

Peacehaven and Telscombe Regeneration Partnership

Education and Training Working Group

Friday 1st March - 11am at the Peacehaven House Project

Agenda:

1. Present: Liz Lee (Working Group Leader)– Lewes District Council, Linda Burnett – Resident, David Brindley - Sussex Downs College (Which used to be Lewes Tertiary and Eastbourne Colleges, and Donald Shier (Minutes) – House Project Partnership Support Worker.

2. Apologies: Anne Palethorpe - University of the Third Age, Gill Short and Rosie Boxer - Sussex Downs College

3. Minutes of the last meeting were read and agreed.

4. Matters Arising from the Last Minutes:

- **Self employed people's network.** Liz Lee has emailed to the Brighton and Hove Enterprise Agency. During the past 3 years they have given advice and/or training to 49 people in the BN10 area, (this postcode is exclusive to the Peacehaven and Telscombe areas. However, East Saltdean has a BN2 postcode even though it is within the boundary of Telscombe Town Council). They could write to those people for us. We could ask for their views and if they would like to get involved in the partnership. We want to set up a network or some other services to help self employed and small business people. **Action:** Liz will contact B&HEA again to ask if this could be possible.
- Donald gave David a phone number for Michael Lamb, a youth worker who organises a local youth forum. This would give David an opportunity to ask young adults what kind of skills or training they want and need.
- David has noted the group's ideas for promoting and marketing adult education, from the last minutes.

5. New members of this group: We are still very keen to meet the head teachers of our two schools, especially the new secondary. David Neighbour, a local county councillor who is a member of the partnership, e-mailed Fiona Wright. She is head-teacher of the new Peacehaven Community School. He will talk to her at the next school governors meeting. We understand how busy she must be at present but we would really like to see her. Everyone involved in providing education, skills and training in Peacehaven and Telscombe, and local residents are heartily invited to join this group.

6. Review of Adult Education/Lifelong Learning Opportunities in Peacehaven and Telscombe. Everyone had read the notes on what adult education is being provided for residents of our area by the Sussex Downs College. We discussed this some more, and other adult education classes hereabouts.

Telscombe Town Civic Centre: The new computer training room will be opening there sometime in March. A Brighton company called Crash UK have provided 8 computers and a full time trainer. They will help anyone learn to use computers, free. People can get qualifications from them. These are: 1. The Computer Literacy And Information Technology (CLAIT) certificate. This is a nationally recognised qualification. 2. The European Computer Driving Licence ECDL qualification. This is like CLAIT but is recognised everywhere in Europe. This training will only be done during the daytime. Sussex Downs College has agreed with CRASH and Telscombe Council that they will run computer classes there, in the evenings.

David brought along some figures about the sorts of local people who have signed up on Sussex Downs College Classes this year. See attached figures. For example 2/3 are women.

Linda has been consulting other residents about these sorts of things. She has found that men are less interested in the classes on offer now. They say they would be more interested in things like woodwork or plumbing. Also, people who work full time cannot attend classes in the daytime. More adult education should be put on in the evenings. People also say the Sussex Downs College Leisure classes are too expensive. Working people, who can better afford to pay, will be more likely to attend classes in the evenings. People who are not working and can attend in the daytime find it hard to afford it.

Peacehaven. David has been put off from running adult evening classes in the new community school. He has decided to look for somewhere else. The school have said that:

1. Someone would have to be employed to staff the school reception area to stop people wandering about;
2. The open plan library area should be off limits to evening class students. This would be difficult to police.
3. There is no suitable carpeted room for yoga or other similar classes;
4. The main hall cannot be used for fear of sharp shoes scratching the wooden flooring and
5. Access to some areas is banned because an area outside has been seeded with grass and this is not yet ready to be walked on and
6. The school do not want to allow members of the community to use their computers or Internet facility.

He found this out at a meeting with George Nixon. He manages the school premises for EM Core. They are the private finance company that owns the school. They are based in Redhill. The group were stunned to discover that the community are unable to use our new community school, even for education, and even if a proper college would run the classes. Liz will take this up with the County Council Cabinet Councillor for Education. They are in charge of this sort of thing. She will send copies of her letter to David Neighbour and John Livings. They are local county councillors who are on the main partnership committee.

We believe that Longhill School in Woodingdean has evening classes that are open to the community. How do they do it when we cannot? Can anything be done to put this right?

Because of all this, David is looking for an alternative place to run his adult education classes. There should be about 8 of these. He will visit the Meridian Centre first of all. If the college is going to run classes in practical subjects, like cooking, or woodwork, where will we find the facilities? No one could think of anywhere local.

David promised that the college would better advertise the evening classes for Peacehaven. They will use the kind of publicity that worked so well for the ones at Telscombe. Linda found that the single A4 sheet with all the local classes on it was very easy to read, clear and obviously to do with local residents.

It was also noted that the new community school uses the Leisure Centre so much that the community cannot use that either, in the daytime on weekdays. And, it is hard to find a parking space in their car park because they are all full of the school's teacher's cars. The new school does not have its own car park. Liz will take this up with the head of Leisure Services at Lewes District Council. They run the leisure centre.

Any other business. None.

Date of next meeting: Friday 5th April, 11am at the House Project, 168 South Coast Road