

## **SOUTH HAMS AND WEST DEVON JOINT PARTNERSHIP**

### **MINUTES OF THE PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING HELD AT KILWORTHY PARK ON THURSDAY 9 JUNE 2011**

#### **PRESENT:**

Cllr John Tucker – South Hams District Council (Chair)  
Alan Robinson – South Hams District Council / West Devon Borough Council  
Amanda Harvey – South Hams District Council / West Devon Borough Council  
Jo Rumble – Dartmoor National Park Authority  
Tina Henry – NHS Devon  
Supt Kevin Harris – Devon and Cornwall Police  
Supt Glen Mayhew – Devon and Cornwall Police  
Ian Lacey – Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service  
David Shephard – South Hams business representative  
Jill Davies – South Hams Community and Voluntary Services  
Brian Lowe – South Hams community representative  
Christopher Kirwin – West Devon community representative

#### **APOLOGIES:**

Cllr James McInnes – West Devon Borough Council  
Paul Sadler – Environment Agency  
Sonia Burgess – Devon County Council  
Karen Nolan – West Devon Community and Voluntary Services  
David Parlby – West Devon business community representative

#### **1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES**

Cllr Tucker welcomed everyone to the meeting, round-table introductions took place and the list of apologies was noted.

#### **2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 3 MARCH 2011**

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 March 2011 were confirmed as a correct record.

#### **3. DRAFT COMMUNITY STRATEGY 2011-15 & DRAFT ACTION PLAN 2011-12**

Alan Robinson recapped on the background to the draft Community Strategy, reminding Partners that it will replace the Corporate Plan for South Hams and West Devon Councils and it will be the overarching document of the Joint Partnership as it will be delivered with help from Partners. He explained that since the last Partnership Board meeting local government elections had been held and a number of new Members had been elected to each Council. As a result of further Member involvement in the development of the Community Strategy, the timescale for its adoption had slipped slightly, but it was felt that this allowed further input from Partners.

Cllr Tucker led the meeting through the draft Community Strategy page by page, allowing Partners to comment on its content.

### **Draft Community Strategy Actions:**

- More specific references to young people be included, as activities for teenagers feature strongly in the list of factors that most need improving in both areas (page 8).
- Reference be made to pockets of deprivation (in addition to rural isolation) (page 10).

Alan Robinson led the meeting through the draft Action Plan. Partners agreed that they were happy with the draft Action Plan and its commitment that they would engage and work with the wider community.

There was a discussion on the role of statistics held by Partners in relation to quality of life indicators and recognition that these currently cover different geographical areas. There is a need to utilise and improve coordination of existing data resources rather than creating additional ones.

The role of the Localism Bill was also debated and it was acknowledged that it is likely to strengthen the role of community groups and Town and Parish Councils, with local government having a more 'enabling' role. It was agreed that the commitment in the draft Community Strategy to work with all sectors was in line with the Localism agenda and that Localism is already happening. Jill Davies drew the meeting's attention to a new paper, "Powerful People, Responsible Society" which is available at <http://www.acevo.org.uk/page.aspx?pid=2523>.

Alan Robinson raised the issue of branding the Joint Partnership and the Community Strategy in line with the 'Connect' brand, to signal a new approach now that we are no longer working to a nationally driven agenda. Partners were happy with this approach.

The meeting felt that it was important for all Partners to sign up to the finalised Community Strategy to show their commitment to it and to make them accountable for its delivery.

**Action:** Partners are requested to provide any final comments on the draft Community Strategy by the end of June 2011.

## **4. UPDATE ON DRAFT DELIVERY PLANS**

An updated timetable was circulated at the meeting. Alan Robinson explained that Delivery Teams for each of the four priorities (Community Life, Economy, Environment and Homes) had all had their first meeting. Each Team is trying to identify ongoing work streams, issues the Joint Partnership is looking to influence and new specific actions. All Delivery Plans will be formally adopted by both Councils in July 2011.

Christopher Kirwin requested further information on the Delivery Teams in order that the Joint Market Town Partnership can identify gaps in attendance.

## **Draft Delivery Plans Actions:**

- Amanda Harvey to ensure that draft Delivery Plans are uploaded to both Council websites.
- Amanda Harvey to liaise with Delivery Plan Lead Officers to obtain contact lists for each Delivery Team and a schedule of their meetings for circulation to the Joint Partnership Board,

## **5. DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL'S WASTE CORE STRATEGY**

Alan Robinson drew the meeting's attention to the April 2011 Bulletin which had previously been circulated to Partners, highlighting the three options within it. He stated that this item links well with the draft Community Strategy which recognises the importance of sustainable waste management. David Shephard noted that waste and recycling are real issues for small businesses.

**Action:** Partners are requested to respond directly to Devon County Council's Waste Core Strategy consultation using the contact details on the Bulletin.

## **6. VERBAL PARTNER UPDATES**

Round-table updates were provided on issues which may affect other partners.

**Devon County Council** has completed the next phase of its organisational development. There are now two Strategic Directors responsible for People and Place respectively. Appointment of 11 of the 14 Heads of Service has been ratified by the Full Council on 26 May 2011 and staff groupings will now be reorganised until the autumn. It continues to develop its approach to Localism and is supportive of and encouraged by South Hams and West Devon's proposals relating to Parish Link and Cluster meetings.

**South Hams business representative** reported that funding from the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership towards faster broadband was welcomed by businesses. Tourism businesses have had a buoyant spring due to the good weather at Easter and problems with high street footfall have been improving. Youth unemployment is a big concern for small businesses.

**Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service** had no significant issues to report.

**Devon and Cornwall Police** are now in week four of their new three strands of delivery:

- 1) Evening and night time economy – more officers are now on duty and barriers have been broken down across geographical borders;
- 2) Crime – more crimes dealt with at point of contact has enhanced victim satisfaction;
- 3) Local policing and partnerships – maintaining Neighbourhood Teams and partnerships with statutory partners.

There has been a spike in marine crime in the South Hams as people have returned to their boats.

**South Hams Community and Voluntary Services** reported that the majority of voluntary organisations in the South Hams are surviving at present, despite funding cuts, but many will be struggling to sustain funding over the next year. South Hams CAB will be particularly affected if the proposed legal aid changes occur and repercussions from this will be felt across all sectors. Partners are encouraged to

read a report by the South West Foundation, "Crisis and Contradiction", which is available at:

<http://www.the-foundation.org.uk/Files/crisis%20and%20contradiction%20final.pdf>.

There has been an increase in young people contacting the Volunteer Centre South Hams.

**NHS Devon** reported that Primary Care Trust clusters will support the transition to two GP consortia in South Devon. There is a new provider of community services in South Devon.

**West Devon community representative** reported that the Joint Market Town Partnership is working to ensure appropriate attendance at Delivery Team meetings.

**South Hams community representative** stated the community's disappointment that the business of the two Local Action Groups is still suspended.

**Dartmoor National Park Authority** will be consulting on its Development Management Development Plan Document from the 1<sup>st</sup> July. Holne Community Shop and Tea Room has now opened.

**South Hams District Council** and **West Devon Borough Council** have been working with Partners regarding use of assets, as per an action in the draft Community Strategy Action Plan. The Devon Public Sector Asset Board will pilot public sector asset reviews in Totnes, Ivybridge and Okehampton.

Ivybridge Town Council had contacted South Hams District Council regarding its concerns that it has been excluded from the Partnership Board. The meeting discussed the difficulties of ensuring an appropriate level of representation on the Joint Partnership with the convergence of South Hams and West Devon's Local Strategic Partnerships. It acknowledged that the third tier of local government was not currently represented on the Partnership Board, but it cautioned that town representation may not solve this issue, as two thirds of our communities live in rural areas. Alan Robinson suggested that there could be one town/parish representative for the South Hams and one for West Devon on the Partnership Board, chosen by the Town and Parish Councils of each area. Christopher Kirwin suggested that Town / Parish Clerks could be encouraged to attend the Joint Market Town Partnership.

#### **Actions:**

- Amanda Harvey to circulate Ivybridge Town Council's email and South Hams District Council's email response to the Joint Partnership Board;
- Partners are requested to make suggestions on the best way forward before the next Partnership Board meeting (8 September 2011);
- Alan Robinson to call Ivybridge Town Council to discuss concerns

#### **7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Christopher Kirwin advised that Tavistock College are keen to get involved with businesses in the town.

In order to minimise travel time for Partnership Board attendees, it was agreed that future meetings be conducted by video conference in Totnes and Tavistock.

**8. DATES AND VENUES OF FUTURE MEETINGS (all at 14:00)**

Thursday 8 September 2011 & Thursday 8 December 2011 by video conference at Follaton House, Totnes or Kilworthy Park, Tavistock.