

**Social & Community Development Sub-Group**

**21 March 2007**

**2pm-4pm**

**BCVS Meeting Room, Worksop**

**MINUTES**

**Attending:**

Jo Wilson (Acting Chair)	BDC Policy
Richard Edwards	Manton Community Alliance
Graham Jackson	BDC Housing
Cllr Liz Jeffries	NALC
Frank Raspin	NCC Community Development
Vicky Rawson	FOYPIB
Malcolm Robson	BDC Planning - Access
Stephen Saddington	Bassetlaw CAB
Elizabeth Whittles	BDC Policy

**1. Introductions and Welcome**

Jo Wilson welcomed everyone to the meeting and took the Chair, in the absence of Pauline Elliott and Steve Brown who were at a BDC Management meeting.

**2. Apologies**

Steve Brown (Vice-Chair), BDC Corporate Services; Jackie Collins, Manton Sure Start Children's Centre; Pauline Elliott (Chair), BDC Community Services; Annie Fletcher, Centre Place; Sue Gill, Bassetlaw PCT; Alison Gimingham, National Trust; Kath Hobart, Tuxford MOI; Cllr Mike Jenkins, BDC Cabinet Member for Leisure, Housing and Children & Young People; Nicola Simpson, NCC Community Development; Andrew Tatham, BCVS; Ann Vallance, NNC; Bob Whatley, BDC.

**3. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising**

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record.

**4. Progress on Key Projects**

JW noted that the Strategic Arts Officer was now in post. Adele McCarthy will be working Monday, Tuesday and Thursday morning. She is based in Cophall House on ext. 3470.

It was agreed Adele would be invited to join the Sub-Group, so that members could contribute to future work on arts development.

## Older People

Bassetlaw Elderly Action Network (BEAN) are currently working with The Crossing to set up meeting to discuss the development of a Forum for Worksop. The meeting is likely to take place in June/ July.

**Action: AT/LJ to update the Group on progress.**

## Access

Please see attached report from MR. The main consideration for members is where to go from here.

It was agreed that MR and JW would work with SB to send a report to BDC to establish buy-in from the authority, and funding available.

**Action: (1) Members of Sub-Group are to look at the report outside the meeting, and pass on comments to MR.**

**(2) SB to confirm if any funding is available through e-government.**

**(3) Meeting to be held by JW, SB and MR to prepare report for BDC Management Team.**

FR noted that he was still looking at any sources of cc funding.

Members raised concerns over whether older people have ready access to the internet, and if they did whether they were sufficiently literate in IT to use websites.

JW commented that First Contact could be a possible mechanism to pass web information to older people without internet access.

MR noted that the scheme required £17,000 set up costs and £6,000 annual maintenance for a minimum of 3 years.

VR asked whether Mike Newstead had been contacted to look at voluntary sector funding sources e.g. Lloyds TSB. Also Grant Finder could be used to access funding.

MR noted that M & S already sponsor the DisabledGO organisation.

JW requested additions/ amendments to the building list from Sub-Group members as soon as possible.

SS requested that both CAB offices be added.

LJ noted that the Methodist Church in Misterton was missing and that the Methodist Church in Everton no longer existed.

VR commneted that the new Acorn Theatre in Worksop should be added, as well as considering the venues used by local scout groups etc.

RE added that the Manton Community Alliance office should be included.

EW agreed to chase up information from Parish Councils that has been collected for BDC's new Play Strategy.

MR agreed that once all the building information is received from partners a meeting will be arranged with DisabledGO to look at the list and advise on the suitability for inclusion in the Access Guide.

**Action: This agenda item will be removed as a standing item and added as and when progress is made with the project, and an update is required.**

## 5. New Community Strategy April 2007 onwards

JW led discussion on outstanding points in the Action Plan that needed to be clarified.

Potential Gaps (highlighted in yellow on first page)

Arts/ Culture	Following on from discussion at the November and January meetings it had been agreed that this should not be something separate, and was actually at the heart of the work of the Sub-Group, as a mechanism for engagement. As such the aim 'Building strong communities through local culture' was adopted.
Young People	Improving service delivery to young people is incorporated in to Priority 4, and links to the proposed activities from the Rural Excellence Mentoring Scheme.
Older People	See discussion notes below.

### Older People

It was noted that under the current structure there was not 'one' group responsible for older people's service delivery, and the issue had been raised again at the Health Sub-Group meeting in January. It was agreed that under Priority 2, First Contact should be actively promoted, with promotion of any older people's forums (once established) supporting priority 4.3.

GJ felt that the LSP should take a steer from the LAA outcomes.

JW noted that independent living and involvement in the community were at the centre to most service objectives, and it was important that service providers recognised that older people can be active in the local community.

GJ felt that improving quality of life was central. Housing are currently trying to address the issue of falls by providing relevant equipment.

JW requested that partners passed on contacts of other groups/ service providers that could give information through First Contact, and noted the importance of using existing community events.

GJ felt that this was a key area where A1 Housing could link in due to the age profile of their customer base. He also noted that BDC will need to complete work in the future to rewrite policies to further target vulnerable people, which will require local consultation.

The additional issue of fuel poverty was raised by EW. JW noted that BDC were purchasing a new Energy Bus, which can be used at community events to publicise advice/ information. GJ noted that BDC promote the government campaign Warm Front, JW explained that the authority were obliged to promote this and the DH programme Keep Warm Keep Well, as part of the public sector.

LJ noted the difficulty in accessing information on grants for boilers as everyone is not able to access the internet. JW suggested that this was something that could be added as part of the First Contact programme.

#### Priority 2: Equal Access to Services

JW asked SS to update partners on developments in relation to financial exclusion.

SS asked members present to think about how we can give people the skills to overcome this, and stressed the need to look at existing networks.

JW noted that some work was now potentially happening in schools within Citizenship lessons, and that this was a possible project to link with the Learning and Skills Sub-Group on.

JW also noted that FE Colleges can now access Big Lottery money, and if it was found that a local programme was needed it may be possible to do a bid.

EW noted that older people was now an issue links with Community and Legal Services, as reported at a recent NCC Community Cohesion meeting.

EW raised items from the Community Cohesion Board Meeting where Intergenerational projects in other Districts were discussed.

<u>Report back from Nottinghamshire Community Cohesion Project Board – Meeting 8th March, 2007</u>	
i)	Notts County Council have appointed to the Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Post and will start with NAVO. Notts Rural County Council have a gypsy traveller post and it is hoped that the two organisations will work together.
ii)	Interviews to take place for the post of Temporary Manager of the Notts Community Cohesion Strategy. It will last for two years to implement the Strategy.
iii)	<p><u>Migrant Workers Leaflet</u></p> <p>The event organised by LSP and funded by Notts County Council Community Cohesion fund and Bassetlaw District Council will launch at the Crossing on 14th April, 2007.</p> <p>Other events are to take place in Nottinghamshire e.g. Mansfield District Council for Polish, Russian and Lithuanian workers.</p> <p>The outcome of the events will be monitored and evaluated to assess how future events should be organised.</p>
iv)	<p>Anecdotal evidence is being reported which identifies merging issues involving migrant workers such as Hate, Crime and Health.</p> <p>EW asked if parties are collecting data in such a way that issues can be identified to support the anecdotal evidence.</p> <p>Full minutes will be circulated to the next meeting.</p>

VR felt this would be a good project to link with The Crossing, if view of their work to establish an Older People's Forum for Worksop, and the work they already do with young people's groups linked to the church.

RE noted that he would be interested in pursuing an Intergenerational project through MCA. It could also potentially link to the IMPS group.

**Action: JW & EW agreed to follow up and find out relevant contacts at County for RE and VR.**

### Priority 3: Community Leadership and local community planning

JW asked RE as to how Priority 3.2 could be developed – Delivery of Manton NMP.

RE noted a number of current initiatives aimed at creating more community leadership which could be incorporated and used as best practice for elsewhere in the District:

- 1) Developing a Neighbourhood Charter – this is seen as future good practice in the Local Government White Paper
- 2) Participating Budgeting – Local people say where public money is spent – again a similar concept to that in the White Paper, MCA to

implement early 2007/08. They will be using leverage money to encourage other partners to do the same.

JW noted that the Rural Excellence Scheme raised this issue – young people want to be involved in inspection of services and interactive workshops for budget.

- 3) Behavioural Model – Social Capital-developing community leadership
  - RE noted to 2 types of regeneration that MCA contributes to:
    - i) Pump Priming
    - ii) Role in neighbourhood/District

JW noted that BDC and BLSP had used the community conversation model (developed through the Social Capital Learning Set) of what 3 things do you like about Bassetlaw for the new Community Strategy. It had been adapted however to be 2 things liked and 2 things that could be improved.

**Action: RE to amend 3.2 within the Action Plan accordingly.**

JW noted in relation to Priority 3.5 the concept of Quality Parish Councils and the production of a Parish Charter, have been reviewed by Bassetlaw D.C. Scrutiny. The aim was to secure agreement on the Charter from all Parishes as a way of improving working arrangements between the two tiers and clearly defining expectations between the two. LJ noted that NCC were also in the process of consulting with NALC on Quality Parishes.

JW queried whether the Gateford area may be a useful locality to also look to adopt a Neighbourhood Charter, as residents were quite active, and there was a local association. In addition, if the situation changed in terms of setting up locality areas in the urban parts of the District, where Parish Councils don't exist, Gateford could be a likely candidate for this.

LJ acknowledged the idea but reminded members of the issue of double taxation which many residents in Parishes feel they are subject to.

JW also reminded members that through the Safer Neighbourhoods agenda, Parish Councils will have the option of greater powers for the local area.

LJ noted that she was worried about this element as many parish councils do not have members with the necessary experience or skills to deal with this.

GJ felt that District Council's in rural areas can and should work with Parish Councils, and that there was scope for local budgets to ward members and A1 Housing e.g. community budgets.

JW noted that in support of 3.1, 3.3, and 3.4 it may be worth investigating how the budgets allocated to County Councillors are promoted. This is potentially an under-used resource which could support new projects within the District, and potentially improve links between local councillors and the community.

#### Priority 4: Active Citizenship

Linking to 4.1, 4.3 and 'Priority 1: Improve Community Engagement', JW reminded members of the discussion at the January meeting of creating a road-show approach to engagement, by using local community/ cultural

events. JW was aware that the Steering group formed in January had not yet met to discuss possible events, and information to be distributed. JW reminded members to pass on details of any local events to put on the events calendar. The Steering Group would be sending out a letter to Parish Council's asking about local events.

**Action: Information on progress to be brought to May meeting, for agreement of a summer calendar of events for the Sub-Group to attend.**

**NOTE: There may be the possibility of linking with other Sub-Groups for this work as both the Environment & Learning & Skills Sub-groups also wish to attend more community events.**

JW reminded members that they would need to update the Action Plan as required and take information on progress/ issues to LSP Board as necessary. RE suggested that a report be taken on participatory budgeting once established, and that potentially a standing item on sharing good practice should be at every LSP Board meeting.

6. **A.O.B.**

There was no A.O.B.

7. **Meeting Dates for 2007**

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2pm-4pm, Council Chamber, Retford Town Hall. (Note this is a correction of the previous date of 16<sup>th</sup> May)

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2pm-4pm, Assembly Room, Worksop Town Hall

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2pm-4pm, Ceres Suite, Worksop Town Hall

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2pm-4pm, Ceres Suite, Worksop Town Hall