

SOUTH HAMS COMMUNITY STRATEGY - LSP Briefing for 18th July

THEME: QUALITY BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

1. An initial meeting was held on 13 June to review the Scoping Brief and draft Action Plan and discuss the way forward. (Penny Amraoui, Robin Toogood, Ross Kennerley, Kay Dawson).
2. Reviewed wording of the priorities to ensure that:
 - i) they offer enough scope to cover the breadth of environmental issues/initiatives;
 - ii) allowed for a wider 'take' on sustainability.

New text reads as follows: (additions in italics)

- Promote the protection of and, wherever possible, enhance **landscape and** biodiversity, through sensitive land-use policy and practice;
- Encourage wider community use and ownership of public spaces, in particular where it contributes to healthy lifestyles and a reduction in the amount or fear of crime;
- Support activities seeking to enhance the distinctive built environment, ***especially where it contributes to economic and cultural well-being;***

Replace:

- Support activities which minimise the amount of household and commercial waste produced and maximise the amount of this waste we recycle and reuse.

With:

- ***Promote sustainable lifestyles to those living, working and visiting the South Hams, encouraging the efficient use of natural resources.***

3. Agreed that there is already a great deal of work being done under the environment banner which relates to the new priorities. Some partnership organisations are already delivering through their routine work. The issue is to identify where SHSP can add value by filling gaps.
4. Suggestions included:
 - i) getting a clear overview of environmental delivery within the district so that realistic 'added value' actions could be determined;
 - ii) actively promoting access opportunities to a 'greener' built environment;
 - iii) a quick sustainability win, ensuring that all SHSP organisations establish and implement internal environment management systems to demonstrate leadership in minimising their carbon footprint /use of resources.
5. Agreed that there are significant links with other strategy themes e.g. healthy lifestyles agenda, which could be exploited.
6. In terms of involving the right bodies, suggested co-option of Natural England rep to SHSP (once the new body 'goes live' in October/November) to champion landscape, access and recreation elements of the new strategy.

Recommendations

LSP are asked to support:

- Revised wording of priorities
- The setting up of an Environment South Hams Panel (similar to Active South Hams Panel) to refine Action Plan, drive implementation and report back to LSP. Core members would be as above, plus Natural England and reps from other bodies, co-opted as necessary. Delivery of actions would be delegated as appropriate. (KD has since met with Dartmoor National Park rep who would be interested in getting involved.)
- Initiatives to publicise and promote access to an enhanced built environment more widely. This links with healthy living priorities. This would also link to the work being undertaken by the 4 main town planning groups, all of which have key 'regeneration' projects / initiatives high-lighted in their plans.
- Approach presented in draft Action Plan

What are SHSP priorities:	Key areas to pursue (Years 1/2)	How SHSP are adding value	Who
13. Protect and, wherever possible, enhance landscape and biodiversity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District-wide coverage of landscape / biodiversity related projects; possibly linked to local community-based planning results. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish an Environment SH panel to promote joined-up working. • Review parish plan docs inside and outside of AONB area with view to promoting engagement in community environmental projects. • Make use of appropriate funding streams. • Make better use of SHSP partners newsletters for engagement / promotion of initiatives / projects. 	SHSP partners Nat. England AONB / DNP BTCV / DWT VCS groups Town & Parish Councils Community-based planning project groups
Quality of Life indicators	<p><u>Area for development:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District-wide review of all environmental projects. • County Wildlife Sites? 		
14. Promote community use & ownership of public spaces, in particular where it contributes to healthy lifestyles & a reduction in amount / fear of crime.	<p>On-going activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of Active South Hams Action Plan • Delivery of Public Space Strategy • Better use of Section 106 monies • Wider community and business involvement, including establishment of 'Friends of' groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enable use of school grounds by wider community. • Make better use of SHSP partners newsletters for engagement / promotion of initiatives / projects. 	SHSP partners <i>ESH panel</i> Active South Hams
Quality of Life indicators			Community Safety Partnership

What are SHSP priorities:	Key areas to pursue (Years 1/2)	How SHSP are adding value	Who
<p>15. Support activities seeking to enhance the distinctive built environment, especially where it contributes to economic and cultural well-being.</p>	<p><u>Area for development:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on supporting community-based planning projects? * <i>Dartmouth – Market Regeneration</i> * <i>Ivybridge – Town Centre & Market Regeneration</i> * <i>Kingsbridge – Quay Re-Development</i> * <i>Totnes – Civic Hall & Market Square / Traffic management</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve linkage with resultant economic development impacts. 	<p>Community-based planning project groups</p> <p>SHSP partners</p> <p>Economic initiatives / funders</p>
<p>Quality of Life indicators</p>			
<p>16. Promote sustainable lifestyles to those living, working and visiting the South Hams, encouraging the efficient use of natural resources.</p>	<p>On-going activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support LDF process, especially where it contributes to mixed land use and live/work developments. • Support Green Tourism initiative. • Support World Environment Day and similar public awareness raising events. • Support initiatives to ‘green’ SMEs and quantify economic benefits <p><u>Area for development:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Waste Education Project?</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>SHSP partners to sign-up to Devon Climate Change Declaration and demonstrate action, such as establishing and implementing their own internal environment management plans</i> • Make better use of SHSP partners newsletters for engagement / promotion of initiatives / projects. 	<p>SHSP partners</p> <p>SHSG / LA21 groups</p> <p>Healthy/Green Schools</p> <p>Local businesses</p> <p>Envision</p>
<p>Quality of Life indicators</p>			

Links to other priorities:

What are SHSP priorities:	Key areas to pursue (Years 1/2)
<p>4. Ensure that new housing follows sustainable design codes, is relevant to the character of the area and minimises adverse impact on the local landscape and ecology.</p>	<p>On-going activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure multi agency engagement in development schemes.
<p>6. Encourage business practices that protect the natural environment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SHSP partners to support joint/local procurement. • SHSP to promote local buying amongst employees. <p><u>Prosperity Strategy Project:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greening Employment Sites Pilot Feasibility Study.
<p>10. Provide opportunities for, and encourage a range of activities (such as walking cycling, and other outdoor leisure and recreation), to increase levels of physical activity and improve health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage SHSP partners to provide consistent and timely health-related messages to employees, and the public targeting the most vulnerable. <p>On-going activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make better use of open, public space. • Encourage SHSP partners / employers to offer workplace opportunities for physical activity, smoking cessation, quality meals, stress reduction etc. <p><u>Active South Hams Forum project:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Promote Health Walk initiatives.
<p>12. Support opportunities for increasing community activity and volunteering.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SHSP partners to encourage employee volunteering opportunities. <p><u>Area for development:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouragement involvement of young people / under 35's.