

Peacehaven and Telscombe Regeneration Partnership

Education and Training Working Group Meeting Minutes

Friday 31st May - 11am at the Peacehaven House Project

Present: Liz Lee (Working Group Leader) – Lewes District Council, Linda Burnett – Resident, David Brindley – Sussex Downs College, Fiona Wright – Peacehaven Community (Secondary) School, Steph Wilson (Minutes) – House Project.

1. Apologies: Anne Palethorpe - University of the Third Age – now withdrawn from the group, Rosie Boxer – Sussex Downs College, Gill Short – Sussex Downs College, Andrew Wright – Peacehaven Community School.

2. Minutes of the last meeting: were agreed as correct.

3. Matters Arising from the Last Minutes: David has been unable to contact Michael Lamb – Liz informed the group Michael has now moved on and she will find out if there is anyone in his place.

4. New Members of the Group: no new members.

5. Peacehaven Community (Secondary) School/PFI update on negotiations: David informed the group there will be classes two evenings a week (Tuesdays and Thursdays), starting in September. The plan is to get in there now, starting with one term, and to build on the relationship, developing more courses and using additional facilities (e.g. cookery, outside courses). EMCORE will provide a receptionist and IT technician once a week. Classes will include computing for beginners and a move-on computing course; probably a language course; a 'keeping up with the children' numeracy course (at secondary level); a beauty therapy course. EMCORE are considering putting a vending machine in the canteen area (as there are currently no facilities).

EMCORE were very slow in responding to Sussex Down's request for a price, and it is higher than hoped – the classes will need to be well-attended to not incur a loss. Liz and Linda emphasised the need for good advertising to ensure good attendance. Courses will be advertised in the main prospectus (out in June), in school newsletters and through publicity at the Meridian Centre. Liz noted that school newsletters don't always reach parents. She suggested David contact Telscombe Town Council to see if they can do anything and Sheila Baker, the Peacehaven Town Clerk. Linda suggested advertising in the Town Council's information sheet (which includes cinema listings), delivered to Peacehaven residents.

This development is very good news, after the long wait and initially unpromising start.

Fiona told the group community involvement is very important to the school. The school is not able to organise services itself at the moment; service-providers will have

to work with EMCORE. Fiona reported that the PFI relationship has been a new experience for everyone and that a school is a new venture for EMCORE. She felt EMCORE are coming round to an understanding of the school as a community facility (as stated in the school's early tender documents).

The group noted that the college is called 'Sussex Downs College' and not 'South Downs College', as often mistakenly referred to.

Adult Courses Open Day – 29th June at Lewes Campus, 10 am – 2pm. All courses will be represented. Free coffee and croissants.

Adult Learners Week: Dave reported this was not a success. It is at the wrong time of the year, when people are busy with exams and not enrolling for courses.

7. Computer Courses at Civic Centre: Linda went on an induction yesterday and it seemed busy. There are morning and afternoon sessions and you can choose what you want to do. The computer courses at Peacehaven Community School will be in the evening and so this should work well.

8. Any other business:

Sure Start Bid: More good news. Following a mini-Sure Start programme in Newhaven, there will now be a full Sure Start programme in Newhaven and Peacehaven. Areas of social deprivation (for the under-4's) in Peacehaven need to be identified to ensure money and facilities are targeted at Peacehaven and not just Newhaven. Liz is on the Sure Start committee, which has to present the DfES with a 'letter of intent' by 17th July. Sure Start has had huge benefits in Brighton and Hove and it is really good news for Peacehaven. It should help in the work of the Education and Training group, and the Regeneration Partnership as a whole.

Business-related training: it was noted that the Commercial and Retail Group still does not meet. The Education and Training group doesn't know what it can do in this area. There is a perceived need for training of small businesses locally, but this could be inaccurate.

Free courses at North Peacehaven Community Project: following discussion at a Community Association meeting, David has arranged two free courses, in maths and English, to take place on 18th and 20th June.

Peacehaven Community (Secondary) School: Fiona reported that the school has settled down. It has fabulous facilities and a full complement of experienced and enthusiastic staff. Andrew Wright (deputy head) will attend the Education Working Group and Regeneration Partnership meetings in future.

9. Date, time and place of next meeting: Friday 12th July, 11am at the House Project, 168 South Coast Road