

**Community Partnership Forum (CPF)
Meeting Notes
Tuesday 2 October 2007
The Flavel, Dartmouth**



Welcome

Cllr John Tucker, Vice Chair of the South Hams Strategic Partnership (SHSP) Steering Group and Leader of South Hams District Council, welcomed everyone to the meeting. He gave the apologies of Vaughan Lindsay, Chief Executive Officer of the Dartington Hall Trust, who had recently been appointed Independent Chair of the SHSP Steering Group, as he was unable to attend the meeting due to a prior commitment. The meeting was attended by 25 people (the attendance list is attached to these notes).

Cllr Tucker stressed the connection between with the SHSP and the Devon Strategic Partnership, which is currently developing a new Sustainable Community Strategy for Devon.

SHSP Update

Kay Kilgallon, South Hams District Council's Community Development Officer, gave an overview of the work of the SHSP since the last CPF meeting in March 2007, noting that the partners of the SHSP work together to add value to existing activities.

Some of the activities of the Working Groups associated with the South Hams Sustainable Community Strategy include:

- **Affordable Housing** – work to map partners' assets (land and buildings) is progressing to identify if / where sites could be developed for affordable housing when they are no longer required by their owners. The findings of this exercise in and around Totnes will be considered within the Totnes and Dartington Development Plan Document, which forms part of the Local Development Framework. Work is also progressing on Beacon Peer Support Fund projects relating to the impact of second homes on communities, the potential for a Community Land Trust and land leasing options.
- **Competitive Local Economy** – work has been carried out to support the local economy by promoting local buying to partners' staff and clients. Work is also progressing on electronic procurement. External funding (mainly from Devon Renaissance) has been brought into the South Hams to bring redundant buildings back into productive use and for the Disabled Entrepreneurs Project.
- **Environment South Hams** – from an analysis of 22 community planning documents, the group has been able to provide support and advice to several community-led environmental projects and has identified common themes to work on. The group also organised a successful 'TLC for Trees' event on 5 June 2007, in celebration of World Environment Day. 22 volunteers from 5 of the SHSP organisations spent the afternoon undertaking tree maintenance in Follaton Arboretum, Totnes.

Introduction to the 'Community Vibrancy' Theme of the South Hams Sustainable Community Strategy

Laura Whitehead, South Hams Council for Voluntary Services' Chief Officer, gave an overview of what makes a 'healthy community', stressing the importance of partners working together to improve the overall health of communities.

She gave a brief progress report on the activities of the Working Groups that sit beneath the Community Vibrancy theme:

- **Community Planning** – work has progressed on developing a Community Planning Database which will contain the issues and actions from community based plans. It promises to be a valuable resource to both communities and partner organisations.
- **Volunteering** – South Hams Volunteer Centre (part of South Hams Council for Voluntary Service) has now placed over 100 volunteers with local community organisations. It is now looking to develop employee volunteering schemes with partner organisations.
- **Active South Hams** – the Health Walks scheme continues with volunteer walk leaders and a bid has been submitted for extra funds to employ a co-ordinator. The successful award of a £200,000 Big Lottery Fund play grant will mean improved facilities for young people.
- **Devon Rural Transport Partnership** – Devon Wheels to Work is now operational in the South Hams (funded by SHDC and Devon Renaissance). The scheme is making it easier for residents to access training and employment opportunities through moped loans.

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/shsp_autumn_07_newsletter.pdf

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:

Devon Rural Network Jen Anderton, Co-ordinator

Jen explained that the Devon Rural Network (DRN) was set up in 2003 to implement the Devon Rural Strategy, which had been produced by a Rural Task Group of the Devon Strategic Partnership. She noted that DRN is a partnership of voluntary, statutory and private sector organisations who have joined together to act as a united voice for rural Devon.

DRN has 6 Action Groups relating to specific issues highlighted in the Devon Rural Strategy (which was refreshed this year):

- Sustainable Farming and Food
- Sustainable Tourism
- Rural Business Support

- Consultation Response (recent work has included providing a response to the Issues and Options Stage of the Rural Areas Development Plan Document which forms part of the South Hams Local Development Framework)
- Rural Voluntary and Community Sector
- Environment Devon

Jen encouraged groups to make use of DRN, highlighting its lobbying potential with regard to rural issues.

Further information can be found at www.drn.org.uk or by calling 01392 382831.

Senior Council for Devon

David Hess, Project Manager (Peter Fletcher Associates)

David explained that Peter Fletcher Associates (commissioned by Devon County Council) had been working since November 2006 to develop a Senior Council across Exeter and each of the 28 market and coastal town areas in Devon. He explained the purpose of a Senior Council for Devon, highlighting that it will give a voice to people aged over 50 (individuals and organisations) in policy and planning and it will provide an opportunity to tap into older people's skills. He noted that there are approximately 400 members across Devon to date. Work has started on developing local associations in Ivybridge, Kingsbridge and Totnes, with work due to start in Dartmouth in November 2007. The aim is for the full Senior Council to be in place by March 2008.

Further information can be found at www.seniorcouncildevon.org.uk or by calling 0844 8009283 (local call rate).

Dartmouth Health Walks

Griselda Guthrie

Griselda, a Volunteer Walk Leader for the Dartmouth area, explained the 'Walking the Way to Health' initiative to the group, highlighting the different levels of walks that are available and the health and social benefits of the scheme. She also noted that there are groups operating in Ivybridge, Kingsbridge and South Brent.

For further information on 'Walking the Way to Health' please contact Keith Rennells, South Hams District Council, by emailing keith.rennells@southhams.gov.uk or by calling 01803 861456.

Cool Recovery

Claudia Benzies

Claudia explained that Cool Recovery was set up to support the carers of people with, and those affected by, mental health difficulties. She noted that there are now 300 people in their network, with groups in Kingsbridge and, since June 2006, Dartmouth. She explained that group meetings provide people with the opportunity to meet for mutual support, information and friendship, adding that the Cool House, a meeting place and café, in Torquay is also open Monday to Friday to all affected by mental health. She noted that Cool Recovery is currently working to develop its counselling service and to expand on the range of therapies it is able to offer its members.

For further information please email info@coolrecovery.org.uk or call 01803 299511.

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.

Cllr Tucker closed the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

Suggestions for the next Community Partnership Forum

Date: April 2008

Location: Ivybridge area

Theme: Competitive Local Economy

Community Partnership Forum – 2 October 2007
Attendance list

Name	Organisation
Jen Anderton	Devon Rural Network
Claudia Benzies	Cool Recovery
Cllr Brian Boughton	Dartmouth and District MCTi
Anna Brownlow	South Hams CAB
Penny Connorton	Cool Recovery
Jenny Farmer	Community Regeneration (SHDC)
Roger Grainger	Devon County Council
Griselda Guthrie	Dartmouth Health Walks Scheme
Richard Hacon	South Hams Amenity Federation
Amanda Harvey	Community Development (SHDC)
David Hess	Senior Council for Devon (c/o Peter Fletcher Associates)
Cllr Bill Hitchins	South Hams District Council
Kay Kilgallon	Community Development (SHDC)
Iris King	Cool Recovery
Cllr Tony Mead	Totnes Town Council
Jane Randles	Tor Homes
Cllr Wendy Rees	Kingsbridge Town Council
Ruth Robinson	Totnes Town Council
Jane Rolfe	Living Options Devon
Michelle Smith	Dartington Housing Association
Cllr Stephen Smith	Dartmouth Town Council
Pippa St John Cooper	Devon Youth Service
Cllr John Tucker	South Hams District Council
Laura Whitehead	South Hams CVS
Jacki Woon	Devon Pound

Apologies received from:

Ron Bates	Start Circle of Friends
Dani de Beaumont	The Family Play Bus
Matt Bell	Devon County Council
Cllr Julian Brazil	Devon County Council
Andrea Chandler	Home-Start South Hams
Claire Crew	Tor Homes
Jo Crocker	Dartington Hall Trust
Amanda Denham	Devon Rural Transport Partnership
Paul Dorey	Kingsbridge District Chamber of Commerce
Jackie Francis	Groundwork Devon & Cornwall
Linda Gorczyca	Government Office for the South West
Tom Holway	Ugborough Parish Council
Lynn McElheron	Teignbridge District Council
Ed Moffatt	Churches Together in Devon / Devon Strategic Partnership
Ruth Pierson	BTCV
Ruth Roberts	Devon & Cornwall Probation Area
Martin Ross	South West Water
Jo Rumble	Dartmoor National Park Authority
Tania Skinner	Zero14plus
C/I Tony Steer	Devon & Cornwall Constabulary
Howard Toplis	Tor Homes
Gail Tucker	South Hams Lifestyles (send minutes)

Salcombe Town Council