

SEAFORD COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Minutes of Steering Group Meeting 17 held at St James' Club (Seaford Volunteers) Wednesday 10th April 2002

Present:

David Schueler
Ted Cowdrey
Peter Sinclair
Linda Hallums
Mike Murphy

Mary Crutch
Christine Hart
Jon Freeman
Stuart Adcock

Cllr Laurie Holland
Christine Sinclair
Joan Pearce
Owen Clifford

1. INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

Apologies from Sue Moffatt, Colin Brown, Duncan White, Paul Rideout, Audrey Whitney, Maggie Simons, Pauline Gower

2. MINUTES OF MEETING NO.16 - 6th March 2002

Minutes - Agreed

3. REPORTS FROM THE THEMATIC TASK GROUPS

3.1 Farmers Market (Christine Sinclair)

The result of the New Opportunities Fund bid for £4000 is expected in a couple of weeks. (Draft proposals for an Equal Opportunities Policy/Statement and Green Housekeeping Policy still to be circulated for comment and use in future bids).

Following comments about the problems of Thursday deliveries on the original High Street site, the proposed site for the market is now in Church Street, from West Street down to South Street/High Street.

It was confirmed that the application for road closure permission had been agreed by Seaford Town Council planning committee, with the comment that overnight car parking occurs where the stalls will be located. The road closure order should prevent this, but it was agreed that the local traffic warden's co-operation needs to be obtained and it would be advisable to put up warning signs early in the week of the market, together with cones the day before.

LDC approval is awaited.

Eighty flyers had been sent out to prospective stall-holders, with twelve take-ups.

Registration documents, with terms and conditions had been sent to the twelve, together with a questionnaire from the Environmental Health Department.

3.2 First Stop Shop and Seaford Forum (Jon Freeman and Mary Crutch)

First Stop Shop

a) Stage 1.

A new 3 year lease has now been agreed between Seaford Town Council and Seaford Volunteers Association for the Old Town Hall and £1000 of the rent has already been paid (out of the £2000 contributed by the NHS Primary Care Group).

Setting up is still in progress, partly using material which has been contributed such as shelves, a desk etc.

Five people, skilled in the use of the computer data-base, have been recruited for the mornings.

A further five helpers are available who can use the manual filing/data-base systems.

The building is being painted and suitable material is being displayed on the walls.

Putting up notice boards on both sides of the door is proposed, subject to listed buildings requirements and retrospective planning permission will be required.

It is proposed to have the official public launch of the First Stop shop in association with the next Forum meeting on 24th May. Press releases need to be issued to all papers. It was reported that good responses have been received from a number of other groups.

b) Stage 2.

It was noted that Neil Brown now wishes to bring in other bodies into the discussions about rail transport in the area, including Hastings and Newhaven.

The Rail Strategy will have an impact on Seaford.

The Season ticket trade could impact on Seaford if the through route to Uckfield and northwards to London is restored. ESCC are now looking at the possibilities of the Tunbridge Wells, Uckfield, Lewes, Newhaven, Seaford link.

Similarly if the area achieves National Park status, the important role of Seaford as a gateway, with an appropriate station, must be pressed and publicised. This could be helped by the smartening up resulting from the envisaged commercial development at the station.

It was accepted that the possibilities of a successful re-development of the station is contingent on proposals from GOVIA/South Central, Railtrack and the ESCC for future rail services in the area.

A suggestion was made that the second stage of the First Stop Shop could be achieved by using old railway carriages located on the disused railway lines.

It was agreed that there is a need for the Partnership to have a direct meeting with the appropriate authorities to explore all the issues involved.

Ted Cowdrey and David Schueler would draft a letter to GOVIA/South Central/Railtrack with copies to Owen South, Debby Portchmouth and the Consultant.

A SWOT analysis should be prepared for the whole project of the station re-development in conjunction with the second stage First Stop Shop and the proposed new Library.

c) Seaford Forum

The recent Forum featured seafront cycle routes and the need for a new town library.

Numbers attending were down, but it was felt that there was more contribution to the debates from those who did come.

The next Forum on 24th May will feature Christine Sinclair on the Farmers Market, Ted Cowdrey on Transport and the Cinema club (Stuart Adcock).

3.3 Cradle Hill Industrial Estate Improvements (Peter Sinclair)

Details are still awaited from LDC of an environmental policy statement for the estate and an audit on electricity and water supplies together with waste disposal.

Peter Sinclair commented on an interesting document received from the Environmental Agency on greening of industrial estates.

Newhaven is quoted as the model of a sustainable town.

The report states that Seaford is not interested in 2/3 day visitors !! (where did that idea come from?).

It was suggested that the Partnership should look at suggested action points.

We could use the profile of Seaford produced for the Healthy Living Centre bid. The change from a previous population of older people to a younger one needs to be taken into account.

The Lewes District fact file shows the demographic spread of Seaford and includes information on the resident's needs such as employment etc. Schools are overflowing (requiring the frequent use of portable classrooms) Facilities for young people are inadequate.

It was agreed that the SCP now has an important role in the development of Seaford working, where necessary, in partnership with other organisations in the town.

Tourism should form an important part of this, in order to foster the shops and businesses and other commercial interests. This could attract grants and investment of benefit to the residents as well as visitors and business.

It is important to continue to promote our activities through the local media and the press - especially as we start to be associated with successful projects, such as the Farmers Market, the First Stop Shop and the Cinema Club etc etc.

3.4 Transport and Safe Routes to School (Ted Cowdrey)

Robin Preecy has provide summaries of the information collected in the surveys carried out earlier and this is being put on to maps.

An important part of this is to identify crossing points for children and talk to ESCC about the appropriate safety needs.

The Sutton Avenue traffic calming work was discussed and there was concern about some aspects of this in view of experiences of users so far.

It is important that a Safety Audit should be carried out on the completed scheme before it is officially put into full use. In addition a school education programme is required to ensure the safety facilities are understood and used properly.

A clean up of the town has been suggested by Michael Stewart and the SCP felt this was a very necessary and worthy project.

It was considered that paths down to the lower beach would be of advantage to those with difficulty in walking over shingle.

3.5 Seafront Improvements, Tourism and Culture (David Schueler)

The Seafront Improvements and Culture committee met again on 20th March and further discussions took place on plans for a heritage trail, with appropriate signage and also the refurbishment of the Salts and seafront.

Arien, a company which produces interpretation panels has provided some ideas for the Heritage Trail maps and the cost of these, together with wall plaques, finger posts etc is estimated at £10,000. LDC have a budget allocation of £2135 for finger posts for Seaford and it is suggested that we look for a grant from English Heritage for the balance.

It was considered useful if the Heritage Trail could be in place in time for next year's Maritime Festival.

Andrew Elliston is working on his plans for the refurbishment of the Salts

The Seaford Maritime Week Festival Committee had met again and continued to work on a programme for the joint Seaford and Newhaven Spring Bank Holiday weekend from 24th to 26th May 2003, which coincides with the 200th anniversary of the Newhaven Lifeboat Society. It was also agreed that Seaford's Clean Beach Flag-raising ceremony should take place at this

weekend. A number of organisations have been contacted to put on functions. In addition there will be a number of big set-piece events such as a parade of lifeboats, a trawler race, and possibly a Tall Ship may be present.

3.5 Cinema Club

Stewart Adcock confirmed that "Communities Against Drugs" has provided a grant of £5500 for the set-up costs for a Cinema Club at the Downs Leisure Centre.

An action plan is being prepared for the first film showing in September 2002. Stewart will advise what stewarding etc arrangements he would like the SCP to organise. These must be 18 years or over.

4. JOINT BID WITH OTHER TOWNS FOR INTERREG III FUNDS

SDCVS are having a meeting with University of Sussex to see if the towns can join in with a bid which they are making for INTERREG III funds.

It was noted that ESCC are looking for INTERREG funding for cycling. Safe routes to schools has already received funding from an earlier bid.

5. THE SEAFORD COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP CONSTITUTION

The nominated officers' names have been sent to SDCVS. Letters are to be sent to the founder organisations regarding appointment of their representatives as directors/trustees.

6. SKILLS DEMAND AND SUPPLY (CHRIS HART)

Through a Care Project, Care Homes are being targeted for using Skills and Learning funding. Chris Hart is also working with Care for the Carers on this.

She has also been in touch with Sussex Enterprise regarding aspects of small businesses training. Sussex Enterprise have agreed to come aboard as a partner in a bid to the Learning and Skills Partnership and provide the necessary expertise.

The bid for this round is needed by 1st May. Surgewries are being run to support the bid.

Partners will be Sussex Enterprise, Federation of Small Businesses, Seaford Chamber of Commerce and the SCP.

It was agreed to hold a brainstorming session for ideas on Monday 15th April at 2,30pm at Seaford Head Community College.

Prospective members (as available) Christine Hart, Ted Cowdrey, David Schueler, Jon Freeman, Mike Murphy, Peter Sinclair (evenings only).

This meeting could also be used to discuss Business Development in the town.

The group should also look at training for existing small businesses (e.g one/two/three persons involved). This training should involve some technical skills but particularly business management and computer skills.

7. LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

A web site is being designed. Proposals for a SCP page are required by 1st May.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Civil Service Pensioners Association had applied to join the SCP. Agreed that Chairman should advise them on our activities (including the Forum) and invite them to join an appropriate task group. Seaford Football Club need a new ground for their league development - SCP to offer to join in any discussions with other bodies - but it was felt this is beyond our scope.

An application form has been received from the Town Council for grants for the year 2002/2003.

Chairman will submit this.

Date of Next Meeting - Wednesday 1st May 2002

DS/April 2002

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