

PEACEHAVEN & TELSCOMBE TOWNS REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP

Meeting held on Monday 8th October, 2001 at 6.30pm in the Charles Neville Room,
Meridian Centre

Present: John Livings, County Councillor, in the Chair
Wendy Bannatyne, Voluntary Sector
Pete Billings, Local Resident
Sheila Chalmers, Local Resident
Owen Clifford, Lewes District Council
Paul Cotton, Southern Housing Group
John Magnus, Lewes District Council
Liz Lee, Telscombe Lewes District Councillor
Sam Rowe, North Peacehaven Community Project
Don Shier, House Project (Admin. & Support Officer)
Colin Brown, South Downs Council for Voluntary Service
Sheila Mills, Peacehaven School
John Carden, Local Business
Sue Griffiths, Peacehaven Lewes District Councillor
Liz Holt, Youth Service
Daphne Carver, Peacehaven Town Councillor

APOLOGIES Apologies for absence were received from Nigel Pargiter, Roy Goodall, and David Neighbour.

Cynthia Wood-Higgs is no longer the acting minutes secretary for the partnership. She is not now able to fulfil this role. She originally took this on on a temporary basis. The partnership thanked her for her excellent work. Her minutes have been a model of clarity. **Action:** Donald Shier to write to Cynthia, on behalf of the Partnership, to thank her for her invaluable assistance.

MINUTES The Minutes of the meeting held on 12th September were approved, it being noted that Karl Allison has been promoted to the PACT central office but is still in touch with the North Peacehaven Community Project, as a manager. He has not left the district utterly.

MATTERS ARISING **Headed Paper.** The partnership asked Donald to forward a copy of the disk containing the headed paper artwork to Cllr. Neighbour. **Action:** Donald.

Workshops to revisit the vision and to move towards a constitution and legal entity and business plan for the partnership: Colin Brown reported that a written overview of these workshops will be provided for partnership members, probably in advance of the meetings. The dates for the two workshops are now as follows:

Monday 19th November, 6.30 - 8pm, Charles Neville Room, Meridian Centre

Monday 26th November, 6.30 - 8pm, Fields Room, Meridian Centre

Healthy Living Centre funding bid: News of a decision on this should now be available in the next six months.

Swimming Pool. John Livings reported that he has had contact with the Private Finance Initiative support team. They seem supportive of the idea of a bid for PFI funding for a swimming pool for Peacehaven and Telscombe. It would be legally possible to include this in an East Sussex County Council bid to expand the school to 900 places. John Livings will join the Sports and Leisure working group to assist with this project. It will be necessary to work with both Lewes District Council and ESCC education service for a joint venture PFI bid. It was agreed to pursue this avenue and that the partnership would set this as a priority. If a PFI bid were to succeed for the capital costs, some organisation would have to take on the management of the pool. It was suggested the Lewes District Council would be an obvious candidate for this since they manage

several swimming pools in other parts of the District. It was suggested that the pool could be located in place of one of the School's current football pitches. A change of use of this to a pool would be possible. Then it would also be possible to replace the pitch with a new one since farmland can be changed to a sports pitch within planning regulations.

Colin Brown suggested asking Ringmer Community College for a copy of the business plan for their swimming pool that is sometimes open to the public. They run the pool with the help of volunteer lifeguards. Action: referred to the Sports and Leisure Working Group.

Membership of the Group It was agreed that Liz Holt from the Joff Youth Centre should be invited to join the partnership.

CORRESPONDENCE: A letter has been received from Peacehaven Town Council. This is to update us on their activities that should help to fulfil the needs identified by the partnership. In brief this informs us of the following items agreed by PTC:

To fund the football club improvements feasibility study, to £1,500;

A bid to be submitted (who to unknown) on 28 September, for £120,000 to upgrade the main hall at the community house. This will be for raked seating, a 30ft cinema screen, sound and light booth and improved sound system and cinema equipment;

Not to build any new community facilities but to make a commitment to update and improve existing facilities such as,

- Continue improving the community house, especially extending the foyer to create more space for coffee mornings and general use throughout the day. They also remind us that they have backed the idea of a community café in the foyer from 1-7pm and are awaiting feedback from the House Project on a start date, currently depending on a yes response to the health living centre bid,
- the annexe room will be let to the North Peacehaven Community Project from 1 November, on a long lease;
- they also mention work they have done with the Rainbow Playgroup to improve the amenity and use of the sports park meeting room.

The letter was noted by the partnership.

PRESENTATION BY LEWES DISTRICT COUNCIL ON THEIR BUDGET. John Magnus and Owen Clifford represented LDC. They informed the meeting that LDC are undertaking consultation on their budgeting process. A representative of the partnership will be invited to a seminar on 16 January 2002 to discuss the budget for 2002/3. He explained that if we wished to ask for any changes to the LDC budget we should either tell him now or else write to him later. **Representations on how they should change their budgets** should be received by November so that they can be included in a report to the council in December. He is visiting each of the three local regeneration partnerships for this purpose.

He informed us that district councils couldn't increase their income by raising council tax. If they do so, their grant from the government is reduced proportionally. However, the government expects LDC to increase its spending by 4.4% this year. Business rates are fixed to rise only with inflation; the council cannot borrow any more money. The only new money they can obtain would be by bidding to two central funds: for recycling and electronic services.

He also explained that most of the council's spending is fixed by statutory duties to provide various services, such as planning and environmental health. There are only some small areas where the council has discretion and can make decisions on budget priorities, such as leisure spending.

They are very keen to help us apply for funds from other people. They do however have a very small community partnership fund that we can apply to for match funding for capital spending only. This is a district wide fund. He told us that where bids are made to central government

budgets, like the now defunct SRB, the government prefers these to come from local strategic partnerships.

John noted some initial comments from the meeting, to relay back to the council. The comments he will take back as a result of this consultation exercise are as follows:

- There should be a district wide fund to provide small revenue grants to provide start-up costs for new groups.
- The district council cannot claim that our needs can be met by the county council or the towns councils since these organisations are also saying that they have no money to provide for the needs identified by the partnership.
- The district council should fund matters which come up as common themes across all of the local regeneration partnerships.
- There should be a pot of money to fund revenue needs of the local regeneration partnerships.

REPORTS.(circulated at the meeting, where available)

Transport- A written report was circulated to the meeting. Donald Shier listed the main points, in the absence of John Carden. The group was well attended and is pursuing three areas at present.

- Inviting representatives of main bus service operators and local politicians to meet with the working group to discuss services for Peacehaven and Telscombe.
- Community run minibus services. John Levitt from Eastbourne and County Community Transport attended the meeting. Existing community transport services and the potential to develop these were discussed.
- Survey of transport needs and services. Donald will bring a proposal to the next working group meeting and will apply for funding.

John Livings brought to the partnership's attention that a new road has been agreed linking Greenwich Way and the Bolney factory estate. This will now definitely go ahead.

Commercial & Retail – The group did not meet. Donald has written to 20 local businesses to invite them to participate in the working group.

Education, Skills and Training: Liz Lee reported to the partnership. Donald has written to people we identified, to invite them to join us. Angela Mills has replied that she is very keen. Also Anne Palethorpe from the University of the Third Age will also be joining the group. They will be invited to the next meeting. We are also pursuing contacts with Lewes Tertiary College, Sussex Community Internet Project, Brighton and Hove Enterprise Agency, and investigating an outside initiative to set up a network in this area for self employed people. We will also look at a Coastal Renaissance Partnership report on education that covers this area.

Community Facilities: A written report was circulated to the meeting. It was noted that Sheila Chalmers had sent her apologies to the meeting but Donald had neglected to put this in the notes. Apologies for the lack of this apology. Sam Rowe has now taken on the lead person role for this working group. He and Donald have been reviewing all information the partnership has collected on current community facilities and on what local people want. Mr and Mrs Fry have joined the group to represent the local Access group.

We have been studying the research report by Miles Greenford into childcare needs in this area. So far it seems to us that the methods used and results obtained do not allow for any real conclusions to be drawn from the research other than that more information on available childcare facilities and resources might be beneficial. It was requested that copies of the report should be made available to members of the partnership. Agreed that these can be obtained from Donald via the House Project. The working group agreed to put forward to the partnership, a scheme by Collingwood Close housing association for a new play area there. They have some funds for this but would like the assistance of the partnership to obtain the balance required. Agreed that Sam

Rowe will make a presentation on this to the next partnership meeting.

Colin Brown pointed out that many other organisations would probably like to have their own projects included in the partnerships list of aims for fundraising. It was agreed that we should be careful that not only the pet projects of partnership members should be included in this way. If we are to take on particular projects brought to us from outside then we should ensure that this process is open to all. This was agreed but no action was decided on or any policy adopted to change the current situation.

Sports & Leisure. A verbal report was given from this working group. Written notes of their meeting were passed to the co-ordinator at the meeting for circulation to the partnership members, with these minutes.

Football Ground: As mentioned under correspondence above, the Town Council has agreed to spend £1,500 on a feasibility study on possible improvements that could be made to the football club's ground and facilities. This is to enable a bid to be made to the Football Foundation to carry out possible improvements to bring the ground up to FA standard and upgrade the quality of the facilities there for the benefit of the community, and to encourage participation in sport and leisure. JL reported that he has seen notes of a PTC meeting of the 2nd of October ratifying this decision. The meeting thanked the sports and leisure working group for their efforts to bring this about and noted that we are very pleased at the Town Council's decision. And how we hope that this will herald more co-operative working on this project, between them and the partnership. **It was agreed that no press statements should be made, on this or any other project, on behalf of the partnership, without the minuted decision of a Partnership meeting.**

Swimming Pool: Following previous discussion, under matters arising, on the proposal for a swimming pool for Peacehaven and Telscombe, some additional points were brought forward. Research into costs involved: Running a pool here would probably require annual revenue funding being found, in addition to charges made to the public for use of the pool and any other retail and catering income, of between £50,000 and £400,000 per year, depending on how big and fancy the pool might be. Capital costs would be in the regions of £1million for a basic pool, £3million for a leisure pool and £10million for an Olympic standard pool. Bournemouth's pool does not rely on revenue funding in addition to what is raised from public use. It is heavily used. It is unlikely that Lottery funding will be forthcoming for a pool. It was agreed that John Livings will join this working group and the PFI option will be pursued, as well as any other possibilities.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS Colin Brown informed the meeting of a free course on fear free fundraising run by South Downs Council for Voluntary Service. This is available to as many partnership members who wish to attend and book before the class gets full. This will be in Seaford. Bookings to SDCVS by 11 October. Full details are in their brochure on training: Available from CVS or via the House Project.

It was agreed that Lynn Thompson from South Downs Health Trust would be invited to join the partnership. This will be to continue the input on health visiting previously done by Miles Greenford.

It was reported that the Museum project group are seeking to start a friends of the museum association. They are also pursuing Melerish and Harding to find suitable land for the proposed museum.

It was agreed that John Livings would report to the partnership on the proceedings of the Peacehaven Town Council. Someone to do the same for Telscombe is to be sought.

Sam Rowe brought to the attention of the Partnership that he has applied for planning permission for conversion of a double garage at 78 Collingwood Close. This would be used for the North Peacehaven Community Furniture Recycling Project.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING - This has been booked for 12th November, 6.30 pm in the Charles Neville Room at the Meridian Centre.