

BASSETLAW LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP
SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SUB-GROUP

11th November 2003

2.30pm – 4.00pm

BARROWBY HOUSE, BASSETLAW DISTRICT GENERAL HOSPITAL

Attending:-

John Harrison	Chair of the Sub-Group/ Bassetlaw District Council
Gillian Blenkinsop	Bassetlaw District Council
Annabel Elliott	Nottinghamshire Rural Community Council
Annie Fletcher	Bassetlaw HUG/ Centreplace
Alison Gimingham	National Trust
Christine Hopwood	Retford MTI Manager
Carola Jones	Nottinghamshire Rural Community Council
Jo Lindley	Bassetlaw District Council
Frank Raspin	Nottinghamshire County Council
Vicky Rawson	Focus on Young People in Bassetlaw
Andrew Tatham	Partnership Officer, BCVS
Ann Vallance	North Nottinghamshire College

1. Apologies

PC Bill Brown, Worksop Police Station; Kath Farmer, NCC; Simon Fitch, East Midlands Art Board; Una Key, Newark & Sherwood District Council; Gail Maxfield, Age Concern; Malcolm Robson, Bassetlaw District Council; Stephen Saddington, CAB; Freda Shaw, NALC; Sharon Stoltz, Bassetlaw PCT; David Timcke, National Trust; Councillor C Troop, BDC; Bob Whatley, BDC; Elizabeth Whittles, BDC.

2. Introductions and Welcome

John Harrison welcomed both new and existing members and thanked Business in the Community (BITC) for attending to give a presentation. Prior to the beginning of the meeting Carola introduced her replacement as Rural Officer, Annabel Elliott. Andrew also announced an event being held by the Health Sub-Group of the BLSP and asked LSP members present to confirm their attendance/ decline the invitation while at the meeting. Copies of the invitation will be circulated throughout the LSP Sub-Groups.

3. Minutes of Last Meeting – 11th September 2003

The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record.

4. Presentation by Business in the Community on the Nottinghamshire Cares Scheme

Sue Wallis of Business in the Community (BITC) and Jackie Fuller of Nottinghamshire Cares gave a presentation to the group on their initiatives involving both local and national businesses in community projects. BITC is a national charity sponsored by the Prince of Wales. The programmes that BITC run, Nottinghamshire Cares being one of them, encourage businesses to fulfil their corporate and social responsibility within the community. There are three ways in which activities can be run:

Action Days	The focus of the day is on 1 issue, and generally involves many organisations.
Team Challenges	The challenges involve 1 company team. One of the noted advantages of such a challenge is that the end result gives the same effect as a team building exercise, without the cost.
Individual Opportunities	This form of involvement gives the opportunity for individual employees to build on key skills, while giving time to a community group in need. For example Capital One, have 58% of their staff involved - many donate money through payroll or provide assistance via the internet through the EPALS scheme. There is also the scheme Prohelp which secures the involvement of professionals on projects as when needed, for example legal personnel and architects.

20 companies pay membership fees to BITC to be involved in the scheme, and they are looking to recruit further to the leadership team from the Fire Service, Police, and Rescue Services.

They presented feedback from their 1st birthday Challenge, which involved the local organisation Centre Place. The Challenge involved the refurbishment of a Drop-in Centre, which is now being used by local community groups, creating additional revenue for Centre Place. The Challenge has also raised the profile of the Centre as somewhere of importance to the local people it serves – young vulnerable people requiring assistance, particularly in relation to housing.

The main emphasis of any project is on partnership working, once local businesses are engaged it's about keeping them on board. This is particularly important for Bassetlaw in relation to SMEs, but it is necessary to work to their capacity. This in turn ensures greater awareness of agencies working in the area, allows for capacity building and ensures local businesses are perceived well in the area they locate in.

KEY POINTS:

- The challenge/ project can be small or large
- Both community and voluntary organisations can be involved
- Consultation projects are possible dependent on the approach taken and the method involved
- BITC can be accessed directly, or through the LSP/ BCVS.

SUGGESTIONS MADE TO BITC:

- Working with the Bassetlaw District Youth Assembly on a Vandalism project currently under development – BITC to be approached once a project brief has been finalised.
- Retford LAF – Examining feasibility of a project relating to litter/ dumping and linking this with activities for school children.
- Frank would liaise with colleagues and produce possible projects for the Manton area.

5. Feedback on Manton Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder Bid

John confirmed to the group that a Bid relating to Manton had been submitted and that we should receive confirmation of its success by the end of November. If Bassetlaw is successful, projects will be planned from January 2004 onwards. Information explaining the basis of the Bid had been sent out with the agenda and John noted that anyone who had not received a copy and wished to view the Bid could contact Gillian or Jo.

6. Audit of Community Engagement in Bassetlaw

Gillian explained that one of the projects to come from the newly reinstated Operations Group was an audit of Community Engagement within the District. The Group was in place to support the work of the BLSP Board and included representatives from all Sub-Groups. Through this all cross-cutting issues and opportunities for joint working could be easily identified. The Audit would be completed by Frank and Kath Farmer, from Regeneration at NCC, and progress reported to the Operations Group in February 2004.

7. Children's Services

John explained he had attended his first meeting at the County-wide Children's Strategic Partnership as 'Children's Champion' for the BLSP, and that many key players were involved including Connexions, NCC Social Services, Education providers and the L.E.A., Police, and LSPs amongst others. He noted that he had volunteered Manton as an area within Bassetlaw for a mapping exercise of current services both statutory and voluntary, for 0 – 19 year olds.

Carola was keen that any work targeted at Rural areas focussed on accessibility to services, potentially via outreach workers. This could include mobile centres (buses) for Connexions, and even access to

services via 'virtual' centres. Above all however was the issue of transport to get to wherever the service would be based, as even mobile services are generally located centrally.

Jo noted that in relation to Child Care Provision being an issue for the Sub-Group to tackle, there was new information available on the development of Children's Centres by NCC.

8. Community Cohesion Indicators

Gillian explained that the attached report was for members' information. The Home Office have recently produced a new set of indicators to monitor Community Cohesion. This is now becoming a key feature of community projects and is something which members should be aware of when making bids or developing projects.

9. Community Strategy

John asked the members of the Sub-Group to check through the Chapter which had been sent out to ensure the information that had been included was correct. Jo explained that as she had been gathering updates while making final amendments to the Strategy there shouldn't be many changes needed. However it was noted that there was currently no reference to the National Trust and any related projects they were running, and that this would be useful to strengthen the Arts & Culture section of the Action Plan. All replies/ comments are to be sent to Jo by 5.00pm on Monday 17th November.

10. Any Other Business

John noted the items included under this agenda item and explained to members present that they were for information only.

There were no other items for discussion.

11. Dates and Times of 2004 meetings

21 January, 2.30pm – 4.00pm, Centreplace
24 March, 2.00pm – 4.00pm, TBC – NRCC arranging a local Village Hall
12 May, 2.00pm – 4.00pm, Manton
21 July, 2.00pm – 4.00pm, BCVS Meeting Room, Dukeries Centre, Park St, Worksop
22 September, 2.00pm – 4.00pm, TBC (potentially Retford Town Hall)
24 November, 2.00pm – 4.00pm, TBC (potentially Ceres Suite, Worksop Town Hall)

12. Future agenda items

The following will be discussed at the January meeting:

- Ringmaster Scheme – Neighbourhood Watch
- Arts and Culture – utilising the arts to promote quality of life and to help drive regeneration
- Child Care Provision – a position statement
- Manton Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder Bid

John reminded members present at the meeting that the agenda was open to all, and where they felt there was any an issue not being covered to contact Gillian/ Jo to add items to the agenda.