

SEAFORD REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP

Minutes of Steering Group Meeting 5 held at St James' Club (Seaford Volunteers) 7th March 2001

Present:

Cllr David Schueler	Liz Riley	Cllr Laurie Holland
Cllr John Freeman	Mary Crutch	Nigel Pargiter
Christine Hart	Peter Sinclair	Cllr Duncan White
Mary Crutch	Joan Pearce	Tony Baker
Owen Clifford	Colin Brown	Anthony Hepworth-Taylor
Inspector Ron Preddy		

0. Introductions and Apologies

Apologies for absence received from Ted Cowdrey, Maggie Symons, Jacqueline Biddles

Tony Baker was introduced as a representative from the Cradle Hill Community Association and Anthony Hepworth-Taylor from Newlands Park School

1. Minutes of Meeting 4 - 7th February 2001

These were approved.

Nigel Pargiter commented that although the minutes recorded that SEEDA funding would probably not be available for the Cradle Hill proposals it is possible that European funding could be found.

2. Reports from Thematic Task Groups

2.1 Seafront Improvement (Liz Riley)

The next meeting is planned for 15th March and the Sea Anglers, Seaford Life Guards, Seaford Sailing Club and the Sub-Aqua Club, have been invited to send representatives to put forward their own particular interests and proposals for seafront improvements.

2.2 Local Transport (Ted Cowdrey) -

In view of Ted Cowdrey's absence abroad on business there had not been a meeting of this task group during the last month.

Sue Moffatt had advised that Neil Brown had met with Ted Cowdrey and Ray Finch (an architect who had been approached about producing conceptual sketches of the station redevelopment ideas) to look at the station site. Neil Brown had also agreed to approach Railtrack regarding the redevelopment but so far there was no news of this. Sue Moffatt had agreed to enquire about this and Duncan White would also approach Neil Brown for a report on this action.

2.3 Community Centre and First Stop Shop (Mary Crutch) - see notes of meeting 6th Feb.

Interested bodies should be approached for their ideas and suggestions on the form and content of the building - particularly in its ultimate design.

The Youth Centre aspect (for 14-16 year olds) needs looking at carefully in view of some reported drink and misbehaviour problems at existing centres. It is important that this is addressed so as not to interfere with other users of a multi-function centre.

Tim Baker supported the idea of satellite community centres (e.g. at Cradle Hill) for young people to avoid having to travel into the town centre. They are looking at a site at the primary school.

It was agreed that alternative costed options are required for both large scale and smaller less ambitious plans. In fact it would be advisable to have a trial period with a smaller plan in order to assess demand and the ultimate requirements for a full Community Centre and One-Stop Shop.

Some research has already been carried out on probable occupants which is necessary to determine size. Details are also known of the national standards laid down for modern libraries.

There are already two youth centres in the town and research would be necessary to identify what a third centre would need to offer within the one-stop shop precincts.

It was noted that the Station development would have advantages in terms of the proposed developments of the surgery/health centre. In particular the suggested day hospital changes would be influenced. It would be of value if the NHS could be advised about the suggested station redevelopment but this will certainly not be possible until Railtrack's views had been received.

It was agreed that a Business Plan would give credibility to the Partnership. If Railtrack were to agree to the site development it would probably have to be passed to a commercial developer. The crucial question would be to determine to what extent a developer would be prepared to include a community centre within the plans and on what financial basis.

Another factor is sources of financing of development plans for the community centre within the station site. It was suggested that financing sources could be available for the preliminary designs etc. Charity status for the project could attract rent free accommodation from a sympathetic landlord. Businesses in the town could be approached for financial help and Lottery funding might be obtained via the auspices of the Seaford Volunteers association or CVS.

Colin Brown mentioned the Healthy Living Opportunities funding sources.

After further discussion it was considered that although a fully comprehensive Community Centre and First Stop Shop based on a station site redevelopment would be highly desirable, this must be considered as a long term objective. It was therefore agreed that a shorter term development should be investigated, based on smaller alternative facilities and suitable accommodation in a high street shop or house.

2.4 Cradle Hill Business Park (Peter Sinclair) see notes of objectives

A paper was tabled summarising the objectives for the Cradle Hill Industrial Estate. It was agreed that best value bids must be considered for accommodation on the site and these should particularly feature small start-up units. Sussex Enterprise should be approached to provide information on this.

The Partnership needs to write to LDC putting the case for starter units for the improvement of employment prospects.

The Partnership should also consider the sponsorship of recycling pilot schemes as it is very important for Seaford to push ahead with these.

2.5 Town Centre Regeneration (Mary Crutch)

The possibilities of a farmers market is still being actively considered and a meeting with SRCC is being arranged in April to obtain advice on setting these up.

3 Priorities, Timescales, Costing and Funding Sources

It was reported that the five task group leaders, together with David Schueler, had met to consider priorities based on the detailed schedule of proposals tabled at the February meeting. It was considered that each task group should first refine their own proposals.

A 'vision' statement was tabled which it was proposed should be sent to each of the main Coastal Renaissance Partnership thematic groups together with a short summary of the proposals which the Seaford Partnership would wish to be included on their behalf in the coastal strategy. Colin Brown reminded the meeting that he was producing for the CRP a summary of the themes which had emerged as common to all of the four towns which had taken part in the Community futures workshops.

It was agreed that in view of the postponement of SEEDA funding it would be necessary to look to other sources for smaller and shorter term projects in order to demonstrate tangible achievements by the Seaford Partnership.

4. Public Relations

It was suggested that a public meeting should be held in May to present a report to the Seaford residents on the activities of the Partnership.

5. Partnership Constitution

Colin Brown confirmed that a meeting of all four new town partnerships would be set up to provide advice on setting up their formal constitutions

At the last meeting it was proposed that the partnership should be renamed the Seaford Regeneration and Community Partnership. However it was felt that this name is somewhat cumbersome and it was therefore proposed that it should be shortened to the Seaford Community Partnership.

6. Any Other Business

Owen Clifford gave a report on the progress of the LDC Community Plan.

The Plan is intended to address the Community needs and aspirations including Economic, Environmental and Community factors. The proposal is to set up a District wide Strategic Partnership and consideration is being given as to how this will be used to achieve the above objectives.

Seaford has so far concentrated on Economic issues but there is a need to address social aspects such as unemployment, youth problems and family issues.

Suggested solutions need to be sustainable and integrate the principles within Agenda 21. It would be desirable for Agenda 21 officers to be invited to meet the partnership in order to explain how this can be achieved.

7. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 4th April 2001 at 5.00 pm at Seaford Volunteer's HQ - St James' Hall, Blatchington Road.

DS/2/4/2001

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