

BASSETLAW LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP
SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SUB-GROUP

21 January 2004

2.00pm – 4.00pm

CENTREPLACE, ABBEY ST. COMMUNITY CENTRE,
ABBAY ST., WORKSOP

Attending:-

Pauline Elliott	Chair of the Sub-Group/ Bassetlaw District Council
Gillian Blenkinsop	Bassetlaw District Council
PC Bill Brown	Worksop Police Station
Jackie Collins	Sure Start West Bassetlaw
Simon Fitch	East Midlands Art Board
Kazia Foster	Manton Community Alliance
Alison Gimingham	National Trust
Tim Harris	Nottinghamshire County Council
Christine Hopwood	Retford MTI Manager
Jo Lindley	Bassetlaw District Council
Michael Moore	Manton Community Alliance
Frank Raspin	Nottinghamshire County Council
Vicky Rawson	Focus on Young People in Bassetlaw
Roger Ranson	Bassetlaw District Council
Terry Reynolds	Chair of Bassetlaw Neighbourhood Watch
Alistair Shaw	Manton Community Alliance
Andrew Tatham	Partnership Officer, BCVS

1. Apologies

Annabel Elliott, Nottinghamshire Rural Community Council; Kath Farmer, Nottinghamshire County Council; Annie Fletcher, Bassetlaw HUG/ Centreplace; John Harrison, Bassetlaw District Council; Cllr Pressley, Bassetlaw District Council; Malcolm Robson, Bassetlaw District Council; Stephen Saddington, Bassetlaw CAB; Bob Whatley, Bassetlaw District Council; Elizabeth Whittles, Bassetlaw District Council.

2. Introductions and Welcome

Gillian explained to members that John Harrison was leaving the District Council and introduced Pauline Elliott, Executive Director of Regeneration, his replacement as Chair of the Social & Community Development Sub-Group.

3. Minutes of Last Meeting – 11 November 2003

The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record. The following update was noted:

Minute 4

Andrew Tatham noted additional successes through the BITC scheme.

Two additional local voluntary organisations:

- Live at Home Scheme, and
- Alzheimer's Disease Society

were both moving to new premises through Bassetlaw District Council and BITC would be decorating the premises.

4. Presentation by Simon Fitch, East Midlands Art Board; Tim Harris, Nottinghamshire County Council; and Roger Ranson, BDC on Arts & Culture

Simon Fitch gave a brief presentation that included:

A brief introduction to the Arts Council

Possible links to Bassetlaw Local Strategic Partnership and Bassetlaw

Funding available to both Individuals and Groups

A copy of the presentation would be circulated to members.

Priorities for the Arts Council primarily revolve around:

- Individual Artists
- Arts Organisations i.e. New Perspectives, Village Ventures
- Cultural Diversity
- Young People
- Creative Partnerships
- Growth Areas – including the wider agenda i.e. Market Towns developments

In 2003/04, Nottinghamshire has received £500,000 in funding support to a number of regularly funded organisations. In addition through the new partnership agreement system with local authorities for 2004-2006 there will be £640,000 extra to work with the Local Authorities in the East Midlands, which includes a specific allocation for North Nottinghamshire. This additional funding is to be spent under 4 priority themes:

- The Creative Economy
- Vital Neighbourhoods
- Healthy Communities
- Engaging Young People

The favoured theme for North Notts is 'Engaging Young People'. This information would be passed on to the Youth Assembly and relevant partners.

Simon was keen to stress that when discussing Arts it was vital to consider the wider impact of arts within the community, theatres are the

tip of the iceberg, and the benefits received from the arts, both cultural and financial cut across health, the economy, community development, education, and social and environmental development.

Examples of projects across the East Midlands which link to Sub-Group themes

Economic Regeneration

Creative Industries bring approx. £112m to the national economy, with around £4.6m in the East Midlands. The Arts Council is currently involved with the project EMPACT, which is aimed at promoting cultural tourism within the East Midlands.

Community Safety

A drama project entitled 'North Notts Fire Starter', run by the organisation New Perspectives tackled Safety Education. The performance addressed the issue of hoax calls, and a total of 42 performances were carried out to approx. 12,000 school children/students. Within Bassetlaw, King Edwards VI School took part in the project. As a result hoax calls within the North Notts area dropped by 17%.

Health

A scheme operating in Newark & Sherwood tackles the issue of falls and accidents, a 'Falls Clinic'. Through dance work, local people attending the 'clinic' gain increased mobility and tackle any confidence issues. The scheme also addresses independence and isolation issues, which can affect certain groups in the community i.e. elderly. The 'clinic' also acts as a forum for the Police/ Fire Service to meet the community. A similar scheme is also now operating in Ashfield.

Pauline noted that this would be an excellent project to set up through the Manton Neighbourhood Pathfinder, as it was a prime example of joined up service provision.

Social & Community Development

Across the region, and within Bassetlaw communities, a variety of projects led by community development workers are working with communities to empower them, and increase economic, social, and environmental well-being. This is of particular significance to Bassetlaw in light of the potential for projects through Neighbourhood Management and the Market Towns Initiatives.

Environment

In the south of the region in Northamptonshire, Grange Park is providing a mechanism to increase community engagement and promote local art. Through raising awareness of the protection and preservation of the local environment, local residents developed a sense of ownership and local pride. This was extended further by the

inclusion of local artwork within the Park, which local residents were fully involved in.

Learning & Skills

Newark Age Concern operated a scheme to promote 100 years of film. They gave local members the opportunity to make an animation film, and those that took part learnt digital photography and film making, and increased their computer skills. As a result some of the animations were shown at the National Museum at South Bank in London.

Tim Harris gave a brief presentation on NCC projects integrating with Bassetlaw. A copy of the presentation would be circulated to members.

Roger Ranson gave a brief update as to the position of the District Council. He reported that due to budget constraints it had been agreed to cut the Strategic Arts Officer post. This was a concern to both officers and Councillors at the District Council, and all were keen to continue to support current Arts provision. He noted that an Arts newsletter was produced to publicise events and availability of grants from organisations such as the Arts Council.

Simon suggested that the LSP could apply to develop arts projects, or potentially fund an 'LSP Arts Co-ordinator'. Both Roger and Pauline felt that this was definitely worth exploring as Bassetlaw District Council had a partnership fund and could potentially co-finance the post.

Key Actions to be discussed/ progressed

- Examine potential of a Strategic LSP Arts Co-ordinator to be joint funded through Arts Council, BDC/LSP.
- Sourcing of 'Individual' projects from Bassetlaw groups.
- Assessing additional new developments as to their suitability for funding i.e. Bassetlaw Studio Project, PFI Initiative, Worksop United Church Project, A 'Falls Clinic' Project linked in to the Manton Pathfinder.

5. Feedback on Manton Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder Bid

Roger Ranson reported to the group that the Pathfinder Bid had been successful. Having been successful in the bid we are now in Stage 2 of the Pathfinder and will be producing a Delivery Plan by the end of 2004. Local targets will be set in relation to the national floor targets, however in many cases the initial aim will be to move towards the national target rather than achieve it. The main emphasis will be to look at current mainstream funding and assess how to make more effective use of it. The Government is keen to focus on 'actions taken' rather than projects.

A Neighbourhood Management Board needs to be established, and a Shadow Board (residents) by February 2004. In addition there will be a number of Focus/ Task Groups. The recruitment of a Co-ordinator for the Pathfinder is currently being finalised and GOEM will be providing support throughout the duration of the Pathfinder. The programme will last for 7 years, and will include private sector involvement for example from B&Q, who are awaiting confirmation of their planning application.

A Mori poll of local residents is to take place and local community representatives are examining how to carry out their own surveys in conjunction with reviving a local newsletter.

6. Presentation by Terry Reynolds on the Ringmaster System

Terry gave a presentation on the message broadcasting system used by Bassetlaw Neighbourhood Watch, which is funded through Bassetlaw CDRP. The system enables a central control point to send and receive messages to all Neighbourhood Watch (NW) co-ordinators across Bassetlaw and Newark & Sherwood. The system is highly sophisticated and can be accessed remotely. For residents in the community receiving information the system is cost-effective at £1 per annum/ per household. However for the system to operate, a quarterly phone bill could be as much as £1300 (approx.)

Terry noted that the system was also linked in to other community groups aside from NW, including Rural Groups (i.e. farmers), Business Groups, and had direct links to partners in Lincolnshire, South Yorkshire, Chesterfield, and Mansfield.

It was noted that the system would have many benefits in providing a link between local community/ business organisations as a communication tool. Members were asked to inform any local groups that they felt would benefit from receiving information circulated by the system.

7. Childcare Provision within Bassetlaw – a position statement

It was agreed to carry over this item to the meeting in March where further discussion was already planned.

8. Report from Social Inclusion Group – Child Poverty and Local Government: An LGA Position Paper

The attached report was for members' information. Any queries should be directed to Elizabeth Whittles, Policy Officer, Bassetlaw District Council.

9. Community Strategy Update

A Draft Strategy had been submitted to Cabinet on 1st December, and subsequently would be considered by both Community Governance Scrutiny Committee (February 2004), and Full Council (March 2004). Following ratification by Council in March, a complete version of the Strategy would be published for key BLSP Partners and produced on CD ROM, for general circulation. It would also be available on the Bassetlaw District Council and BLSP websites.

10. Any Other Business

- (a) Minutes of the last Social Inclusion Group meeting were circulated to members for information.
- (b) An update on the LSP Board would be given at the March meeting.

Alison Gimingham confirmed that a meeting with BDYA had been arranged to discuss developments at Clumber.

Roger Ranson noted that through the partnership work of NRCC and BDC, particularly the Rural Officer, Annabel Elliott, the Misterton Area Parish Plan (MAP) was now available and would be integrated into the relevant BDC strategies.

PC Bill Brown announced that a Bid had been made by Notts Police for a Policing Priority Area (PPA) for Harworth. He noted however that even if the bid was unsuccessful, and they did not receive money to fund a co-ordinator post, they would run Harworth as a PPA through current procedures. It was considered as a priority project due to the nature of problems experienced in Harworth as a rural area, bordering South Yorkshire. If successful the bid would bring in £50,000 to support a Project Co-ordinator/ Manager for 1 year. Assistance on the development of a PPA was being sourced via a similar project based in Wales. The outcome of the bid would be received by 22 March, and reported at the next meeting.

Vicky Rawson from Focus on Young People in Bassetlaw was in the process of organising an Information Day for Young People at the Bassetlaw Centre. The event will take place on 28th April from around 10.30am – 7pm. The Youth Assembly are involved in the organisation of the event Police will be assisting in the promotion of the event through their media meetings. Topics covered will include health, education, training, social/ cultural activities.

11. Agenda for next meeting – 24 March 2004

Potential Items include:

ALMO

Arts & Culture feedback
Childcare Provision
Project Updates
Outstanding Items from this meeting

12. Dates and Times of 2004 meetings

- 24 March, 2.00pm – 4.00pm, TBC – NRCC arranging a local Village Hall
- 12 May, 2.00pm – 4.00pm, Manton Community Centre, Shrewsbury Road
- 21 July, 2.00pm – 4.00pm, BCVS Meeting Room, Dukeries Centre, Park St, Worksop
- 22 September, 2.00pm – 4.00pm, Venue TBC
- 24 November, 2.00pm – 4.00pm, Venue TBC