

SEAFORD COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Minutes of Steering Group Meeting 15 held at St James' Club (Seaford Volunteers) Wednesday 6th February 2002

Present:

Cllr David Schueler
Mary Crutch
Ted Cowdrey
Christine Sinclair

Cllr Michael Murphy
Tony Rowswell
Joan Pearce
Peter Sinclair

Cllr Pauline Gower
Cllr Laurie Holland
Christine Hart
Owen Clifford

1.A Introductions and Apologies

Apologies from Colin Brown, Duncan White, Paul Rideout, Jon Freeman, Maggie Simons
Welcome extended to Audrey Whitney of Sussex Small Businesses Federation

1.B Visiting Speaker

Owen Clifford introduced Geoffrey State - LDC Community Funding Officer

Mr State explained that his function is to support community development work, particularly with advice on funding. He works from Tuesday to Thursday. Contact Telephone number 01273 484337 : email geoffrey.state@lewes.gov.uk

He is currently working on a project for the Seaford Martello Tower to secure the building, particularly the leaking roof and finance is being sought from the York Heritage Fund.

Geoffrey can provide access to information on project funding (e.g Awards for All). He stressed that applications must demonstrate community need. The Community fund is a useful source of finance.

It is useful to bring sports organisations into the partnership - particularly the football club and girls sporting clubs as their activities can often fulfill the community need aspect.

2. Minutes of Meeting No.14 - 9th January 2002

Minutes - Agreed

Matters Arising

It was agreed that pending the setting up of the Seaford Community Partnership's bank account, the Seaford Town Council's grant of £200 should be credited to the Seaford Volunteer Association's account so that this matter can be cleared before the end of the STC financial year. This sum should be used for Partnership operating expenses - particularly those incurred by the use of the St James Club facilities for meetings, together with printing etc and the administration cost of the Seaford Forum. Seaford Town Council also provides generous photo copying services etc.

It was announced that the Town Council have set aside £5000 in their Budget Reserves for 2002/2003 for use by the Seaford Community Partnership on their community projects. The steering group members expressed their appreciation of the Town Council's generous support of the partnership's work

3. Reports from the Thematic Task Groups

3.1 Farmers Market (Christine Sinclair)

Christine reported that she and Paul Rideout had had further meetings with SRCC and liaised with the ESCC on arrangements for the pilot markets planned to start in June 2002. A bid for start up funding is in preparation and will be submitted to the New Opportunities fund.

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

First Stop Shop

a) **Stage 1.** New Horizon have confirmed they are processing the bid for £4500 to cover computer and other equipment for the initial First Stop Shop in the Old Town Hall and the result of their evaluation may be known within a few days. If necessary it might be possible to obtain reconditioned computer equipment from Crash.

St James Club are joining with the NHS in data collection. It is possible that £2000 of funding might be available from the NHS

It is envisaged that an important role of the Stage 1 FSS is to provide a free flow of information to help people to understand what new facilities and benefits are becoming available

It was noted that during the coming week an evaluation should be available from the District Auditor for terms for a new 2-3 year lease for Seaford Volunteers for the Old Town Hall.

b) **Stage 2.** A meeting has been arranged for 19th February with Neil Brown to progress positive moves to approach Railtrack and their consultants about the Seaford Station redevelopment project and the possibilities of establishing a community centre including a modern library at the site. It was felt that the consultation should also involve Newhaven and Lewes since Railtrack and GOVIA have indicated they have plans for the future of the Seaford Branch line from Lewes.

The local papers had reported the Partnership/Town Council discussion on the station project and this had generated concern amongst a few people who could be affected. The press had complied with the request to stress that there would be full public consultation on this project in the event of Railtrack/GOVIA agreeing to it proceeding.

c) **Seaford Forum 25th January 2002**

This had been a very successful event. 70 groups had been sent an invitation and 46 had attended. 15 did not respond and there were 8 others who had promised to attend, but did not turn up.

The three speakers covered an interesting range of topics. Colin Brown had covered partnership working very well and Hilary Storm had explained the coming changes to Primary Health Care - also distributing some useful leaflets on the subject.

The third speaker's information about closing All Saints Hospital was useful because of the concern in the town on this subject.

A programme is in preparation for the 22nd March meeting. It was agreed that continuous themes should include the NHS and Social services, but in addition there should be up-dates on the Partnership's themes. The Forum should also be used to recruit help for the Partnership - and other community activities.

Representation from sports organisations should be encouraged and sub-groups could be set up to develop special interests and ideas introduced in the Forum discussions.

3.3 Cradle Hill Industrial Estate Improvements (Peter Sinclair)

Security is still an issue of concern to the traders - particularly petty crime and drug related problems. The tenants are concerned about police response and it would be advantageous for LDC to approach them on this aspect.

LDC need to check leases to ensure there is provision for capital expenditure pay back to tenants.

Police traffic officers need to be chased for a survey of traffic to and from the household waste recycling facility.

LDC is now having regular meetings with tenants. Regularisation of some tenant's leases is in progress.

The LDC site near the waste disposal facility is being offered to a waste contractor.

Expansion of recycling facilities requires more consideration - particularly to accommodate the advent of kerb-side recycling facilities (in due course).

Queuing for the site is bad, particularly on Sundays and. Entry from the North would help to overcome this - via a roundabout on the Alfriston Road from High & Over.

A working party is required to sort this out and prepare proposals. It is hoped that Seaford Town Council would support this.

3.4 Transport and Safe Routes to School (Ted Cowdrey)

It was noted that construction of Stage 1 of the Steyne Road/ Sutton Avenue traffic calming project has started.

3.5 Seafront Improvements, Tourism and Culture (David Schueler)

A meeting of interested parties took place on 15th January with Jackie Ellis, LDC Tourism and Arts manager in attendance. The group comprised representatives from the Lifeguards, Martello Tower Museum, Churches Together, the Sailing Club, Residents Association, plus other interested individuals, including a Landscaping Student who had selected the Seafront as his thesis subject.

Discussions took place about the Seafront and Salts improvements together with development of a heritage trail to promote tourism and Andrew Elliston Elhinn agreed to draw up a master plan incorporating the ideas previously discussed. A list of interesting buildings and residences of well known historic people was considered and the need for better catering facilities was discussed.

Marine sports was discussed and it was agreed to set up a sub-group to look at this. This group (to be known as the Seaford Maritime Week Festival Committee) met on 29th January and included Graham Amy - a Newhaven Public Relations Consultant who presented a comprehensive programme for a joint Seahaven festival with Newhaven to take place in July 2003. Funding for this might be available from the Awards for All Jubilee fund.

Interreg funding is being considered by the Regional Tourist Board covering the area from Eastbourne to Hove under the heading of Health, Sport and Fitness and consideration will be given to Seaford being involved in this.

3.5 Cinema Club

Possibilities of help for stewarding were discussed and the chamber of Commerce would include a request for this in their newsletters. It was suggested that The Downs Leisure Centre might explore with the SCP the possibilities of some start-up funding from the Awards for All Jubilee fund.

4. JOINT BID WITH OTHER TOWNS FOR INTERREGIII FUNDS

After discussion it was agreed that the Seaford Community Partnership's proposals for a joint bid should be selected from:

- a) Salts and Marine Sports project embracing Health (swimming, sailing, disabled access etc); Security (enhanced lifeguards facilities and improved supervision at play areas); Community Development (joint sports with other towns, facilities for visitors, facilities for

local and visiting musicians including a bandstand, better catering facilities and improved play areas for youngsters)

- b) Next-stage developments at St James Club - therapy pool, changing rooms, training for therapists. At present Seaford and Hailsham have to use services from Eastbourne
 - c) Facilities for the elderly - post hospital care, equipment such as wheel-chairs , bath hoists
 - d) Improved recreational and vocational services for 13-16 year old youngsters. These should include premises for training for work for longer periods than at present available. Facilities are required to learn the elements of woodwork, metalwork, maintenance of electrical and mechanical equipment - particularly domestic appliances and general workshop practice etc.
- It is envisaged that the Stage 2 of the First Stop Shop should incorporate these facilities

It was agreed that these alternatives should be passed to SDCVS for consideration in conjunction with the other partnerships.

5. The Seaford Community Partnership Partnership Constitution

5.1 It was noted that the Object of the new company had been agreed as:

"To promote and develop the social, economic and environmental well-being of the communities and residents of Seaford and environs."

5.2 The original organisations forming the steering group will be asked formally to confirm their agreement to their representatives becoming directors and trustees of the Partnership. On agreement to this the representatives will be required to sign the application form. The responsibilities of these positions is to be notified to the organisations and the representatives.

5.3 The appointment of officers was discussed and it was agreed that in place of the original format of having two joint chairmen, it would be preferable to have a chairman and vice-chairman, together with a company secretary and treasurer.

The following nominations were agreed:

Chairman:	David Schueler
Vice-Chairman	Jon Freeman
Company Secretary	Michael Murphy
Treasurer	Pauline Gower

Michael Murphy advised that he would only serve for the first twelve months. It was agreed that all of the appointments should be for an initial period of one year.

6. Skills Demand and Supply (Chris Hart)

Chris Hart expanded on her previous report on the wide range of activities and initiatives which are being developed to meet the serious lack of skills in East Sussex and particularly in this part.

It was important to ensure that there will be an adequate number of tradesmen available in the future to provide building and construction services, car and domestic appliance servicing, decorating and painting etc A curriculum for 14-16 year old youngsters is coming forward for this. .

An important initiative is to provide facilities for older people to teach and train. The gap between old and young needs to be bridged.

A problem is that small businesses cannot afford the time to teach apprentices. Audrey Whitney pointed out that FSB members found there is excessive regulation in this area. There is too much welfare involvement because a lot of youngsters cannot cope with the pressures of training and business.

The Chamber of Commerce is co-operating with Chris Hart in distributing literature describing the training and skills education opportunities being made available. These include elementary and more advanced IT courses as well as business management and accounting.

7. LSP Meeting 4th February (Owen Clifford)

The first meeting of the full LSP was held on 4th February. Cllr David Neighbour was appointed as Chairman and Colin Brown - SDCVS as Vice-Chairman.

A presentation was made by Owen Clifford on the community strategy of the Lewes LSP. The purpose is 'Working in Partnership to Improve the Quality of Life for everyone in the Lewes District.' What we want for our communities is:

- Good Health
- A Safe Place to Live
- Prosperity
- Access to Learning for Everyone
- To Value the Environment
- Improved Local Facilities

Marie De Vere gave a presentation on Communication Opportunities and the four main area (town) partnerships together with the rural partnership gave short presentations on their aims.

Representatives then divided into groups to consider:

How the LSP can involve the network of organisations in the district

How the LSP can use the opportunities for local funding

What use the LSP will make of the website to engage the community

What contribution can the LDC and other statutory agencies make to the LSP

To propose a format for the Community Strategy taking account of the proposals and priorities of the area partnerships and other important issues affecting the whole district.

The detailed formulation of the community strategy is to proceed.

Element 1 is the use of electronic communication and documentation to reflect the changing nature of projects.

The work of the five area partnerships is to be incorporated into the strategy, reflecting who and what they are and what difference they can make to people's lives.

How the partnerships are set up will be reflected to exchange ideas on best practice.

The web site will provide for each area partnership to have a page with links to other organisations.

This will be set up to enable area partnerships to keep their pages up-to-date.

The theme will be Local Voices - Local Choices.

It is planned to have the web-site up and running by the beginning of May. It will provide a link with all communities at all levels.

Recognition of communities of interest is important, reflecting the disabled, elderly, young people, ethnic minorities etc. Geographical partnerships are also important and the LSP's function is to bring all of these together.

Strategic information and procedures will be provided on funding.

More information will be disseminated on health, crime and deprivation. Government funding is being made available for deprived areas.

Lewes District has 3 wards in the top 12% of deprived areas in ESCC. These are Newhaven Meeching, Peacehaven East and Lewes Castle. It was noted that Seaford Central Ward has areas of deprivation.

8. Any Other Business

Date of next meeting - Wednesday 6th March 2002 at St James' Club at 5pm

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