

SEAFORD REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP

Minutes of Steering Group Meeting 8 held at St James' Club (Seaford Volunteers) 4th July 2001

Present:

Cllr David Schueler	Cllr Laurie Holland	Cllr John Freeman
Mary Crutch	Nigel Pargite	Maggie Simons
Peter Sinclair	Joan Pearce	Inspector Ron Preddy
Christine Sinclair	Owen Clifford	Tony Rowswell
Pauline Gower	Christine Hart	Dr Ian Bayles
Trevor Watson - LDC Sustainable Development Officer		

0. Introductions and Apologies

Apology from Liz Riley, Colin Brown, Duncan White, Sue Moffatt, Ted Cowdrey
Dr Ian Bayles - Old School Surgery was introduced as a new member

A letter has been received from Liz Riley saying that due to other commitments she had reluctantly decided to resign from Seaford Wide and other organisations. As a result she could no longer act as a representative for that organisation on the Seaford Community Partnership and on the Coastal Renaissance Partnership.

It was agreed that a letter should be written to her thanking her for all the hard efforts she had put in during the formation of the Seaford partnership and for her subsequent work with the Seafront Task Group.

1. Talk by Trevor Watson - LDC Sustainable Development Officer on Local Agenda 21

Local Agenda 21 had been set up after the Rio Conference of 1992 with the view to involving local communities in the need to preserve and conserve their environments. Short term Local Agenda 21 projects were tried out in East Seaford and Barcombe. The Seaford Group produced a newspaper called Seaford View setting out various ideas and priorities for the town.

The concept of sustainability had been left out of the original Local Agenda 21 concepts but the need for this is now recognised and expressed in the latest plans for the revitalisation of local communities.

An important aspect of the main Local Agenda 21 thrust is 'Exchange and Link' where, for example, African countries are encouraged to exchange technologies with the UK for the basic principles of sustainable environmental protection. It is recognised that disparate countries of this nature have much to offer each other in ideas based on practical experience.

Locally the thrust is now for practical projects to be proposed and subjected to 'participatory appraisal' instead of the traditional consultation process.

Training sessions are available to show how this system works.

Council officers from another authority are used as facilitators.

Advice on what other organisations are doing is available at www.LA21online.net and Seaford has a page on this site.

Appraisals normally take about 6 weeks to complete, using volunteers.

It was noted that Peter Sinclair has produced a paper on a general scenario for Seaford over a ten year period covering sustainable ideas for all sections of the community.

Financial support of £7000 has been included in the LDC budget for the District's LA21 work.

LDC Community Planning Pilot Scheme

Owen Clifford advised that the 5 Area Partnerships are almost all in place and an Open Day is being arranged to discuss the reasons for Community Planning

A Local Strategic Partnership is to be formed from the area partnerships and nominations to the LSP will be invited on a District wide basis.

The LSP will comprise representatives from statutory bodies including councils, business, voluntary and community bodies, police, education etc

The LSP's role is to make decisions about community needs and visions over a five year period.

Area Partnerships, such as Seaford, will identify priorities and make proposals whilst the Strategic partnerships will build on these.

It is hoped that the Area Partnerships will find advantages in participation in the Strategic partnerships.

Similarly service providers should be able to identify community needs from the procedures.

The structure will be:



Some functions will be fed down.

Some concern was expressed about the discrete role of Seaford Town Council within the new Community planning structures. It was felt that the role of town and parish councils may clash with the Area partnerships.

A rural partnership is to be set up, with SRCC as the facilitator.

It is recognised that streamlining of communications is to be more inclusive. Improvements are required in the ability to bid for money.

At future meetings Owen Clifford will provide tangible ideas to be worked on.

2 Minutes of Meeting No. 7 - 2nd May 2001

Due to last minute absences on that evening no formal had been prepared for this meeting.

3 Reports from the Thematic Task Groups

3.1 Seafront Improvement

No meetings held recently.

David Schueler will convene a new meeting to progress previous ideas.

3.2 Local Transport (Ted Cowdrey) -

A meeting had been planned for the following week and this will look at bus services as well as other ongoing matters.

It is planned to have a table, at the forthcoming Family Fun Day at the Downs Leisure Centre, which will feature Cycling Safe Routes. A Sustran display will also be included.

Owen South has recently advised that he is awaiting GOVIA to establish its management structure before approaching them regarding the SCP's ideas for re-developing the railway station.

3.3 Community Centre and First Stop Shop (John Freeman/Mary Crutch)

It is apparent that other partners must be brought in to enable this project to have the required breadth of scope.

The Healthy Living Centre, which is the subject of a South Downs CVS led bid, requires a centre in Seaford, including a café and this could possibly be accommodated in a Portacabin located on the St James' site until a more permanent building can be established.

There are differences within the three towns involved regarding requirements - Seaford are specialising on requirements for the elderly and aged.

At the recent meeting set up by the Friends of Seaford Library it was noted that there is a possibility of re-developing the existing site, which could provide an ideal location for the First Stop Shop.

It is also recognised that the Railway Station development must be regarded as a long term development and a short to mid-term solution must be found for the Community Centre/ First Stop Shop project.

There is a need to produce a portfolio of details of ideas to be used when talking to the County and district Councils and any other possible site owner/developer (such as Railtrack/GOVIA)

3.4 Cradle Hill Industrial Estate and Business Park (Peter Sinclair)

A meeting of the group had been held on 20th June (see attached notes)

Ongoing discussions are taking place with the businesses at Cradle Hill

Training is an important area of interest and it was agreed that Chris Hart would put together a half-day training seminar for the traders and businesses.

Sussex Enterprise could be asked to help with assessing needs

It was suggested that a business breakfast would be useful for the Cradle Hill Traders with a speaker (or speakers) on business trends, Government and ESCC policies etc

Nigel Pargiter agreed to research costs.

Chris Hart reported that data is available on the activities of the Learning partnership and this shows worrying information regarding skills needs in the area including Seaford, at both basic and higher levels.

Further information will be available at the next meeting.

3.5 Town Centre Regeneration

It was agreed that a new group is required to develop ideas for this. These should include siting for and organisation of Farmers Markets and also other ideas for developing tourism.

4. CPR Draft Strategy

This had been received by the CRP Executive from the consultants, but was found to require extensive editing. A new circulation date is required.

5. Seaford Input to CRP Funding Bid.

CRP propose that detailed plans for funding from the next SEEDA round (probably Spring 2002) should be prepared on the basis of the strategy when it is approved. SEEDA's approval was expected in August (but this will probably now be delayed because of the late submission). The CRP bid for funding should be completed by end 2001

It was agreed that the task force leaders should meet to firm up the projects which have been identified as priorities in the document sent by the SRP to the CRP. Nigel Pargiter agreed to provide a pro-forma for this purpose.

6. South Downs CVS Training Seminars on Funding

SDCVS have issued a pamphlet describing various seminars being run on funding etc. In particular there is a free Workshop on 'Opportunities in the Region' on 17th July at Denton Island. A Seminar is also being arranged in Seaford in October, details to follow, but there will be a charge for this.

David Schueler had attended a recent ESCC funding seminar and reported that the INTERREG round 3 will be open for bids in the early part of 2002. The criteria covers several projects which the SCP has in mind and the minimum bid level is as low as £30,000 which again falls into the bracket which we are looking for.

6. Public Relations

The SRP submission to the CRP is now posted on to their web site

It was suggested that a precis of this should be issued to the press after the CRP strategy has been published.

Safe Seaford has suggested a joint forum with SRP in the Autumn.

7. Partnership Constitution

South Downs CVS will be organising a seminar and workshop in September to review the work already carried out by the partnership and set up a formal constitution which will facilitate our capability for bidding for funds.

8. Any Other Business

An application for a grant of £200 has been put into Seaford Town Council to cover incidental expenses until the formal constitution is formed.

9. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 1st August at 5.00pm at St James' Hall, Blatchington Road.

DS/26/07/2001

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