

**NOTES OF A MEETING OF SOUTH HAMS STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP  
HELD AT TOR HOMES ON MONDAY 9 MARCH 2009**

**PRESENT:**

Vaughan Lindsay – Dartington Hall Trust (SHSP Chair)  
Alan Robinson – South Hams District Council  
Cllr John Tucker – South Hams District Council  
Cllr Anne Ward – South Hams District Council  
Cllr Rufus Gilbert – Kingsbridge Town Council  
Lee Bray – South Hams District Council  
Insp. Bob Howe – Devon & Cornwall Constabulary  
Roger Grainger – Devon County Council  
Paul Sadler – Environment Agency  
Jill Davies – South Hams CVS  
Howard Toplis – Tor Homes  
Jo Rumble – Dartmoor National Park Authority  
Lesley Hughes – Ivybridge Town Council  
Cllr Tony Whitty – Totnes Town Council  
Cllr Debbie Morris – Dartmouth Town Council  
Tina Henry – Devon Primary Care Trust  
Hugh McCahill – South Hams Voluntary Sector Forum  
Adele Dawson – South Devon College  
David Shephard – Federation of Small Business

**1. APOLOGIES**

Supt Sarah Sharpe – Devon & Cornwall Constabulary  
Cllr John Binns – Kingsbridge Town Council  
Peter Tansey – Business Representative  
Kay Kilgallon – South Hams District Council  
Amanda Harvey – South Hams District Council

**2. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 2008 were confirmed as a correct record.

**3. PRESENTATION – COUNTER TERRORISM AND THE ‘PREVENT’ AGENDA - DI NIGEL EASTHAM**

DI Eastham gave a presentation to the Partnership that informed those present about the Government’s ‘Prevent’ agenda, which was one of the four main components of the Counter Terrorism Strategy.

The ‘Prevent’ component identified a number of key challenges to be addressed based on an assessment of what motivated radicalisation. These were:-

- Challenging the ideologies promoted by terrorists
- Challenging the propagandists that promote violence
- Identifying individuals vulnerable to recruitment by terrorist groups
- Effectively addressing grievances
- Developing prevention related intelligence

Following the presentation, DI Eastham was asked if he could produce 'poster' style information that could be distributed to the representatives of the partnership. The purposes of such information would be to remind people of the threat, what to look for, how to report unusual behaviour, telephone numbers and so on.

Another representative also asked DI Eastham if, when producing this information, he could expand on more examples of what would merit reporting.

The Chairman then thanked DI Eastham for his thought provoking presentation.

## **PROJECT UPDATES ON THE DELIVERY OF THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEMES**

### **Dartington Hall Trust:**

The representative advised that a pilot project to build six demonstration houses that were affordable and sustainable was in the planning stages and discussions had been undertaken with Totnes Town. The representative stated that he would provide a further update at the next meeting.

### **South Devon College:**

Regarding the Skills Pledge, the target for the South Hams was 55 businesses, but so far only 13 had taken up the scheme. The recession had led businesses to see training as desirable rather than essential, and whilst the unmet target was of less concern, it was regrettable that businesses were not accessing fully funded services that they could benefit from.

Regarding the Small Business Excellence Awards, the feedback had been that businesses had not found the award criteria inspiring which would be addressed for future awards.

## **INFORMATION SHARING**

### **Totnes Town Council:**

The Partnership was advised that the Forum had been collaborating with SHDC and other user groups to identify the town and parish council priorities for the Open Spaces Strategy. The Forum had also been working closely with the Chamber of Commerce to develop and maximise a 'Shop Local' campaign with a supporting guide and website.

### **Devon and Cornwall Constabulary:**

Insp. Howe advised that as part of the Force Civilianisation Strategy, 18 extra front line officers had been assigned to the South Hams and West Devon area and would be in post from 31 March 2009. The officers would be part of the proactive arm dealing with PACT team issues and would be deployed alongside Neighbourhood Teams.

**Devon Primary Care Trust:**

The representative advised that the South Devon and Dartmoor Health and Well Being Initiative was focusing on Skin Cancer, as the South West region had higher than national rates for incidents of this condition. In addition, they would also be investigating cases of fuel poverty which had been experienced in different areas.

**Dartmouth Town Council:**

The Partnership was informed that the Town Council was also collaborating with SHDC on town priorities for the Open Spaces Strategy and were also working with the Community Committee to progress the Sustainable Communities Act and representatives had attended the Open Forum Meeting at Ivybridge.

**South Devon College:**

The representative updated the meeting that the Government Employment Skills Boards were at various stages of development throughout Devon. The Boards, when functional, would update the Government in respect of the local priorities.

**Federation of Small Businesses:**

The representative confirmed that local businesses were experiencing a difficult time but there had been a renewed focus on 'customer service' which had never been more essential. He passed on the Federation's thanks to SHDC for supporting their 'Shop Local' campaign which had been very welcome. He also wished to pass on 'Thanks' to Kingsbridge Town Council for the 'free car parking' which they granted during the access problems when road works had been undertaken in the high street. This had been very appreciated by local businesses. He further advised that the 'Shop Local' campaign that had been launched in October, was now beginning to work.

**Ivybridge Town Council:**

The Partnership was informed that the Council was also working with SHDC on the Open Space Strategy. In addition, the Council was holding a business event on 16 March 2009 and were encouraging businesses to attend.

The Hydro project was continuing to experience problems but that with the support of the local environment group, it was hoped that these could be overcome.

**Devon Renaissance:**

The Partnership was advised that Devon Renaissance had been undertaking a large survey on rural businesses, the results of which would be a good barometer of how businesses were coping in the current economic climate and identify the main issues faced. The results had been surprisingly optimistic, but the main areas of concern for businesses were finance and lack of access to broadband.

## **South Hams District Council:**

- 1) **LGR:** The Strategic Director (Community) advised the meeting that the Boundary Committee would be announcing the new options that were for consideration on 19 March 2009, but that whatever the recommendation there would continue to be a move towards shared services and that an Integrated Devon would remain high on the agenda.
- 2) **Comprehensive Area Assessments (CAA):** The Strategic Director (Community) further advised that CAAs were replacing Comprehensive Performance Assessments (CPA) from April 2009. CAAs would be a fundamental shift and would assess whether partnerships were achieving their aims and meeting priorities for their area, as agreed in the Local Area Agreements (LAA) and Sustainable Community Strategies. Local public organisations would be collectively accountable for outcomes. Inspections were underway and the first set of CAA results would be published autumn 2009. The inspections would look particularly for best practice, performance, innovation and how partnerships removed barriers to improvement.
- 3) **Place Survey:** The survey (developed by the Dept for Communities and Local Government (CLG)) had been undertaken as part of the National Place Survey, and the results would be available at the next meeting. It was hoped the results would identify key issues for local people and provide data for reviewing priorities and developing proposals under the Sustainable Communities Act.
- 4) **LDF Site Allocation:** The Strategic Director (Community) emphasised that infrastructure delivery, including community facilities, was urgent to support the LDF and would be important to all parties within the partnership. He also advised that the Environment Agency and South West Water would be part of the discussions.
- 5) **Faith Representation:** It had been requested that a faith representative be part of the South Hams Strategic Partnership. It was agreed that it would be difficult to find one person to represent all faiths and whether faith issues were key to the partnership's priorities. It was concluded by the majority of partners that faith representation within the Community Partnership Forum would be a more appropriate group.

## **Tor Homes:**

The representative advised that he anticipated the Government would increase its spending on housing by December 2010 and that they were working with Transition Town Totnes regarding land to build on to provide affordable housing and with particular emphasis on improving the thermal efficiency of homes.

### **Kingsbridge Town Council:**

Cllr Gilbert advised that the collaborative work with SHDC on the Open Spaces Strategy had gone well. Furthermore, the 'Shop Local' Campaign was going very well in the town and surrounding villages and that they had a new working group called 'Entertainment Kingsbridge' to book and co-ordinate street entertainment to promote the town centre. The DPD Plan was also progressing well and ahead of schedule.

### **South Hams CVS:**

The representative reported that there had been an increase in the number of people using the CVS due to the economic downturn which had implications for resources. The Association of Devon CVSs was holding an event on the 17 June.

### **Environment Agency:**

Paul Sadler advised that, if approved, they hoped to undertake a survey, akin to that of the Place Survey, as part of an ongoing action plan to capture key issues. They had also undertaken a 'soils vulnerability survey' and were currently looking at ways to reduce soil erosion.

### **Devon County Council:**

Roger Grainger advised that the Place Survey would impact on all the organisations represented at the meeting and that there was potential for challenges associated with existing organisational priorities when the results were known. Furthermore the results of Plymouth's and Torbay's surveys could influence South Hams Outcomes. He further advised that DCC was looking to strengthen Credit Unions and that the County Council and European Elections would take place on 4 June 2009.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **Local Area Agreement (LAA) Update**

The Strategic Director (Community) advised that the focus of the LAA was now on the delivery of identified priorities by local partnerships. The Devon LAA had 38 priorities, and those that most aligned to the Partnership priorities were highlighted in the action plan. The officer further advised that in relation to Comprehensive Area Assessments (CAA), partnerships would be assessed on whether they were achieving their aims and priorities for their area, as agreed in the LAA and Sustainable Community Strategies (SCS).

A document was distributed to the Partnership that listed Sustainable Community Strategy priorities under the four headings, Affordable Housing, Competitive Local Economy, Community Vibrancy and Quality Natural and Built. The document linked each SCS priority to LAA priorities and Partners were requested to submit feedback on the draft documents.

There was discussion about making the various targets SMARTer. While it was agreed that for a number of actions SMART targets might be difficult to establish, it was accepted that this should be an objective. It was suggested that each partner should make proposals for appropriate targets for future consideration.

### **Sustainable Communities Act – Community Partnership Forum Event Feedback**

The Partnership also noted that as a stipulation of the Act, Councils were required to set up (or recognise) panels of representatives of local people (to include under represented groups) who would, together with the Councils, drive government policy and actions to reverse community decline and promote local sustainability. The Community Partnership Forum (under the SHSP) had been agreed as an appropriate panel of representatives. The Forum included over 200 local organisations and community groups from across the district, as well as local town and parish councils and it was considered more expedient to utilise the existing CPF than to set up a new panel.

An event had recently been held at Ivybridge Watermark Centre (23 February 2009) for the CPF, Members and other interested parties, to meet to discuss proposals for submission to Government. Approximately 200 proposals had been generated at the event and these would be ranked in order of most importance to the public through the Citizens Panel. The results would then be written up for submission to Government by the 31 July 2009 deadline.

The Officer stressed that the proposals to be submitted needed to be those that required enabling by Government. Other proposals that were in the control of the partnership could be implemented locally if jointly agreed.

However, some concerns were raised that the event held had not achieved inclusion of representatives of all the community organisations or minority groups. The event had been held on a Monday morning which had excluded those people who worked during the daytime, and young people in education. Also, it had been noted that some 60% of the attendees were Councillors. It was felt that this event had not been in accordance with the spirit of the Act and that the Dartmouth Community Committee might be a more appropriate model for future events which would generate more quality responses. It was accepted that the approach adopted this year was a pilot and had to be developed in the context of a tight timescale and limited staff availability to resource it. It was noted that the approach adopted locally was more than was happening in many other areas.

### **South Hams Sustainable Community Strategy (SHSCS) Action Plan 2009-11**

The Officer distributed a copy of the SHSCS Action Plan 2009-11 and requested Partners to submit ideas, suggestions and feedback (e.g. had the right actions been captured, had the right lead partner been identified and had the right output/outcomes been proposed). The feedback would be required prior to the next SHSP meeting in June 2009.

Some immediate feedback was discussed with suggested items for progression being local procurement, removing obstacles to the green travel plan, and linking jobs to green technologies.

### **Recession Paper by Professor Ian Chaston**

It was agreed that discussion of this paper would be carried over to the next meeting.

### **Dates of Next Meeting**

Monday 8 June 2009– South Devon College

Monday 14 September 2009 – Dartington – (room location to be confirmed)

Monday 14 December 2009 – Kingsbridge Town Hall