

Stronger Communities Group
23rd June 2010
10.00 am – 12.00 noon
Portland School, Worksop

MINUTES

Present:

Geraldine Pearce (Chair)
Karen Tarburton (Vice Chair)

Paul Buck
Gill Collins
Cara Crossland
Joe Davies
Janet Duke
Liz Jefferies
Benson Osazuwa
Carol Parker

Frank Raspin
Steve Saddington
Alistair Shaw
Barbara Warsop
Kelly White
Liz Whittles
Joanne Wilson

Director, BCVS
RCAN, Chair of the Sustainable and Active
Communities Task Group
Head, Portland School
NCC County Contact
Bassetlaw District Council
Bassetlaw District Council
Connexions
NACL
BACA
Extended Services Co-ordinator, Portland Family of
Schools
Notts County Council
Bassetlaw CAB
Manton Community Alliance
Portland School
Manton Community Alliance
Bassetlaw District Council
Bassetlaw District Council

1. Introductions and Welcome

GP welcomed everyone to the meeting and everyone introduced themselves.

2. Apologies

Yvette Bowskill, Connexions; Steve Brown, Bassetlaw District Council; Emma Ducker, NHS Bassetlaw; Richard Edwards, Manton Community Alliance; Andy Hand, Nottinghamshire Police; Adele McCarthy, Bassetlaw District Council; Mark Mortimore, Notts Fire and Rescue; Grace Painter, North Notts College; Sarah Pearson, Bassetlaw District Council, Vice Chair of the Sustainable and Active Communities Task Group; Andy Peacock, Notts County Council; Nicola Simpson, Valley School; Beverley Taylor, Notts Healthcare NHS Trust

3. Confirmation of Chair/Vice Chair

JW noted that at the previous meetings of the Working Group it had been proposed that Geraldine Pearce become Chair of the Stronger Communities Group and for Karen Tarburton to become Vice Chair.

She noted that the proposal needed to be formally ratified by the Group if there were no further nominations.

Members agreed the proposal and the decision was carried.

4. Presentation of Action Plan

GP presented the Action Plan to the Group and noted that issues for discussion had been identified in the Task Groups.

Page 3

GP noted that there are 5 LAA Indicators in the Action Plan. She noted that herself, KT and JW went to Rotherham, an area with a similar social profile to look at their community cohesion group, Proud.

She noted that Proud believe the following indicators are perception based and are hard to get a grip on and influence:

- NI 1 - % who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their area
- NI 4 - % of people who feel they can affect decisions affecting their locality

JW noted that Notts specific indicator for enriching culture is based on a basket of different indicators but has not been able to get any information from the leisure centre contacts to find out how the group could link in with it.

Page 5

Support and actively participate in Local Democracy Week – GP noted that this action had been suggested by the Sustainable and Active Communities Task Group and asked members for any comments.

JW noted that she has lost regular contact with her main colleague within the Youth Service. She is trying to re-establish links. She noted that Local Democracy Week takes place in October, annually.

KT/JW noted that partners need to get more involved.

PB noted that he had received feedback from his students at Portland, he noted that some of the students found it interesting whereas others did not, he suggested adapting the agenda around things the students could relate to, to get a higher level of engagement.

GP noted that she felt the actions wording should be amended to be more about collaboration of partners.

PB noted that Portland School students have also engaged in participatory budgeting which could be linked in with the action plan.

Page 6

Support and actively participate in the Schools Citizenship Curriculum

PB noted that there is already something in the curriculum around citizenship and the school run sessions and events. He noted that action needs to link in with schools and what they already run.

Page 7

Investigate the possibility of drafting a Voluntary Community Service Strategy and action plan linking to the thriving third sector

GP noted that this action depends on if there are third sector organisations who want to get involved. She noted that they have seen Rotherham's action plan for a thriving third sector, which would be a good starting point.

KT noted that she is happy for the action to sit with the Sustainable and Active Communities Task Group and for her to be the main lead.

AS noted that he understood, from a conference he had recently attended, that when referencing the third sector the term Community and Voluntary Sector will be used again. 'Third Sector' is considered to be the previous administrations approach, however there is currently no official line regarding this and this term is still being used at present.

GP noted that the following actions were identified as issues for discussion.

Page 8

Gypsy and Traveller Community

GP noted that the group were unsure what level of engagement was currently happening in Bassetlaw with gypsy and traveller communities.

JDavies noted that she has been looking at a new plan for the local district and to try and engage with gypsy and traveller communities. She noted that she has mapped the sites and has some contacts but her main contact is done through letters and not face to face.

KT noted that the Travelling Together team at RCAN have done a lot of their work in Nottinghamshire but are now looking at issues in Bassetlaw.

JW noted that as a result of recent government budget cuts £18000 has been lost from the Community Cohesion Fund.

FR noted that he felt it was a good idea for Annette Warren from NAVO to attend a future meeting, as he is aware of the work with gypsy and traveller communities in Newark but not in Bassetlaw.

KT noted that she has been liaising with Annette for the Sustainable and Active Communities Task Group who has passed on a report. She noted that she has been trying to get Annette to attend a meeting.

PB asked if there are any figures available that indicate the number of gypsy and travellers in Bassetlaw.

JDavies noted that as part of her role she counts the number of caravans on a site but she could not say how many live in each caravan or how many housed travellers there are in Bassetlaw.

SS noted that he felt the group need to be focused about which projects to fund. He noted that CAB sees some gypsy and travellers but they could do more for the community. He noted that the action needs to be co-ordinated to get the maximum benefit.

GP suggested that they could ask the LSP Board if any further allocating from the Community Cohesion Fund could be put on hold while they work up a project for engaging the gypsy and traveller community and assess the need. This would allow a move to a commissioning in approach to projects.

GP suggested that RCAN and Annette should give a presentation at the next available Task Group. She noted that the Task Group should be opened up for all members of the Stronger Communities Group to attend.

KT noted that they could do the presentation at the next Sustainable and Active Communities Group on 6th July 10.00 am in the Ceres Suite, Worksop Town Hall.

KT/JDavies noted that they would speak to the relevant people.

GP gave her apologies for the 6th July in advance.

Page 9

Develop and deliver a programme of Interfaith projects

GP noted that Derek Wilkinson's funding application for the Inter Faith Bridge Building project has been provisionally agreed by the Executive Group pending further information.

GP noted that she had run the Islam in Britain courses as previously agreed.

JW noted that Derek Wilkinson's project is a piece of research that should provide an evidence base from which a project may arise.

Page 11

Produce and implement a Bassetlaw Financial Inclusion Strategy

SS noted that the Financial Inclusion Strategy looks at issues such as Credit Unions, savings and debt management.

SS noted that he had been to a meeting with the Credit Union looking at how services can be delivered for example debt management and financial capabilities to the Housing Association. He noted that further work on an Action Plan would be done in the Forum.

JW noted that the second Risk Management Worksop had taken place, she noted that the economy and educational attainment were identified as the main risks in Bassetlaw.

She noted that one of the main issues in Bassetlaw is the high percentage of worklessness, low skill levels and people in unskilled jobs that are more susceptible to redundancy, due to the type of employment they are in.

Page 12

Continue engagement with the Manton Pathfinder to include a presentation on activities and opportunities for collaboration

GP asked how the progress made can be measured.

AS noted that it is about a learning process that can be used in other areas. He noted that the LSP Neighbourhood Management Working Group had been set up to look at the issues around the Pathfinders sustainability.

JW asked if there was anything in particular that the Group could look at aside from what is being looked at, at Board level.

GP noted that towards the end of the Action Plan there were ongoing projects and asked members for any comments.

FR noted that he would contact Sarah Pearson regarding Safer Neighbourhood Groups. He noted that there is a community safety event next week in Retford to raise awareness of current issues.

Page 9

Promote/Develop a collaborative calendar of community events in Bassetlaw

GP noted that many LSP partners have individual calendars and it had been proposed to collaborate to form a joint events calendar.

JW noted that this was something that they had been trying to do for a while, she noted that the main problem is that community groups do not set their dates far enough in advance.

GP noted that the Language, Arts and Culture Task Group would look at moving forward with the idea of a joint events calendar.

5. Report from Task Groups/ Verbal Presentations

BW noted that she had completed the DVD project and was hoping to start work on the book in September, which would then be used alongside the DVD with the new Year 7 classes.

BW noted that attendance to the Conversational English Classes has reduced now it is summer. She noted that the learners are now keen to get a qualification and asked if any funding would be available. She also noted that herself and PB had been looking at the possibility of delivering entry level GCSE English at the school.

GP noted that the next Language, Arts and Culture task group takes place tomorrow (24th June). She noted that in the last meeting they identified new members and that hopefully the next meeting would be better attended so they can move forward.

KT noted that in the initial meeting of the Sustainable and Active Communities Task Group they discussed the Action Plan and had identified new members to attend the next meeting on the 6th July.

6. Manton Community Alliance Presentation – Manton Gala and opportunities for future collaboration with Partners

KW (Community Engagement Coordinator) from Manton Community Alliance circulated some information to members and presented a PowerPoint presentation.

KW noted why people put on events:

- To tell people things
- To find out what people think
- To show engagement
- To tick a box

She noted that the problem is that often people do events to people and not for them.

KW noted that the Manton Gala is put on by a community group and is now one of the biggest community events in Bassetlaw attracting over 3000 people.

She noted that the Gala is a big engagement opportunity and there are a lot of advantages for partners:

- The people we need to reach are there
- It is a chance to meet residents in a mutual environment
- A chance to have fun and build relationships
- An opportunity to get feedback on improving services from the people who use them
- More value and less cost

Pathfinder's Aim:

- Alternative approach to engagement
- To create a group of community workers and residents that design and create events and engagement tools
- Avoid duplication by working together
- Create engagement activities that do not isolate anyone
- Ensure that engagement events are meaningful and valuable for all

KW noted that the Manton Gala takes place on 17th July 12.00 noon – 4.00 pm on the field opposite the Canch on Priorswell Road.

GP asked how people can get involved and book a stand and what are the best ways of engaging people.

KW noted that to book a stand you need to contact Sarah Bowskill or Nicola Perkins.

PB noted that the best way to get residents to visit your stand is to offer fun activities, freebies and competitions.

BW asked if the Polish community attend the event.

AS noted that that information has not been collected but it was possible through a free prize draw getting people to fill in their details. He noted that the event aims to bring people together and that it is also an opportunity for partners to talk to other organisations who attend.

7. New Project Ideas/ Commissioning

JW noted she had come across an issue in the suggested topics for the scrutiny work programme where councillors suggested issues to address. She noted one of the topics was around anti-social behaviour as a result of community tensions and may be something to look at if not taken forward by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Acton: JW to seek further clarification

8. Update from the Independent Advisory Group

SS noted that himself and Benson attended the last Independent Advisory Group, which is now led by Glenn Harper. He noted that there had been discussions about how it fits in with the Stronger Communities Group and that the group needs more members now there is not a team looking at Hate Crime as this was vital information.

9. Report from the Board/Executive meeting

JW noted that the minutes of the last Executive Group and Board meetings had not been circulated, as they have not yet been approved by the groups.

JW gave a brief summary of the minutes. She noted that the last Board meeting was at the Centre for Renewable Energy and agenda items included a presentation from Claire Frost about the Single Conversation and a report from Richard Money.

Action: JW to circulate Richard Money's report to members

She noted that the LAA Reward Grant had been formally approved on the 8th June and should be available soon.

JW noted that Richard Edwards gave a presentation on the impact of the Pathfinder and developing a locality approach. She noted that the Locality Working Group are looking at how this approach can be rolled out and its options for sustainability.

JW listed all the LSP Sub-Groups:

- Stronger Communities Group
- Learning and Skills
- Environment
- Health
- Community Safety Partnership
- Transport and Accessibility
- Children and Young People
- Economic Regeneration – Virtual Group

10. Recent Funding Decisions

JW noted the funding applications that had been approved by the Executive Group on the 3rd June 2010:

- Community Car Scheme
- Worksop Together
- Conversational English Classes (College Provision at Portland School)
- Retford Tenants and Residents Association – Wellington Street Café/Shop
- Inter-Faith Bridge Building – provisionally agreed pending further information

11. A.O.B

JW noted that at County level the Community Cohesion Group has been disbanded and that she is still waiting to hear if it will continue to exist as a virtual group. She noted that Hate Crime will be their main focus for the next year.

JW noted that she had been informed that Andy Peacock would still attend meetings.

GP noted that this would be PBs last meeting before he retires. GB thanked PB on behalf of the group for all the work he has done for the group, his commitment and hospitality and wished him well in the future.

12. Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting will take place on 27th October 2010, venue to be confirmed.