

SEAFORD COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Minutes of Steering Group Meeting 16 held at St James' Club (Seaford Volunteers) Wednesday 6th March 2002

Present:

David Schueler	Maggie Simons	Mary Crutch
Cllr Laurie Holland	Ted Cowdrey	Christine Hart
Christine Sinclair	Peter Sinclair	Jon Freeman
Pauline Gower	Linda Hallums	

1. INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

Apologies from Colin Brown, Duncan White, Paul Rideout, Joan Pearce, Mike Murphy, Tony Rowswell, Sue Moffatt
Stuart Adcock - Manager of Downs Leisure Centre was welcomed

2. MINUTES OF MEETING NO.15 - 6TH FEBRUARY 2002

Minutes - Agreed

Matters Arising

The grant of £200 made by Seaford Town Council has now been received (made out to Seaford Volunteers Association).

3. REPORTS FROM THE THEMATIC TASK GROUPS

3.1 Farmers Market (Christine Sinclair)

A bid for £4900 start-up funding has now been submitted to the New Opportunities Fund
It was noted that the bid had to include draft proposals for an Equal Opportunities Policy/Statement and Green Housekeeping Policy. These will be circulated for comment and use in future bids.

The proposed site for the market is now in Church Street, from West Street down to South Street/High Street. An application for road closure permission is now being prepared, based on four pilot dates of Thursday mornings 20th June, 18th July, 15th August and 19th September.

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

First Stop Shop

a) Stage 1.

The bid for start-up funding from New Horizons had not been successful. However the NHS Primary Care Group had contributed £2000 from the Health Improvement fund and this has been used to obtain reconditioned computer equipment from Crash

A telephone has been installed at the Old Town Hall and space is being created for displays.

A reference library is also being collected together.

Four volunteers have been recruited and four out of the six mornings are now covered

Retrospective planning permission will be required for notices.

Amongst the ideas being considered for promulgation of information, it is proposed to encourage young people to visit the First Stop Shop to find out about the new opportunities in vocational training.

Discussions are taking place on a new lease for Seaford Volunteers Association for the Old Town Hall

b) Stage 2.

The proposed February meeting with Neil Brown to discuss the Station project had been postponed and is now likely in early April.

c) Seaford Forum

The next meeting on Friday 22nd March will concentrate on more local issues and will feature a new library for Seaford plus seafront cycling proposals.

3.3 Cradle Hill Industrial Estate Improvements (Peter Sinclair)

It was reported that the Estate is now much tidier.

John Crawford has been asked for an environmental policy statement for the estate and an audit on electricity and water supplies together with waste disposal.

3.4 Transport and Safe Routes to School (Ted Cowdrey)

Robin Preecy is working up the research information gathered on safe routes to schools and a report is expected by early April.

Ted Cowdrey had attended meetings with the ESCC Transport Committee (Neil Brown) and will obtain copies of the minutes.

Ted Cowdrey also mentioned that he had attended a meeting for Chambers of Commerce organised by John Crawford and John Magness to discuss business development in the District.

3.5 Seafront Improvements, Tourism and Culture (David Schueler)

The Seafront Improvements and Culture committee met on 19th February and further discussions took place on plans for a heritage trail, with appropriate signage and also the refurbishment of the Salts and seafront

The Seaford Maritime Week Festival Committee met on 5th March.

It was agreed that the proposed joint Newhaven/Seaford festival should take place over three days at the 2003 Spring Bank Holiday weekend (31st May and 1st/2nd June) 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 comprehensive programme of maritime events is under consideration together with arts and culture exhibitions featuring the sea related history of Seaford and Newhaven

The logistical aspects of the festival are also under consideration.

3.5 Cinema Club

Funding for the start-up costs is still being sought.

4. JOINT BID WITH OTHER TOWNS FOR INTERREGIII FUNDS

The suggestions agreed at the February meeting for the SCP contribution to the bid have been passed to SDCVS.

The other towns are also looking at ideas. Peacehaven have acquired a piece of land for which they are seeking funding for use as a disabled recreation and training area with suitable equipment

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)

Chris Hart reported that new vocational GSCs are to be introduced. The problem is getting young people to go in for vocational careers such as engineering, plumbing, carpentry and decorating etc. A Golden Jubilee family learning project is being promoted with £2500 contribution from the LEA. But there must be a continuing annual flow of money.

Family projects would include IT skills, Pond dipping, stories etc.

£15000 plus is becoming available for learning disabilities training. Seaford will become a national pilot centre for training carers for learning disabilities.

Efforts are being made to persuade Sussex enterprise to fund training for small businesses. There is a source of funding from the Learning and Skills Council.

Apparently the money is only available for businesses with 10 or more employees, but in this area 75% of the businesses employ 5 or less.

It was felt that letters should be written to Sussex Enterprise pointing out this problem - with copies to the Learning and Skills Council

It was noted that the Chamber of commerce had circulated information on training and skills courses to its members.

David Schueler had attended a recent East & West Sussex plus Brighton and Hove seminar (organised by SEEDA) on future Economic Strategy. The seminar concluded that future economic success in the area depended on better transport, improved work-force skills and availability of business sites.

David Schueler had stressed the need for training in the practical trades as well as in high-tech and knowledge industries.

Many businesses (particularly start-up) need small affordable work-places with low rents and Business Rates. There is also a problem that the Health and Safety Act now demands reductions in the numbers of employees per square foot (or metre!!)

There is a need for the SCP to get together with the Chamber of Commerce and Seaford Town Council to look at business aspects in the town - including access, environmental issues of business etc. Possibilities for new businesses include reconditioning or recycling of discarded domestic appliances.

It was proposed that the partnership should set up a new task group to cover Business Creation and Development, including all relevant aspects such as skills training, premises, environmental issues etc.

7. LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

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

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Notice was given and application forms distributed for a free workshop day planned for all towns in East Sussex on Wednesday 20th March at Hailsham.

NOTE - This has now been postponed until April 2002

Date of next meeting - Wednesday 3rd April 2002 at St James' Club at 5pm

DS/April 2002

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