

## **NOTES OF A MEETING OF SOUTH HAMS STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP HELD VIA CONFERENCE CALL, ON MONDAY 12 MAY 2008**

**Present:** Vaughan Lindsay – Dartington Hall Trust (SHSP Chair)  
Matt Bell – Devon County Council (for Roger Grainger)  
Cllr Julian Brazil – Devon County Council  
Steve Brown – Devon Primary Care Trust  
Adele Dawson – South Devon College  
Bob Howe – Devon and Cornwall Constabulary  
Hugh McCahill – South Hams VSF  
Sarah Nutt – Devon and Cornwall Constabulary  
Paul Sadler – Environment Agency  
Pete Tansey – business representative  
Cllr Anne Ward – SHDC  
Laura Whitehead – South Hams CVS

Others also present and participating (non-voting):  
Amanda Harvey – SHDC (for Kay Kilgallon)  
Alan Robinson – SHDC

**Apologies:** Michael Hourican – Tor Homes  
Jo Rumble – Dartmoor National Park Authority  
Cllr John Tucker – Leader, SHDC (SHSP Vice Chair)  
Cllr Roger Croad – Devon County Council

### **1. Apologies and Minutes**

The list of apologies was noted and the minutes of the meeting held on 25 February 2008 were confirmed as a correct record, subject to it being recorded that item 3, 'Information Sharing - Partner Updates: Devon County Council', should read 'Boundary Committee' and not 'Commission' as previously stated.

The Chair welcomed Superintendent Sarah Nutt, the new Devon and Cornwall Constabulary representative, to the meeting and thanked her predecessor Tony Steer for his contributions to the Partnership.

### **2. Matters Arising**

The actions from the previous meeting were discussed, with the Chairman agreeing to speak to Cllr Croad regarding a tour of The Watermark in Ivybridge for Partners. The Partnership was also invited to attend the launch of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday Business Club at The Watermark on 16 May 2008, 8.30 am to 10.00 am.

Following the appointment of Alan as the statutory sector representative on the Devon Compact Hub, the Partnership was informed of key messages from the Hub. The aim of the Compact for Devon is to improve and develop the relationship between the voluntary & community and statutory sectors in Devon. Alan urged Partners to look at the document '10 Things You Need to Know about the Compact for Devon' on the Hub's website [www.devonconsortium.net/projects-and-representation/devon-compact-hub/](http://www.devonconsortium.net/projects-and-representation/devon-compact-hub/).

Codes of Practice are also available on the website.

## 2a. Review of SHSP Terms of Reference

The Partnership was informed that a review of the Terms of Reference was premature at this stage as a further review might be needed upon the agreement and signing of the Local Area Agreement.

**Agreed** that the Terms of Reference be reviewed at the meeting of the SHSP on 29 September 2008.

## 2b. SHSP Reports

The Partnership was informed that in order to rationalise the number of reports programmed on to the agenda, the Joint Working reports were no longer required and that any updates normally contained in these reports should be included in the Partner / Project Updates, as appropriate.

## 3. Project Updates

a) **Sustainable & Affordable Housing Demonstration Project.** The project aimed to demonstrate a range of housing options that were both sustainable and affordable. An area near to the Cider Press Centre, Dartington, had been allocated for the project and the next step was to open dialogue with architectural firms to generate interest.

During discussion, particular reference was made to:

- i) planning policies. A Partnership member questioned whether the project would be considered as an exception or windfall site. In response, the Partnership was informed that the proposed project was not a traditional housing scheme and would fall within the special policy area established for Dartington Hall;
  - ii) a request to engage in dialogue with Devon and Cornwall Constabulary's Architectural Liaison Officer, Gail Bond, during the design stage, to reduce potential crime opportunities;
  - iii) timescale. It was hoped that the levels of interest and tendering process would be completed by November 2008.
- b) **The Skills Pledge.** Following the last SHSP meeting, work had been undertaken to try and establish baseline information. However, Train to Gain targets had been difficult to establish.

The Partnership **agreed** a target of 55 businesses to sign up to the Skills Pledge, based on the number of businesses in the South Hams (c.5,500).

**Action:** All Partners to sign up to the Skills Pledge or send a letter of support before the next SHSP meeting on 21 July 2008.

**Action:** Adele to arrange a Partner photo shoot to launch the Skills Pledge at Dartington Hall on 21 July 2008.

- c) **South Devon Business Excellence Awards.** The next stage of the process was to compile a set of criteria to judge the entrants by. The Partnership was also informed that Amanda had been invited to attend the next scheduled group meeting.

**Action:** Vaughan and Pete to draft award criteria.

- d) **Community Planning & Engagement.** The Partnership was informed that a training workshop demonstrating how to use the Communities in Action database had been arranged on 14 May 2008 for Stokenham Parish Council, Salcombe Town Council, Ugborough Parish Council and Ivybridge Town Council. The Partnership was informed that there would be a demonstration of the database at the next meeting.

During discussion, particular reference was made to:

- i) market towns. A member asked whether the market towns were involved. In response the Partnership was informed that engagement from some market towns had been limited and that this may be due to capacity issues;
- ii) usability of the database. A member enquired whether the database had a process whereby feedback could be given to those who had designed it. The Member stated that he had found it cumbersome, and that people may not revisit the database. In response, the Partnership was requested to email any comments to Matt.

**Action:** Partners to inform Matt of any issues concerning the Communities in Action database.

- e) **Community Initiatives.** The Partnership was informed that following actions of the working group, both South Hams District Council and Devon County Council rights of way officers were enjoying a closer working relationship, with officers meeting jointly with Parish Councils. It was agreed that a letter of support and thanks be sent to both parties. The Partnership was informed that the working group was trying to redefine the project mandate to try and ensure a 'concrete' outcome.

**Action:** Amanda to send a letter to Steve Gardiner (DCC) and Keith Rennells (SHDC) to show the Partnership's support for the new way of working.

During discussion, particular reference was made to:

- i) the SHSP being perceived as a 'talking shop'. A Partnership member expressed support for redefining the project mandate to achieve definitive outcomes as there was a real risk that the SHSP could be perceived as a 'talking shop'. It was suggested that World Environment Day next year could be an opportunity to generate community engagement/launch key projects.

**Action:** Paul and Alan to discuss ideas for World Environment Day.

#### **4. Information Sharing – Partner Updates**

Each member was asked to provide a brief verbal update on their progress, issues and achievements from their briefing papers:

##### **Devon & Cornwall Constabulary**

The Partnership was informed that Devon & Cornwall Constabulary was concerned that the profile of anti-social behaviour incidents was not changing, therefore leading to the conclusion that the problem solving methods currently used could be an issue. To try and combat this trend, analysis of the main issues would be undertaken, action plans would be examined and the involvement of partner organisations would be evaluated. At the request of the Partnership the analysis would be circulated to members to consider where support could be offered. The Partnership offered its congratulations for the 11.9% reduction in the total level of crime in the district and suggested that a press release would perhaps aid the public's perception of crime levels in the area. Partners were invited to attend Tasking Meetings, held fortnightly at Totnes Police Station.

##### **Environment Agency**

The Partnership's attention was drawn to Environmental Permits having replaced Waste Management Licences and Pollution, Prevention and Control Permits. This simpler legislation would nationally save businesses around £75 million. The Partnership was also informed that the Environment Agency had taken on the overseeing role for coastal flood and erosion risk and looked forward to seeing how the Shoreline Management Plan's process would work.

##### **Devon County Council**

The Partnership noted that work was being undertaken with AXS and Tone Leisure to aid families at greatest risk of poverty to increase their levels of physical activity. A member expressed concern regarding the Partnership's current lack of engagement with the Children's Trust Local Forum.

**Action:** Matt to contact Alan to discuss integration with the Children's Trust Local Forum.

##### **Dartmoor National Park**

The Partnership noted the report.

##### **Devon Primary Care Trust**

The Partnership's attention was drawn to Devon Primary Care Trust's and Devon County Council's recent Joint Strategic Review of health and social care which had subsequently been included in 'The Way Ahead', the strategic framework for Devon.

##### **South Hams District Council**

The Partnership was informed that a stakeholder meeting had been arranged for 28 May which would be discussing the proposals and implications for Partners of the Local Government Review. A member questioned why the preferred option was to join Teignbridge District Council and West Devon Borough Council. In response, the Partnership was informed that such an authority would ensure that a rural focus was at the heart of its core business.

### **Tor Homes**

The Partnership noted the report and offered its congratulations to Tor Homes for achieving 'One to Watch' status in the Best Companies assessment.

### **South Hams CVS & Volunteer Centre**

The Partnership noted the report.

### **South Hams Voluntary Sector Forum**

The Partnership was informed that work was being undertaken to investigate the feasibility of a new bus service for the rurally isolated areas around the western side of Kingsbridge, using the Coleridge Community Bus.

### **South Devon College**

The Partnership was informed that discussions had been held to establish a South Devon Skills & Employment Board covering Torbay, Teignbridge and South Hams.

## **5. Local Area Agreement Update**

The Partnership was informed that the aim of Local Area Agreements (LAA) was to improve services and economic prosperity, with the priorities agreed between all the main public sector services and central government.

Negotiations were ongoing to establish local area targets, however, South Hams District Council resolved to prioritise its actions and resources to achieve the LAA Priority Actions which were felt to be most aligned to the Council's existing and emerging priorities.

During discussion, particular reference was made to:

- i) funding. The Partnership was informed that it was unlikely that there would be any new money in the short term, but the aim was to simplify funding streams with more local agreement regarding how the money should be spent. It was noted that such a joined-up approach would ensure that problems did not fall between the remits of partner organisations.
- ii) Local Government Review. A Member questioned whether all the work to establish an LAA was required considering the Local Government Review currently taking place. In response, the Partnership was informed that statutory bodies had no choice as involvement with the LAA was an assessment criterion.
- iii) what the SHSP could do to help. The Partnership was asked to be aware of publicity that was distributed, such as the Devon County Council updates. Upon the signing of the LAA, the need to update the South Hams Sustainable Community Strategy Action Plan was noted and it was felt useful to repeat the prioritising exercise that was undertaken at the SHSP meeting of 3 December 2007.

## 6. **Review of South Hams Sustainable Community Strategy Initial Action Plan 2006-2008**

The Partnership was informed that the Initial Action Plan 2006-2008 was included within the South Hams Sustainable Community Strategy 2007-2011. The 'Output / Outcome Achieved' column of the Plan had now been completed. The actions were noted and the Plan was formally signed off by the Partnership.

**Action:** Amanda to publish the completed Initial Action Plan on the SHSP webpage.

## 7. **Possible Future Agenda Items**

- Demonstration of the Communities in Action Database
- LAA Update (standing agenda item)
- Community Partnership Forum
- Devon County Council's Devon Communities Methodology

## 8. **Proposed dates of future meetings**

The Partnership **agreed** to conduct alternate meeting by conference call.

- 21 July 2008 at 2 pm – Dartington Hall (with lunch at 13:00)
- 29 September 2008 at 2 pm – Conference Call
- 8 December 2008 at 2 pm – TBC

(Meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and concluded at 4.20 pm)