the Pells Primary School. These classes are during the day and the college does not have to pay for the use of the school facilities. These classes are in basic skills, to help parents to help their children with their homework.

Joy Mercer from Sussex Downs College, who works with David, Rosie and Gill, has written to Fiona Wright (the new school head teacher), to let her know that the college are still keen to run adult education classes at the school, if the restrictions can be eased.

**Details of how many people from Peacehaven and Telscombe are doing courses at Sussex Downs College.** Donald has done some sums with the figures David Brindley brought to the group recently. The figures below now show the numbers of people and not just percentages of the total figure.

**Sussex Downs College**  
**Enrollments by people living in the Peacehaven and Telscombe Area**  
**(People doing courses with the college)**  
**As at 21st February 2002**

**827 Total enrolments**

Male %	Male No.s	Female %	Female No.s
36.1	299	63.9	528

Full Time. %	Full T. No.s	Part T. %	Part T. No.s
41.6	344	58.4	483

<b>Peacehaven Based Courses</b>	
% of Total	No.s
1.8	15

(not Telscombe based courses)

<b>Denton Island Based Courses</b>	
% of Total	No.s
29.7	246
% of P/T	P/T No.s
50.9	246

<b>Numbers of Different Age Groups enrolled</b>		
	% of Total	No.s
16-18	40.5	335
19-24	5.4	45
25-34	9.3	77
35-44	13.4	111
45-54	11	91
55-64	11.2	93
65 and over	5.9	49

**5. New members of this group:** There are no new members this week. It would be very useful if any member of the group would like to take any steps to find new members. A press release might be useful.

**6. Review of Adult Education/Lifelong Learning Opportunities in Peacehaven and Telscombe:** The Sussex Downs College adult classes are continuing at the Telscombe Civic Centre. Some of the original ones have finished now and new ones have started. The new computer training facility at the centre has not opened yet. No-one knew why not. Liz Lee will try to find out. She will also invite Crash UK, the company who are running the training room, to send a representative to our working group.

**7. GOAT.** Jeanette Brown from Sussex Downs College attended the meeting to tell us about the college's Getting Our Act Together project (GOAT). This is a scheme that the college is running in partnership with various other organisations, in the area from Telscombe to Pevensey, including the Lewes and Wealden areas, but not in Hastings or Rother. The project is about helping people improve their basic educational skills. This means reading, writing and maths. The project is running from now until December 2003.

The GOAT project is meant to work with community and voluntary organisations and small and medium sized businesses (up to 250 employees). The idea is to look at new ways to get people to learn basic skills, and to find volunteers who will give students support and guidance while they are learning. They aim to find 1,350 people to teach basic skills to, across the area. 550 of these people are supposed to go on to some other adult education courses. The college has set up a network of partner organisations like the East Sussex Disability Association and the local Dyslexia Association. With their own staff, and these groups and agencies, they have put together a team of 27 trainers. They will then recruit, train and manage 10 volunteer helpers each (they have decided to call these volunteers "barefoot helpers". This is not because these people have strange beliefs that mean they don't wear shoes, nor that they are too poor to afford shoes. It is because people running these kind of schemes in very poor countries thought of the idea. Most local people in those places couldn't afford or didn't like shoes. Barefoot helpers were so called because they were local people, as opposed to the foreign aid workers who wore shoes).

The college wants to work with the partner organisations to look at how best to provide the basic skills courses in each area. In this area the NEWTAP scheme is a partner and the House Project might also get involved. The college believe that basic skills training courses might work better if they are about things people are interested in already, like gardening. Part of the course could then be about reading seed packets and calculating growing times and amounts of feed, etc., rather than having a course called basic skills, which people might feel ashamed to go to. Many people are put off going to basic skills classes because this can label them as thick, in the eyes of the community.

The classes could also be run as part of groups which people go to already, like mother and toddler groups, or community associations, or in people's work places, as part of work training. The recruitment and training of the barefoot helpers will go alongside the designing of the new and imaginative ways of getting people to learn their basic skills. The scheme is for people aged over 16 but there is no upper age limit.

The training of volunteers has to take place between now and October this year. The college wants the partner organisations to start training their volunteers before setting up the ways that the basic skills teaching will be provided. The volunteers who do the mentoring course (In college language helping people to learn is called mentoring. This is like a parent helping a child with their homework but in a less patronising way) will find their own five people to assist.

The volunteers will get a qualification if they complete the course successfully. The course involves 24 hours of classes. It has not been decided yet how much mentoring will be required of the volunteers, for them to get the qualification. The qualification is called an Open College Network certificate. The volunteers can achieve level 1, 2, or 3 in this. Level 1 is at GCSE standard; level 2 at A. Level standard and level 3 is at degree level. The course will involve confidence building for the volunteers.

The Workers Educational Association has run schemes like this in other areas. This is the first time Sussex Downs College has tried to set up a scheme like this for basic skills training.

Jeanette will be working in Peacehaven and Telscombe. She will be looking for volunteers through the community organisations and employers who take part in the NEWTAP scheme (NEWhaven Technology Access Points: open to people who live or work in BN10 area). SDC has provided computers and support to the above people for them to provide training in computing skills to their users or employees.

Jeanette does not have contacts yet with employers in the Peacehaven and Telscombe area. Unfortunately she cannot work with the local Co-op store. This is because it is part of the national Co-op group. This is too large an enterprise (more than 250 employees). Local restaurants run by people whose first language is not English might want to benefit from the scheme. The basic skills teaching can be for people who have grown up speaking another language, as well as people whose first language is English. Jeanette will come back to tell us about progress in two months.

**8. Any other business.** From the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> of May this year is national Adult Learners Week. David Brindley has set up an event in Peacehaven for this. This is a weeklong creative writing and drama course for women only. This will be 2 hours each day of the week and might end with a performance of some kind, created during the week. David has already found people to do this course, through talking to the Trafalgar and Collingwood residents association and a group for women run by the local health visitors, called Wise Up. There will also be other taster courses run at Denton Island during this week. The group asked if taster classes could also be run at the Meridian Centre and the Telscombe Civic Centre. He said he would see what he could do.

The commercial and retail working group of the Regeneration Partnership has ceased to meet. No one wants to lead that group. Liz suggested that this group could take on some aspects of commercial and retail work for the partnership. She will raise this at the next main partnership meeting. If they agree then Donald will write to our business contacts again to invite them to the next meeting of this working group.

**9. Date of next meeting: Friday 3rd May, 11am at the House Project, 168 South Coast Road**