

Peacehaven and Telscombe Regeneration Partnership

Education and Training Working Group

Friday 3rd May - 11am at the Peacehaven House Project

Agenda:

- 1. Present:** Liz Lee (Working Group Leader)– Lewes District Council, Linda Burnett – Resident, and Donald Shier (Minutes) – House Project Partnership Support Worker.
- 2. Apologies:** Anne Palethorpe - University of the Third Age, David Brindley - Sussex Downs College,
- 3. Minutes of the last meeting** were read and agreed as correct
- 4. Matters Arising from the Last Minutes:** David Brindley has yet to tell us if he has contacted Michael Lamb, the Peacehaven and Telscombe Youth Forum Co-ordinator, to consult him about needs for education and training of young people who live in this area and any problems that make it difficult for them to get training.

Peacehaven Community (Secondary) School. Liz Lee could not attend the meeting between the school and representatives of Sussex Downs College to discuss the issues of access to the school for adult education classes. David Brindley did go and we will look forward to hearing about it from him at the next meeting.

Regarding the need for a receptionist which school say is needed if they are to open in the evening, Liz mentioned a recent incident at the Telscombe Civic Centre. Someone came in to the centre on a recent evening and asked about an art class. One of the students showed him round but he then stole her bag. When she returned home later that evening she found that her house had been burgled. This might indicate that the school are wise to be cautious about leaving school buildings open in the evenings with out some form of security presence.

Details of how many people from Peacehaven and Telscombe are doing courses at Sussex Downs College. Donald did some analysis of the figures provided by the college on how many people from the BN10 area attend their courses. These were included in the last minutes. The figures showed that only 15 people were enrolled on courses based in Peacehaven. The college had not yet added up the numbers attending classes at the Telscombe Civic Centre. We look forward to seeing these in due course. It was noted that it would be helpful to have some clarification on the figures from the college. We are not sure what the figures they provided mean. They are apparently the numbers of people enrolled on courses at a particular date in February. The group feels that it would be good to know the total numbers of our residents who have attended courses throughout any one year, as well as how many were signed up on a particular day. Some courses only run for 10 weeks, others for one week.

Liz also would like to see how many people from Telscombe attend the classes at the Civic Centre, if it is possible for the college to analyse their postcode data on students in such fine detail as this.

5. New members of this group. No new members this week. Liz suggested that we should ask David Brindley to assist us with advertising our need for involvement by local residents. He could possibly include a mention of his working with this group in

any press releases he puts out to advertise new evening classes for Peacehaven. He could also say in this how we need more residents to join us.

6. Review of Adult Education/Lifelong Learning Opportunities in Peacehaven and Telscombe: The computer training room at Telscombe civic centre is late in opening. A Brighton company, Crash UK, will soon be providing free computer training for all local residents. They have provided computers and a full time trainer. The desks and phone lines have already been installed in the civic centre but the service will not come on line, so to speak, until the end of May. There will be either an open day or an opening ceremony (Liz is not sure which) on the 20th of May.

Linda advised us that it will be important to publicise the service very well. Liz suggested that leaflets could be distributed to every household via the Leader newspaper. She is not sure what plans have been made for publicity but she will pass on this concern to Roy Goodall.

Linda has been doing more research with local residents about adult education and what would make it more attractive. She has found that many people are not keen to travel to Lewes or Denton Island for classes. She is not sure why this is but some people mention several factors that put them off.

1. It is a long way to Lewes.
2. There are few buses, especially in the evenings. The bus times do not fit well with the times of evening classes.
3. Women do not like making this journey on their own, especially when it is dark in the winter. It is even off putting for car drivers. The C7 road from Newhaven to Lewes is lonely. People are scared of breaking down.
4. It is easier to drive to Denton Island but the bus service to Newhaven is also limited.
5. People are also scared of walking to and from the bus stops in Newhaven at night. The route goes through often deserted underpasses and the area is generally not felt to be safe.

8. Any other business. Commercial and retail needs for training and skills. Donald has drafted a letter to send to local businesses. This is to ask them to get involved in this group or at least to tell us their views. We would like to work with self employed people and small businesses to help them get the training and skills they need. The letter was agreed. The group looked at the list of local businesses provided by Roy Goodall and updated this. Donald will send the letter to some of those on the list.

Brighton and Hove Council. Donald had been asked by the group to ask Brighton and Hove Council if we could have some of their regeneration money, since they have so much and we haven't any. He spoke to the regeneration manager but she said no. Their money can only be spent on things within the City boundaries so they cannot give us any, not even though so many of our residents work in Brighton and Hove.

She did provide us with the names of the people who manage the South East of England Development Agency (SEEDA)'s regeneration department. They can advise the partnership on any sources of central government money, such as the Single Pot.

9. Date of next meeting: Friday 31st May, 11am at the House Project, 168 South Coast Road