

**NOTES OF A MEETING OF SOUTH HAMS STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP HELD
AT FOLLATON HOUSE, TOTNES, ON MONDAY, 8 DECEMBER 2008**

Present: Vaughan Lindsay – Dartington Hall Trust (SHSP Chair)
Steve Brown – Devon Primary Care Trust
Jill Davies – South Hams CVS
Sarah Sharpe – Devon and Cornwall Constabulary
Alan Robinson – SHDC
Cllr Anne Ward – SHDC
Adele Dawson – South Devon College
David Shephard – Federation of Small Businesses
Cllr Tony Whitty – Totnes Town Council
Cllr John Binns – Kingsbridge Town Council
Cllr Bill Hitchins – SHDC (for John Tucker)
Howard Toplis – Tor Homes
Carol Beeson – Ivybridge Town Council (for Lesley Hughes)
Jo Rumble – DNPA
Roger Grainger – Devon County Council
Paul Sadler – Environment Agency
Amanda Harvey – SHDC

Workshop Facilitators:

Lee Bray – SHDC
Pauline Warner – Devon County Council
Ross Kennerley – SHDC
Graham Swiss – SHDC
Gaynor Hughes – SHDC
Jon Parkinson - SHDC

Apologies:

Cllr Julian Brazil – Devon County Council
Cllr Roger Croad – Devon County Council
Pete Tansey – business representative
Cllr John Tucker – Leader, SHDC (SHSP Vice Chair)
Hugh McCahill – South Hams VSF
Cllr Debbie Morris – Dartmouth Town Council
Lesley Hughes – Ivybridge Town Council

1. Apologies and Minutes

The list of apologies was noted and the minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2008 were confirmed as a correct record.

2. South Hams Local Development Framework (LDF) – Infrastructure Programming to Support Development

Lee Bray, the District Council's Head of Community Regeneration gave a Power Point presentation which outlined the current priorities for the Local Development Framework (LDF) and the contribution required from partners in the Local Strategic Partnership to progress them.

He reported on the progress of the LDF and the documents which had been adopted to date, those being the Core Strategy, the Sherford Area Action Plan (AAP) and the Affordable Housing Development Plan Document (DPD). He advised that the priority now was to identify sites for housing (particularly affordable homes), employment land and essential community facilities in market towns and key villages, and that these would be advanced in parallel through five Site Allocation DPDs – one each for Dartmouth, Ivybridge, Kingsbridge and Totnes & Dartington, and another for the remaining Rural Areas.

He advised that the LDF should be prepared in collaboration with partner agencies of the Local Strategic Partnership, and emphasised that it was very important for them to engage with the process of identifying suitable and sustainable development sites. The Chairman emphasised that the availability or provision of support infrastructure should be considered in tandem with site identification.

The presentation set out three infrastructure themes that should be considered, Site Related Infrastructure (eg flood provision, local open spaces, landscaping and enhancing biodiversity), Community Infrastructure (eg education provision, health facilities, police stations, pedestrian and traffic management, libraries, culture and leisure facilities) and Strategic Infrastructure (eg major new road schemes or public transport provision, secondary schools). The Chairman emphasised that without the robust infrastructure element of the proposals, the whole exercise could become just a site allocation exercise and communities would have to live with the outcomes, so it was important to keep those communities at the centre of the ongoing consultative process.

He went on to say that this collaborative work with the LSP presented a unique opportunity to square the circle of 'creative tension' and produce a single cohesive and co-ordinated plan. It was important therefore that each organisation identified an individual who would positively engage with this project.

The meeting agreed that representatives from the District and County Councils, PCT and Police should form a task and finish sub group to prepare a co-ordinated programme of strategic infrastructure provision to underpin the LDF, and that the sub group should report its work back to the Partnership.

Some representatives questioned whether as a result of the economic downturn and the current fall in house prices, there was a risk of building a surplus of housing. The Head of Community Regeneration advised that the housing figures in the adopted Core Strategy were much lower than the known levels of housing need and that therefore there was no risk of over provision.

The Chairman thanked the Head of Community Regeneration for his presentation and advised those present that a copy of the presentation would be attached to the published Minutes of the meeting.

3. South Hams Sustainable Community Strategy Action Plan Workshop

The Chairman thanked the Partners for their feedback on the performance of the SHSP in the recent self assessment survey, and the results were discussed.

- The frequency of meetings was considered acceptable;
- The conference call meetings were less well received;
- There was a general feeling that there was room for improvement in 'appropriate membership';
- There was scope for improvement in the sharing of information, and
- There was room for improvement in the delivery of actions.

The Strategic Director (Community) from SHDC then made a presentation to provide the context for the workshop, which was designed to begin the process of refreshing the work of the partnership, with particular reference to strategic frameworks at the Devon wide level and the link to the South Hams Sustainable Community Strategy priority themes (presentation attached).

The Community Development Assistant acknowledged that all present were fully occupied, which left little extra time to commit to significant additional projects, and so there was a need to be realistic about what could be delivered in the new Action Plan. A partner responded that they would be reluctant for the Partnership to pull back from delivery, as it was a successful Partnership with a good track record and that they should look to build on that foundation. The Strategic Director (Community) suggested that the Partnership look at 'quick wins' for 2009-11 as well as the on going commitment to progressing existing strategic work streams.

The Partnership then divided into four groups to discuss project ideas to meet local needs that would link the local Sustainable Community Strategy priorities to Local Area Agreement targets. The priority theme areas under which discussions took place were: Affordable Housing, Competitive Local Economy, Community Vibrancy and Quality Built and Natural Environment.

The question was asked where the funding would come from to support the project ideas. The Strategic Director (Community) advised that there were various funding streams potentially available. He also emphasised that the linkage of a project to the Local Area Agreement could be crucial in terms of future funding decisions. He added that it was important to keep project ideas precise and targeted and not too general, for example not to identify a project to 'meet the needs of the youth' but to propose instead 'a skate competition in 2009' with an indication of who might be involved. He further advised those present to keep the project ideas realistic and achievable.

At the end of the working group session, the Chairman thanked those present for their participation and the Community Development Assistant advised that the ideas discussed in the working groups would be collated and circulated to Partners.

4. AOB

The Chairman advised the meeting that the Secretary of State had deferred the decision on the Local Government Review until 13 February 2009.

5. Proposed dates (and venues where relevant) of future meetings

- Monday 9 March 2009 – Tor Homes;
- Monday 8 June 2009 – South Devon College;
- Monday 14 September 2009 – Conference Call; and
- Monday 14 December 2009 – date and venue to be confirmed.