

## **Peacehaven and Telscombe Regeneration Partnership**

### **Commercial and Retail Working Group**

2<sup>nd</sup> November 2001 - 11.30am at the Peacehaven House Project

**Present:** Wendy Bannantine, Roy Goodall and Donald Shier

**Apologies:** none

**Agenda:**

**Minutes of the last meeting:** These were read and agreed as correct.

**Matters Arising:**

**Meridian Centre Improvements:** Still no news from Mellersh and Harding.

**Chamber of Commerce for Peacehaven and Telscombe/Self employed people's network/More people for this group:** Donald has written to the .people identified by the group at the last meeting and 20 others from the list of contacts Roy had from the previous attempt to set up a chamber of commerce. So far, only Bob Poplett has responded. He asked for a copy of the action plan. This has been sent. Other suggestions for people to invite to be involved: Screen Solutions, a company based in the old Co-op furniture store building plus the new flower shop at the Meridian Centre, and Roy Beaney at the Telscombe Tavern. Donald to add them to the mailing list.

Roy mentioned that there have been discussions at the Telscombe Town Council regarding the possible use of a room at their civic centre as a business centre/resource base/advice and training centre for self employed/local businesses. He has contacted Barbara Hayes who was the assistant director for adult education at Lewes Tertiary College (now South Downs College). It was thought that we should pursue this idea in various ways.

- Donald to write to Barbara Hayes to ask for help in setting up the business centre: They could supply computers and run courses, like in Denton Island but on a smaller scale, or any other support for this.
- We could try to set up a partnership with Telscombe Town Council, the Regeneration Partnership Commercial and Retail working group and anyone else, to establish the centre. This group could make applications for match funding for this (see below for fundraising ideas)
- Donald to write to our contacts again to invite them to the next meeting of the group to ask for their views on what they would want from a business centre and would they like to join a network or this group. Donald also to make a poster/flyer for this meeting to try to reach self employed people we don't know.
- Wendy will investigate offers of free computers for charities.

**Fundraising:** Wendy has found a possible funding source for this group or for projects we identify. – Phoenix Fund for Community Development: This provides funding to support entrepreneurs, especially in deprived areas. She will get an application form. Also, the Community Empowerment Fund (£36 million between 2001 and 2004). We meet their criteria but the money is only for certain localities. We

are not one of these but Brighton and Hove is. Donald to contact Brighton and Hove Regeneration people to see if we could do joint applications with them.

**Coastal Renaissance Partnership.** Their report is now available in draft form. It should be published finally in November or December. Roy to try to obtain a copy. ESCC has decided to cut all financial and officer support for the CRP. It has been suggested that their working groups could become affiliated to SEDA but nothing has happened yet. There will not now be an SRB 7 funding stream.

**Community Safety.** We are not sure which working group should have responsibility for taking forward the community safety issues identified in the partnership's action plan. This is to be put to the next partnership meeting. Donald will contact the Telscombe town clerk to see if there are any local crime prevention groups. Anchor Staying Put, a Lewes district wide charity is offering free door chains; security lights and smoke alarms to elderly vulnerable people and victims of crime who are on income support. If not there is a £10 charge.

**Any other business:** none

**Date of next meeting: 29<sup>th</sup> November - 5.45pm in the Meridian Centre. Donald to book a room.**