

# SEAFORD COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

## Minutes of Steering Group Meeting 19 held at St James' Club (Seaford Volunteers) Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2002

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### Present:

David Schueler  
Ted Cowdrey  
Joan Pearce  
Pauline Gower  
Jane Spence

Mary Crutch  
Peter Sinclair  
Owen Clifford  
Chris Hart

Cllr Laurie Holland  
Christine Sinclair  
Mike Murphy  
Jon Freeman

### 1. INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

Apologies from Sue Moffatt, Colin Brown, Paul Rideout, Duncan White, Maggie Simons, Audrey Whitney, Stuart Adcock

### 2. MINUTES OF MEETING NO.18 1<sup>st</sup> May 2002

Minutes - Agreed

#### 2a. BANK ACCOUNT

A Bank Account has now been opened with HSBC, Seaford and the signatories are Pauline Gower, David Schueler, Jon Freeman and Michael Murphy. Any two signatories out of these four are required on cheques.

The account was opened with £1000 of the Primary Care Trust Grant and the Farmers Market grant from SEED of £4900 is expected within a few days.

### 3. REPORTS FROM THE THEMATIC TASK GROUPS

#### 3.1 Farmers Market (Christine Sinclair)

The first market, planned for 20<sup>th</sup> June, will be opened by the Mayor at 11am

Eleven stall holders have registered interest but nine stalls have been booked, providing meats, sausages, eggs, bakery products, cheese and pasta, fruit and vegetables, plants (alpines) and apple juices etc.

Contact has been made with the National Farmers Market Association

Public Liability Insurance is being arranged.

Metal Diversion and Road Closed signs are being ordered

Sussex Constabulary Traffic Division has been involved.

The funding of road closure costs from October onwards needs to be considered.

For market information - contact Christine Sinclair on 01323 492619.

A Courtesy bus has been arranged running from the outskirts to the town centre - contact 01323 893926.

Posters, Flyers and hand-out slips are being distributed through the town plus Corex boards at strategic points. Steering group members were asked to help through their organisations with distribution. Press releases have been issued to Seaford Gazette, Sussex Express, Argus and the South Coast Leader. A table will be provided with SCP information

Drafts of the SEED Equal Opportunities Policy Statement and Green Housekeeping Policy have been circulated to steering group members for agreement.

#### 3.2 Skills Demand & Supply (Chris Hart)

Chris Hart reported that news is still awaited on the bid for £64500 to South East Learning and Skills Council for funding of a Flexible Training Programme for Small and Medium Enterprises.

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

#### First Stop Shop

##### a) Stage 1.

The official opening of the INFONET at the Old Town Hall was carried out on 24<sup>th</sup> May. Training for volunteers to man it is in place and the skills will be passed on to others to ensure the sustainability of the first stop shop.

Hanging files and other data are now available. The computer data base is becoming well established with a great deal of information about the town's many organisations.

The first stop is becoming well used - people dropping in for a coffee become interested and enquire for information.

Mary Crutch referred to a leaflet describing reconditioned old railway carriages and the possibility of accomodating one in Seaford could be explored as an interim information centre.

UFI - a learning scheme for people not in employment was discussed. This could apply to children from 14 to 16 years who find conventional education difficult.

Possible grant sources could be SEED or the Children's fund. A meeting with Jane Spence is to be set up to discuss this and also the Introduction to Sport programme at Newhaven.

##### b) Stage 2.

Ted Cowdrey attended the meeting arranged with Neil Brown on 2<sup>nd</sup> May and toured the station area and environs to review the regeneration possibilities.

The Seaford-Newhaven-Lewes-Uckfield-Tunbridge Wells-London central rail corridor is now considered by ESCC as vital for the regeneration of the local economy of the western part of East Sussex by providing faster communications. The steering group agreed that improvement of the railway link to Seaford is vital as the town should be regarded as an important gateway to the South Downs - and thus become central in the growth of tourism as an industry.

This reinforces the need to develop the station area to become attractive to visitors as well as providing much needed additional community facilities including a modern library - and commercial premises.

It was agreed that Neil Brown should be invited to address the SCP on LDC's plans for the railway and station area.

At the same time we need to talk direct to GOVIA and the replacement to Railtrack

A SWOT analysis should be carried out beforehand so that SCP is quite clear on what we are looking for.

It was felt that the partnership should now be looking in wider terms for opportunities to develop business and commerce in the town.

A meeting is advisable with Lyndsey Frost of LDC and Tony Reid of ESCC to explore what the plans for Corsica Hall are.

It may be possible for a joint bid to be put in for the purchase of Corsica Hall by a consortium of a leisure group and the SCP. This would require SCP establishing a wider working group with appropriate expertise. It was felt that separate interlocking groups for the station and Corsica Hall would be the best approach.

Jon Freeman will report further on this.

##### c) Seaford Forum

The Forum on 24<sup>th</sup> May had speakers - Stuart Adcock on the Cinema, Christine Sinclair on the Farmers Market and Ted Cowdrey - Safe Routes to School. These went well but it was felt that a wider audience is desirable to ensure that the public is informed and consulted.

It was agreed that the meeting scheduled for Friday 26<sup>th</sup> July should include a talk about Corsica Hall and about Youth affairs - with Jane Spence involved.

The Seafront improvements and the 2003 Maritime Festival would be covered by David Schueler at the 20<sup>th</sup> September meeting.

Regarding Youth affairs, it was agreed that other interested groups (such as Dave Gibson at Cradle Hill) should be involved. There is a view that the physical side has sufficient help but there should be more encouragement of the music and arts. However Jane considered that these, with drama are already catered for. Similarly there are already two big youth clubs and there is no need for others.

It would be useful to produce a profile of available services - which would be a worthwhile project for a project worker resulting from the INTERREG III funding bid being produced by Sussex University.

**d) Publicity**

The Farmers Market, First Stop Shop and Safe Routes to School have been quite well covered in the press. David Schueler will prepare a general article covering other work of the SCP and update the previous promotion leaflet for distribution at the Forum and Farmers Market and at points such as the library, TIC, Hurdis House etc.

**3.4 Cradle Hill Industrial Estate Improvements (Peter Sinclair)**

No further information available on security matters nor on traffic matters.

A breakfast meeting is to be arranged with Trevor Watson

An Energy and Water Audit is to be carried out.

Following the discussion last month it was noted that Seaford Telephone Exchange has uprated to Broadband or ASDL for businesses and residents. This should be an incentive for small knowledge based businesses to seek accommodation in Cradle Hill

**3.5 Transport and Safe Routes to School (Ted Cowdrey)**

A meeting with Colin Clark was held today to discuss the data collected for safe routes to school and display the maps collating this information.

Colin Brown will now produce plans for the crossing requirements revealed by the surveys. These will probably be of the Puffin type to cater for pedestrians and cyclists.

Ted Cowdrey and Paul rideout have had meetings with CTLA at Hillcrest in Newhaven to work up plans for a Community Bus Service. Funding is available and membership of the scheme would be based on a £1 membership fee.

A trial run will be provided for the Farmers market courtesy bus, using the same route as proposed for the community bus and paid for from the Farmers Market grant. Sponsorship will also be considered.

The bus is operated by volunteers - who are licensed after training.

**3.6 Seafront Improvements, Tourism and Culture (David Schueler)**

The Seafront Improvements and Culture committee meet again on 19<sup>th</sup> June and further discussions will take place on plans for a heritage trail, with appropriate signage and also the refurbishment of the Salts and seafront.

Andrew Elliston's plans for the refurbishment of the Salts area are well advanced - they form part of his degree course-work. It was noted that Andy Frost would like to see the Skateboard park extended and adapted to suit the latest trends.

The Seaford Maritime Week Festival Committee met on 11<sup>th</sup> June and confirmed that the original ideas for the 2003 festival are in hand for a variety of organisations in Newhaven and Seaford taking part

**3.7 Cinema Club**

Stuart Adcock has reported that funding is being sought for seating which complies with health and safety regulations.

The first showing is planned for Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September at 2.30pm

4 volunteers will be required at each performance. Audience capacity will be 199 maximum.

#### **4. JOINT BID WITH OTHER TOWNS FOR INTERREGIII FUNDS**

SDCVS have advised that Sussex University's bid for training project workers only requires each partner to demonstrate they can commit a minimum of £10,000 to any project arising from the development work of the 'apprentice' trainee who would give us 20 hours a week over a period of one year's term time.

Seaford Town Council are satisfied with this applying to their commitment of £5000 to the partnership and the balance of £5000 can be regarded as 'in kind' funding. Nominal costing of the Steering Group members work input, together with that of members of task groups, over the two years of the INTERREG project would certainly add up to much more than £5000.

The steering group agreed to the Partnership's involvement on this basis.

Sussex University are proceeding with the bid on this basis, which has a deadline of July. No further input is required from SCP for the present

#### **5. THE SEAFORD COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP CONSTITUTION**

Some letters have already been sent to the founder organisations requesting permission for their representatives to be appointed as directors/trustees of the proposed trust/company and the remainder will be sent out shortly.

#### **6. LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP**

Owen Clifford reported that the next meeting will be on 24<sup>th</sup> June at Denton Island

The agenda will include an up-date on the new Lewes and the Rural Partnerships.

The other main item is to identify common themes amongst all partnerships. These could include such items as:

- Transport and Youth activities
- Peacehaven - Community bus
- Rural - Traffic Management
- Seaford - Safe Routes to School
- Youth Community Facilities
- Work in policing and health

#### **7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Peter Sinclair referred the activities of an organisation in Newhaven called "Turning the tide" which has been formed to promote tourism. One of the items on their agenda is the proposed beach cycling track between Newhaven and Seaford Sailing Club and it was agreed that there should be further liason on this.

Date of Next Meeting - Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2002

DS/30<sup>th</sup> June 2002

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