

**Community Partnership Forum (CPF)
Meeting Notes
Monday 5th March 2007
Totnes Civic Hall**



Welcome

Ruth Bagley, Chair of the South Hams Strategic Partnership (SHSP) Steering Group, welcomed everyone and expressed how good it was to see so many people at the meeting, in particular the representatives from town and parish councils who the SHSP has been encouraging to attend in recent months. The meeting was attended by 65 people (the attendance list is attached to these notes).

Ruth followed this with an overview of the work of the SHSP over the past 6 months since the last CPF meeting and noted some of the activities of the working groups associated with the new South Hams Sustainable Community Strategy, including:

- Affordable Housing – the mapping of partners' assets and lobbying at a regional level for the need for affordable housing in the South Hams;
- Local Economy – promoting local buying with partners' staff and clients, investment in infrastructure, in particular the new units in Dartmouth which secured European funding support and the results of 'Greening Totnes Industrial Estate' study;
- Community Vibrancy – the successful health walks scheme and youth leisure nights and the new Play bid that has been submitted to the Big Lottery Fund;
- Community Planning – the support for parish planning activities together with the proposed new community planning database.

The activities of these working groups are summarised in the quarterly SHSP newsletter which can be viewed on the SHSP web page:

http://www.southhams.gov.uk/spring_07_newsletter.pdf

Introduction to the Environment Theme Event

Ruth then handed the meeting over to Paul Sadler from the Environment Agency, as the Chair of the newly formed 'Environment South Hams' working group. This group is overseeing the delivery of the Quality Natural and Built Environment theme of the Sustainable Community Strategy.

Paul gave an outline of the membership and remit of the Environment South Hams group, which had promoted this CPF meeting as having an 'environment' theme. The current membership of the working group includes:

Environment Agency
South Hams District Council
Devon County Council
Dartmoor National Park Authority
South Devon AONB
South Hams Sustainability Group
BTCV
South Hams CVS
South Hams Volunteer Centre

In particular, the working group is looking to progress 3 key areas of work:

1. Reviewing the available parish plans (or equivalent parish-level community planning documents) in the district, to see where community-led environmental projects could benefit from additional support from the partners to make them happen. A 'help sheet' has been developed and copies were available at the meeting. Selected parish councils will be contacted in the coming months to identify some pilot projects from parish plans.
2. Supporting World Environment Day activities (5th June – annual event). Environment Agency staff are able to support projects through employee volunteering days.
3. Progressing partners own 'environmental management' activities to ensure they are leading by example. The working group recently arranged for Carl Farrell from Envision to give a presentation to the SHSP Steering Group to inspire them to improve internal environmental management systems. The SHSP have been asked to review the future actions of their individual organisations in this area of work and share best practice with one another.

Presentations by Groups

There then followed the opportunity for 4 groups from across the South Hams to inform and update the wider partnership on their activities:

Transition Town Totnes

Rob Hopkins, Co-ordinator

Contact details: robhopkins@gmail.com

Rob gave some background behind the Transition Town movement and how this is seeking to overcome the issues associated with 'peak oil' demand and supply. Totnes is learning from this experience to develop Transition Town Totnes.

Awareness raising activities were undertaken September 2005 – September 2006, with films shown and workshops undertaken at community locations. The project was officially 'unleashed' in September 2006 with a programme of events to encourage community engagement and understanding of the issues.

Working groups have been established around the following topics:

Food, Energy, Arts, Education, Housing, Economics, Medicine and Health, Heart and Soul (the psychology of change) and Local Government Liaison

Projects to date include:

Oral history interviews – to learn from Totnes' past

Open Space working days

Totnes Pound launch – a local currency promoting circulation of local income

Local Food Directory

Tree planting to make Totnes the Nut Tree Capital of Britain

Kingsbridge Agenda 21 'Grassroots'

Bob Willars, Co-ordinator

Contact details: www.grassroots-project.com

Bob explained that this web-based project is seeking to 'encourage community involvement in a sustainable future for the South Hams'. The developing website can be viewed at the address above.

The project is being driven by Kingsbridge & District Local Agenda 21 Group and funded by the South Devon AONB Sustainable Development Fund. It is aiming to provide a network of information on local sustainability issues to help people take an active role in developments, make decisions and take action to live more sustainable lives. There are sections of the website dedicated to:

- Voluntary & Community Groups
- Local Food
- Sustainable Choices
- Renewable Energy
- Community Newsletter and Blog

Individuals and groups are asked to contribute by adding their details / questions / information to the work that is being undertaken, so the opportunity to present the project to the CPF today was all part of developing the network.

Ivybridge Hydropower Feasibility Study

Richard Pymm, Devon Association for Renewable Energy (DARE)

Contact details: www.devondare.org 01837 89200

Richard informed the CPF meeting of a new project being developed by Ivybridge Town Council through the RE4D programme. A piece of research has been commissioned to evaluate the hydropower potential of a redundant former water mill known as Ivybridge Aqueduct.

He ran through the potential energy that could be generated if the water from the River Erme could be tapped at this point; it is believed to be enough to supply 13 houses or sold back to the grid for over £5,000.

The project does have some issues to overcome:

- It is a listed structure – keeping it in use will ensure it is maintained;
- It is located close to residential housing for the elderly and there is likely to be noise if the wheel is reinstated, but a small turbine could be located away from the dwellings;
- A grid connection would be needed close by, but this would be a relatively easy / cost effective project.

Richard concluded by giving an overview of DARE, its partners and funders, and the types of projects it undertakes.

Dart Estuary Environmental Management (DEEM)

Ray Humphreys, Dart Estuary Officer

Contact details: www.dartestuary.org 01803 835801

Ray gave an overview of the remit of DEEM; 'to protect the natural wealth and beauty of the Dart Estuary and ensure its sustainable use, so that our local heritage will be available unspoilt for future generations', together with highlighting the partners and funding of the project.

He ran through some of the recent achievements such as Sharpham North Quay project and Mussel Cultivation project and future projects such as Warfleet Creek as set out in the Dart Estuary Environmental Management Plan Review 2006 – 2011.

He closed by reminding the CPF meeting that the Dart Estuary is a small estuary with big ambitions, and provided photographic evidence to prove it!

Open Forum

An open forum session gave other attendees the opportunity to raise awareness of their activities, and several groups explained what they had achieved recently, or where they were looking for help.

Ruth closed this part of the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. She invited people to stay and have coffee, visit all the displays and make use of the remaining time to network and seek advice from the support agencies / community initiatives present.

The event closed at 1pm.

Suggestions for the next Community Partnership Forum

Date: September / October 2007

Location: Dartmouth area

Theme: Healthy Communities

Community Partnership Forum: Attendance List

Name	Organisation
Judy Alloway	Kingston Parish Plan Group
Ruth Bagley	South Hams Strategic Partnership (Chair)
Lydia Barnard	Ivybridge Environmental Action
Cllr Beeson	Ivybridge Town Council
Matt Bell	Devon County Council
Simon Blackler	Ivybridge Environmental Action
Amanda Bloomer	Kingsbridge and Salcombe Area Partnership
Julian Burn	DEEM Steering Group
Rosemary Burn	Transition Town Totnes
Kevin Chamberlain	South Brent Parish Council
Jo Crocker	Dartington Hall
Liz Davey	South Devon AONB
Eleanor Davis	Moor Trees
Jill Davies	South Hams Council for Voluntary Service
Kay Dawson	Community Development Officer (SHDC)
David Edwards	Totnes Town Council
Jenny Farmer	Community Regeneration (SHDC)
Cllr Foster	Diptford Parish Council
Jackie Francis	Groundwork Devon and Cornwall
Burda Gage	Modbury Parish Council / CPRE
River Goulborn	Trees for Health
Roger Grainger	Devon County Council
John Gutteridge	Stoke Fleming Parish Council
H Hall	Blackawton Parish Council
Susan Hannis	Totnes and District Sustainability Group
Stephen Harding	Aveton Gifford Parish Council
Helen Hartley	Trees for Health
Sarah Hayden-Binder	Global Action Plan

Name	Organisation
Simon Henderson	Devon Pound
Cllr Hill	Diptford Parish Council
Chris Hillyer	Waste Service Development Manager (SHDC)
T Holloway	Ugborough Parish Council
Rob Hopkins	Totnes Transition Town
Ray Humphreys	Dart Estuary Environmental Management
Ailsa Land	Harford Parish Meeting
Frank Land	Harford Parish Meeting
Mark Lawrence	Modbury Parish Council
Frances May	South Hams Friends of the Earth
J Morris	Blackawton Parish Council
Howard Owens	South Hams Volunteer Centre
Steve Opie	Devon Pound
Cllr D Pickles	Ivybridge Town Council
Richard Pymm	RE4D/DARE
Zoe Reed	Global Action Plan
Julie Richardson	Dartington Hall Estates
Jo Rumble	Dartmoor National Park Authority
Paul Sadler	Environment Agency
Cllr Mike Saltern	Community Affairs Portfolio Holder (SHDC)
Cllr Slater	Totnes Town Council
Michelle Smith	Dartington Housing Association
Cllr Squire	Devon Conservation Forum / SHDC
Alan Stapleton	South Hams Society
Tom Stevens	Dartington Hall Estates
Lesley Thatcher	South Hams Sustainability Group
Carol Trant	Business Support Officer (SHDC)
Liz Turner	Trees for Health
Roger Tyler	Silver Lining
Robert Vint	Transition Town Totnes

Name	Organisation
Cllr Anne Ward	SHDC / South Hams Sustainability Group
Fiona Ward	Envision
David Whitfield	Ivybridge Environmental Action
Bob Willars	Kingsbridge Agenda 21
Tess Wilmot	Ivybridge Environmental Action
S Woodman	Ugborough Parish Council
Judy Wurr	Kingston Parish Council

Apologies received from:

Jennifer Anderton – Devon Rural Network

Julie Barnett – Tamar Housing Society

Gail Bond - South Hams Devon and Cornwall Constabulary

Claire Crew – Tor Homes

Trevor Day – Devon County Council

Dani De Beaumont – Totnes Family Play Bus

John Halliday - Area South Highway Management, Devon County Council

Mairi Hamilton - Adult & Community Services, Devon County Council

Alison Hernandez – Plymouth 2020 Local Strategic Partnership Manager

Neil McMurray – Community Safety Sergeant, Totnes

Richard Mitchell – Bridgetown Alive

Cathy Ricketts – Connexions Cornwall and Devon Ltd

Martin Ross – South West Water, Environmental Planning Manager

Tania Skinner – Zero14plus

CI Tony Steer – Devon and Cornwall Constabulary

David Watson – South Hams Care and Repair Manager

Laura Whitehead – South Hams CVS

Kingsbridge Town Council

Newton & Noss Parish Council

Shaugh Prior Parish Council

Strete Parish Council