

**NOTES OF A MEETING OF SOUTH HAMS STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP HELD  
AT QUAY HOUSE, KINGSBRIDGE ON MONDAY 14 DECEMBER 2009**

**PRESENT:**

Vaughan Lindsay – Dartington Hall Trust (SHSP Chair)  
Alan Robinson – South Hams District Council  
Cllr John Tucker – South Hams District Council (SHSP Vice Chair)  
Cllr Anne Ward – South Hams District Council  
Jill Davies – South Hams Community and Voluntary Services  
Cllr John Binns – Kingsbridge Town Council  
Lesley Hughes – Ivybridge Town Council  
Cllr Tony Whitty – Totnes Town Council  
Tina Henry – NHS Devon  
Supt Sarah Sharpe – Devon & Cornwall Constabulary  
Emma Handley – Voluntary Sector Forum representative  
Adele Dawson – South Devon College  
David Shephard – Federation of Small Businesses  
Jeremy Bailey – Environment Agency (for Paul Sadler)  
Kate Cantwell – Devon County Council  
Cllr Bill Hitchins – Dartmoor National Park Authority  
Jo Doney – South Hams District Council (note taker)  
Amanda Harvey – South Hams District Council

**1. APOLOGIES**

Howard Toplis – Tor Homes  
Cllr Debbie Morris – Dartmouth Town Council  
Jo Rumble – Dartmoor National Park Authority  
Cllr Jonathan Hawkins – Devon County Council  
Cllr Roger Croad – Devon County Council  
Peter Tansey – Business representative

**2. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2009 were confirmed as a correct record.

**3. INFORMATION SHARING - PARTNER UPDATES**

Representatives presented their update reports (as previously circulated). A Partner Update from Totnes Town Council was also circulated at the meeting.

- Devon & Cornwall Constabulary – Supt Sharpe asked representatives to make their organisations aware of the Confidence Agenda;
- Federation of Small Businesses – David Shephard highlighted the issue of the Business Rate Revaluation and the threat to local businesses – it was agreed that a letter would be sent on behalf of the Partnership to Jim Knight MP urging reconsideration of the implementation of the revaluation. Partners were also encouraged to sign South Hams District Council's (SHDC's) online petition to the Prime Minister;

- SHDC – With regard to the updated Sustainable Community Strategy Action Plan showing progress to November 2009, representatives were asked to inform Amanda Harvey of any further progress updates. Alan informed the Partnership of shared services work with West Devon, which may include a joint Local Strategic Partnership in the future.
- Kingsbridge Town Council – Cllr John Binns informed the meeting that they were working on a bid to the Department of Energy and Climate Change's Low Carbon Challenge for introducing electric charging points around Kingsbridge for electric bikes, cars and buses
- Environment South Hams (ESH) – Jeremy Bailey updated the meeting on the activities of ESH and informed Partners that guidance and support was available for organisations looking to develop Green Travel Plans from Andrew Ardley's team at Devon County Council (DCC) (contact [andrew.ardley@devon.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.ardley@devon.gov.uk)).

## **PRESENTATIONS:**

### **4. COMPACT FOR DEVON**

Jill Davies gave a short presentation regarding the Devon Compact and informed the Partnership that of the 388 local authority areas in England, 378 were covered by a local compact including the Devon local authority areas. Representatives were asked to consider the Compact every time they:

- Negotiated or awarded funding;
- Used volunteers or funded work using volunteers;
- Established or reviewed a partnership working arrangement;
- Audited diversity practice;
- Participated in a consultation exercise or event; and
- Liaised with the community sector or a community organisation.

They were further informed that the Compact Officer for Devon was Sarah Prior (01392 202057) and that full details of the Compact and the Codes of Practice could be viewed at [www.dacvs.org.uk](http://www.dacvs.org.uk).

### **5. TOWNSTAL COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP (TCP)**

Daniel Tagg, Chairman of the TCP, gave a presentation on the Partnership which had evolved in response to problems highlighted at Police Community Liaison meetings. These had transpired to be Townstal related, and the solutions required a multi-agency approach. The Chairman highlighted that although situated in Dartmouth, Townstal was perceived as a separate, detached area both geographically and economically. Dartmouth was associated with tourism and second home owners, whilst Townstal was associated with deprivation and was indeed one of the most deprived wards in the South Hams, yet was surrounded by wealth. It was highlighted that 65% of Dartmouth residents actually lived in Townstal.

When consulted, Townstal residents had responded that they often felt ignored and isolated, but since the formulation of the TCP they felt their voice was now being heard. To date, the TCP had resolved a number of residents' issues related to housing, speeding, litter, garden maintenance and parking and the TCP had also introduced benefits and legal surgeries. They had also held community events such as a Christmas party. Some of the biggest issues for residents had been health related, such as the lack of access to an NHS dentist. The biggest success had been Play Builder funding for a refurbished play area which had been dormant and little used for over 25 years. Unemployment was above average and a major issue for residents. Many of those who were employed worked in the local shops in Dartmouth town centre and would be affected by shops closing down and therefore issues such as the increase in business rates were also a matter of concern.

Supt Sharpe noted that Townstal was now easier to police as a result of the work of the TCP and stated that it was a 'fantastic model' that could be replicated in other parts of the district.

The issue of integration with Dartmouth was raised. In response, the Chairman noted that Dartmouth residents were encouraged and free to attend TCP meetings.

The Chairman was thanked for his informative presentation and the TCP was applauded for its excellent and inspiring work.

## **6. PLACE SURVEY UPDATE AND THE KNOWLEDGE**

Representatives were informed that data from the Place Survey, statistical sources and Council services would be incorporated into ward profile packs branded 'The Knowledge'. The objective was that Members and agencies would be able to contribute to and share ward related information and the packs would additionally give an outline of the issues that were of particular importance to local residents. The data would be presented in two parts: 'People' and 'Place' and would be updated on an annual basis. Summaries of the data would also be made available to the public, but not the original raw data as some of it could be sensitive and individuals, particularly in small communities might be easily identified from the data provided.

Representatives were asked to look at the information and feedback any issues or data that could be included to Katie Stephens, Improvement Programme Manager, SHDC, (01803 861493 or [katie.stephens@southhams.gov.uk](mailto:katie.stephens@southhams.gov.uk)).

## **7. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ACT UPDATE**

Alan Robinson informed the meeting that further to the report brought to the Partnership in June 2009, eleven proposals from the Community Partnership Forum held in February 2009 were submitted to the Local Government Association (LGA) by the 31 July 2009 deadline. The LGA Selector Panel would now compile a shortlist of all the proposals received before submitting them to the Secretary of State for consideration.

A number of SHDC proposals had been selected in the first two Selector Panel meetings, including adapting green spaces for climate change and business rate relief for local procurement. There is currently no indication of how long the final decision process would take.

## **8. GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS**

Alan Robinson noted that the meeting held on 6 November 2009 had been very helpful and had highlighted a number of key issues, namely the shortage of transit and permanent sites. The involvement of Cllr Roger Croad, DCC, to progress these matters was acknowledged as a significant step forward. The Officer informed that in the New Year a review of possible sites would be compiled by SHDC. The three essential criteria for sites to be considered were:

- Willing landowners;
- Gypsies and Travellers to support the identified sites; and a
- Willing community.

It was suggested that the notes of ongoing liaison meetings with travellers facilitated by the Devon Race Equality Council (DREC) be circulated to all relevant agencies to support engagement.

In discussion, it was acknowledged that the transit sites would be the most problematic to resolve, particularly in terms of management and that there would be pressure to find permanent sites in proximity to Totnes, particularly for travellers and the A38 as this was a key route for the movement of travelling gypsy communities.

As to whether there should be a distinction between sites for travellers and sites for gypsies, it was acknowledged that this would require dialogue with those communities. With regard to whether sites should be managed or informally supervised by residents, it was expressed that transit sites might specifically require formal management because of the lack of a permanent occupier.

It was asked if Partners could lend their support to the continuation of the DREC's Gypsies & Travellers Community Development Worker post by writing to the DREC at 14 York Road, Exeter, EX4 6BA.

## **9. DEVON STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP'S JOINT DECLARATION FOR EQUALITY**

It was agreed that the SHSP would sign the document but that also all the organisations represented in the Partnership should, in addition, sign up individually.

## **10. COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP FORUM PLANS**

It was proposed at the SHSP meeting of 14 September 2009 that the possibility of holding a Joint Community Partnership Forum with West Devon be investigated. This had proved challenging in terms of finding a venue acceptable to both communities that did not require excessive travel.

In addition, the Partnership had no dedicated resources and organising a joint forum was also proving a difficult exercise. It was noted that newsletters and websites might offer better value for money in terms of disseminating essential information. Partners were encouraged to include regular updates on the SHSP in their magazines and newsletters.

11. **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS (All at 2.00 pm)**

Monday 8 March – Quay House, Kingsbridge

Monday 14 June – Dartington Hall

Monday 13 September – The Watermark, Ivybridge

Monday 13 December – Dartmoor National Park Offices, Parke, Bovey Tracey