

**Notes of the Community Partnership Forum  
Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2006  
Ivybridge Town Hall**



## **Welcomes**

Those present were welcomed to the meeting by Ruth Bagley, Chief Executive of South Hams District Council and Chair of the South Hams Strategic Partnership (SHSP).

29 people were in attendance representing a wide variety of community groups, Town and Parish councils and statutory organisations. Apologies had been received from a further 15 people.

## **Introduction to the new South Hams Sustainable Community Strategy**

Kay Dawson (Community Development Officer, SHDC) provided some background information into the structure of the South Hams Strategic Partnership and explained how the new Sustainable Community Strategy (2006-2011) had been developed, including:

- Review of all town and parish plans
- Community consultation events and road shows
- Stakeholder workshops
- Questionnaire and face-to-face interviews
- Young peoples 'Political Speeding Dating' event

The new strategy has four priority themes that the Strategic Partnership wish to work on over the next 5 years. These are:

- Affordable housing
- Competitive local economy
- Community vibrancy
- Quality natural and built environment

Now the priority themes for the South Hams community have been established the Strategic Partnership have reviewed their activities that support these themes and are looking at where they can work together to 'add value'. This has helped to establish an initial action plan. Progress against this action plan will be reviewed regularly. As new priority issues are identified through community and parish plans this information will be fed into the Strategic Partnership.

It was hoped that through the following 4 presentations given by Community Partnership Forum member organisations, that others could begin to appreciate how essential each member is in helping to achieve the aims of the new Sustainable Community Strategy.

A draft summary of the South Hams Sustainable Community Strategy is attached to these minutes and will be available on [www.southhams.gov.uk](http://www.southhams.gov.uk), under Residents, Community, Community Strategy.

The key statistics from the community strategy review consultation process have been included at the end of these minutes as requested.

## **Presentations by members of the Community Partnership Forum**

### **Newton and Noss Housing Working Group – Presented by Robin Hogg**

This working group is looking at innovative ways to enable the development of affordable housing projects in their villages.

A recent questionnaire indicated that 75% of the villagers think that affordable housing is needed in the area and through their own research the group has discovered that there are realistically about 23 local people that require affordable housing. In particular they would like access to shared ownership housing.

The group has identified local landowners who would potentially be willing to bring land forward for affordable housing projects. The Parish Council is yet to decide if they wish to establish a Community Land Trust or to involve a Housing Association. The group is aware of the need to keep track of the Local Development Framework (planning documents) for the area and that Housing Associations are governed by funding bidding rounds, both of which could impact upon what they are realistically able to achieve.

The group is making its work as transparent as possible and ensuring that local people and groups can get involved in the debate. All group meeting minutes and reports can be found on <http://www.newtonandnoss-pc.gov.uk/> under the Community Housing tab. We look forward to following their progress in trying to meet an important community need.

### **Children's Centres – Tania Skinner, Devon County Council, Early Years and Childcare Service**

Tania explained that Children's Centres are 'one stop shops' that bring together a range of services for people with children under 5 years. These services will depend on local needs but may include: early learning and childcare, child and family health services, family support and many will have links with job centres and training to help parents into work.

The Centres are funded through the Department for Education and Skills and SureStart. The South Hams is set to benefit from investment in two of the largest Children's Centre building projects in Devon, in Dartmouth and Kingsbridge.

Tania's handout is attached to these minutes for your information.

### **Silver Lining – Roger Tyler**

Silver Lining offer emotional support and practical advice to people who are affected by someone else's drink or drugs problem. They currently offer a limited service in Kingsbridge and Dartmouth but wish to expand to cover a wider area.

The group has trained volunteers and links with organisations such as the Exeter Drugs Project but require further help in developing the group, securing funding and volunteers and promoting their service. If you can help Silver Lining in any way or would like to find out more please contact Roger Tyler, Silver Lining, Kingsbridge, Dennings, Wallingford Road, Kingsbridge, TQ7 1NF.

## **South Hams Volunteer Centre – Laura Whitehead, Chief Officer South Hams CVS**

The new Volunteer Centre was launched in Summer 2006 and is the first dedicated service to match volunteers with groups who need them in the South Hams. Howard Owens is the project co-ordinator and the Centre has already received a positive response from both groups and volunteers.

People interested in finding volunteering opportunities or groups that need volunteers can contact Howard on 01803 862266 or e-mail him on [volunteering@southhamscvs.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@southhamscvs.org.uk). There is also a national database of volunteering opportunities at [www.do-it.org.uk](http://www.do-it.org.uk)

### **Additional Discussion**

A representative raised the point that to encourage young people in the district to take an interest in volunteering / Europe, there is the potential for schools and youth clubs to get involved in the activities of twinning circles. To find out more about this please contact [twinning@devon.gov.uk](mailto:twinning@devon.gov.uk).

A representative asked if it was possible for a database of all the parish and community plans in the area to be established. Matt Bell, Community Strategy Assistant, Devon County Council informed the group that this was work in progress and a meeting of the project team was imminent. It is hoped that the database will enable people to keep up-to-date with community issues, projects and consultation results in their area and to search for projects of interest / best practice / lessons learnt.

Suggested topics for discussion at a future forum included;

- An update on the proposed new Sherford community
- Access issues across the district
- Public transport issues
- Reclaiming ownership of public spaces
- Climate change impacts and the opportunities for renewable energy in the district
- How members are contributing to social inclusion

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and commented that it had been a very interesting meeting. The Chair encouraged all the groups present to encourage other groups, Town and Parish councils to attend future Forums.

Next meeting proposed – Feb 2007  
Venue - tbc

## Community Strategy Review Consultation Questionnaire Key Results

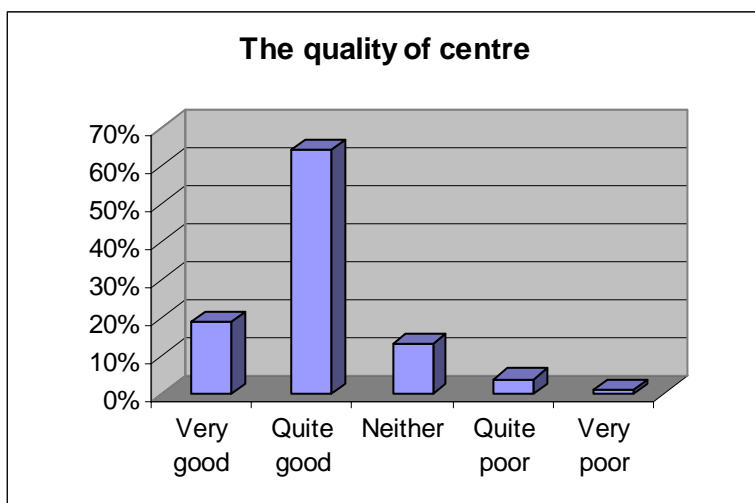
Among the range of tools used to gather information, a questionnaire helped capture local people’s views across a broad range of topics. A total of 822 completed questionnaires were returned and analysed.

### 6 key aspects of living in the South Hams

Aspect	Very good (%)	Quite good (%)	Overall (%)
Quality of life	45	51	96
State of the coast & countryside	44	51	95
State of towns and villages	15	68	83
Safety in our community	15	60	75
Health in our community	13	61	74
Transport opportunities	2	21	23

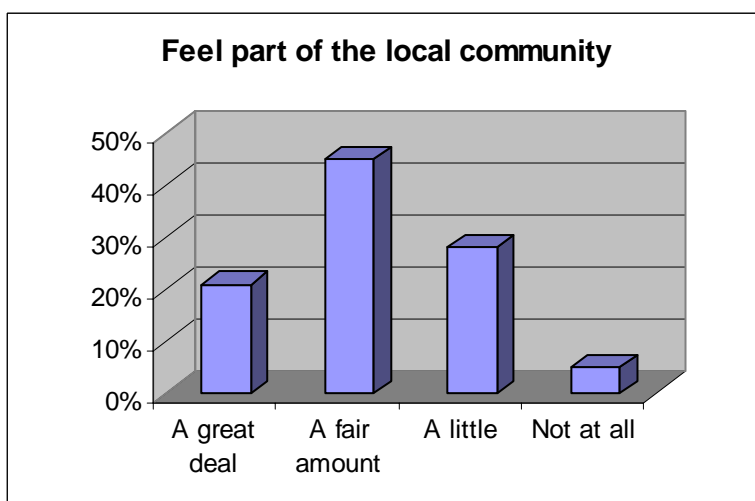
The responses in the table above, show that the South Hams rates well for the general quality of life and the natural beauty of the area, reasonably well for aspects of quality of life that need ‘services’. Transport issues stand out as a problem area. However, it should be noted that this aspect covers many issues including public transport, congestion, parking, speeding traffic and more besides.

### How would you rate the quality of your main centre?



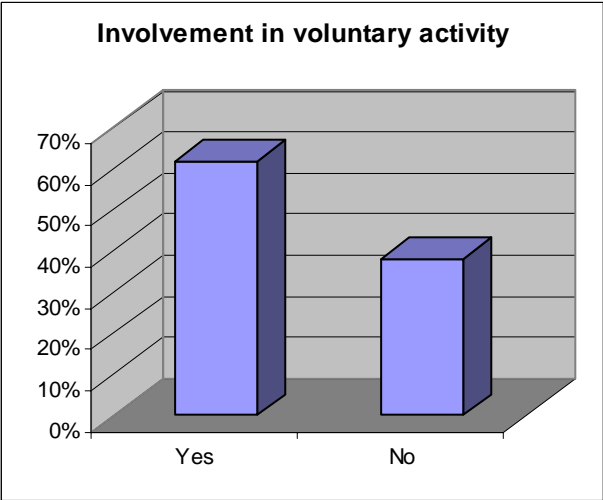
The majority (83%) rated their ‘main centre’ as ‘good’ to some extent. Of the towns in the South Hams, South Brent and Totnes are the two towns rated highest for their quality, both having 29% rate quality as ‘very good’, compared to Ivybridge where only 8% rated the quality as ‘very good’.

### To what extent do you feel part of the community?



People under 25 were four times more likely to say that they do not feel part of the community at all and twice as likely to say they only feel part of the community ‘a little’.

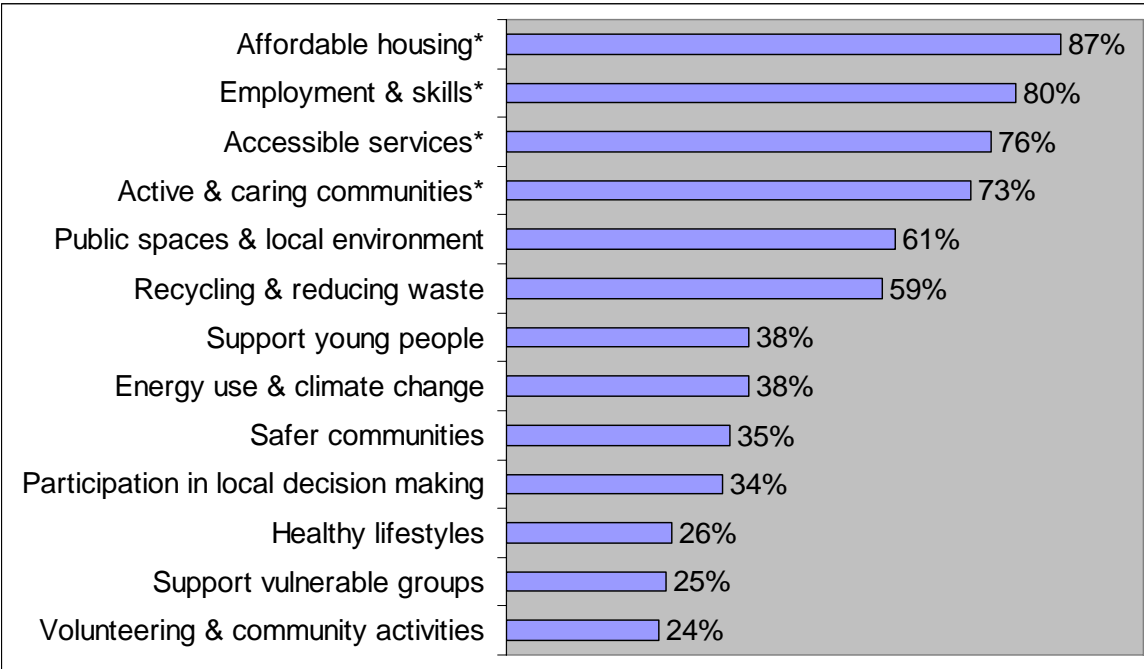
**Have you been involved in any voluntary activity that benefits your community?**



People over 55 were far more likely to say they had been involved in voluntary activities, with people under 35 being far less likely, particularly those under 25. When asked why not, people under 35 were far more likely to indicate that they were 'unaware of local opportunities', whilst people over 65 were much more likely to state 'ill-health' as the reason.

Research shows that involvement in community activities has far reaching impacts beyond the initial projects on the ground, including improve cross generation understanding, increased civic pride and improved well-being.

When presented with the range of issues across the South Hams, most respondents thought all four of the original Community Strategy themes should remain (\*) but there appeared to be distinct support for environmental issues. The environment did not feature strongly in the original community strategy and so was recognised as a potential new priority theme for the new sustainable community strategy.



## Children's Centre Update September 2006

**Totnes:** The Children's Centre (CC) in Totnes is part of Phase 1 of the CC rollout and is already operational. It is based in The Mansion on Totnes Fore Street and the family centre element of it is based at St Johns Primary School.

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The CCs in Dartmouth and Kingsbridge are in Phase 2 of the roll out and should be up and running by April 2008. Where they involve a new build, the services may initially be limited or working from a temporary space.

**Dartmouth:** The CC will be placed on the primary school site, by remodelling the nursery, to give space for the CC and the nursery. Building plans are currently being worked on. Childcare is part of the core offer and will be provided by Humpty Dumpty Childcare, who will be moving to a new building on the community college site.

**Kingsbridge:** The CC will be a new building on the primary school site that will incorporate the reception classes and St Malo pre-school, which is currently housed in temp mobile rooms.

### Steering Groups.

Steering groups for the new Kingsbridge and Dartmouth CCs have been formed and are currently meeting monthly. Dani de Beaumont has been employed as the interim children's centre coordinator - Post until Dec 31<sup>st</sup>. It is Dani's role to facilitate the meetings and inform all the members of the tendering process.

### Tendering process.

The management of the new children's centres is up for tender. All interested parties had to log an interest on the DCC Portal by 31<sup>st</sup> August. (See List below of interested parties).

<b>Kingsbridge</b>	<b>Dartmouth</b>
Pre School Learning Alliance Mrs Lin Ashby	Pre School Learning Alliance Mrs Lin Ashby
Barnardo's Mrs Heather Colbeck	Barnardo's Mrs Heather Colbeck
The Family Play Bus Mr. Dani de Beaumont	Humpty Dumpty Childcare Ltd Mrs Connie Willcocks
Keyham Community Partnership Mr Stephen Lewis	The Family Play Bus Mr. Dani de Beaumont
	Keyham Community Partnership Mr Stephen Lewis

By 13<sup>th</sup> October the organisations must submit their outline proposals and by 31<sup>st</sup> Oct their full tendering bid must be submitted.

To assess the bids an evaluation panel has been established, which is made up of core assessors and local representatives including parent reps and a steering group committee rep. The final decision will be made in December and the current steering groups will become part of the management board.

**Ivybridge:** Ivybridge is in Phase 3 of the roll out and is to be developed between 2008 – 2010. The new Sherford development may impact upon what happens in Ivybridge but a steering group has already been formed to map the existing services in the town and area. The group hope to re-print the tots to teens booklet for parents in the near future to provide a directory of relevant services, help and support.

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For further information on any of this please contact;

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e-mail [Tania.skinner@devon.gov.uk](mailto:Tania.skinner@devon.gov.uk)