

**PEACEHAVEN AND TELSCOMBE REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP  
SPORTS AND LEISURE WORKING GROUP MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2002, 9.30AM AT THE JOFF**

**Present:** John Livings – ESCC Councillor and Peacehaven Town Councillor (Group Leader), John Shepherd – YMCA (Lewes and District) CEO, Paula Thompson – YMCA (Lewes and District) Chairman, Jan Murphy – ESCC Youth Service, Steve Parry – YMCA Dance and Project Co-ordinator, Jo Kidd – Meridian Leisure Centre, Steve Keogh – Leisure and Amenities Manager, Peacehaven Town Council, Claudia Lindsay – House Project (Minutes).

**AGENDA:**

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Peter Billin.
2. **Minutes of Last Meeting:** not discussed.
3. **Matters Arising From Last Minutes:** see ‘Discussion with John Shepherd’ below.
4. **New Members of the Group:** Welcome to John Shepherd, Paul Thompson and Steve Parry from Lewes YMCA.
5. **Discussion with John Shepherd (YMCA):**

***Jan Murphy – Youth Service***

The Joff currently offers a number of activities; Starfish (music project) on Mondays (pm), two open youth club drop-in sessions every week, a judo club (operating for 2 afternoons a week and who are self-financing) and the Harlequin Dance group (who offer a programme of dance, drama and singing for children and in the mornings for mothers and older people) hire the building for a number of sessions each week which brings in money to keep Ashington Gardens (a shop which is used as a youth club for seniors and juniors, and a drop-in for young people in danger of being excluded from school) going. The Youth Service also operates a Youth Mobile which offers information for young people on relevant subjects and detached youth work where the worker would meet the young person where they are. They are also looking at working with schools, for children in danger of being excluded from school. The Joff also houses Nippers which is an after school club on Fridays. There has also been interest from Mary Dunmore from Sure Start who is looking to use the Joff for 3 mornings a week from January. The Joff has free sessions in the school holidays. Jan feels that there is a need for more activities for the very young and John Livings has asked Jan to think about what sort of project would be useful.

Jan said that the Youth Service has to be pro-active for people with disabilities, and is looking at having a lift installed in the Joff building, as this is a legal requirement. John Livings suggested applying to the County Council for this.

Jan reported that there is a need for workers for the under 13's as the 13-18 age range seems to be mainly covered. Staffing is a constant problem and Jan thought that perhaps the 2 year NVQ training was putting people off.

Jan also expressed interest in drama and film sessions. She thought that a youth theatre group could raise issues that affect young people such as drugs, alcohol etc and thought that this could be very useful. Steve Parry also agreed that liaisons between the Youth Workers, himself and Professionals (making the activities more attractive for the children) would be valuable.

#### ***Jo Kidd – Meridian Leisure Centre***

Jo told the group that they have a joint agreement with the secondary school to use the sports hall for curriculum and school activities between 8.45am and 5.15pm each weekday.

The Leisure Centre also hosts a number of junior sports activities, clubs such as Karate and Marshal Arts, Nippers after school club for 4 days a week and in the holidays, a Playscheme every day (which Jo is looking to form a partnership for funding). The centre is very busy in the evenings but they have free space on Fridays and at weekends. Jo is also looking at having a soft play area in the present foyer for children aged between 2 and 8. Jo said that she is approached more and more by dance groups looking to book sessions and at present is looking to promote table tennis and short tennis. Jo felt that there was potential for particular booked sessions at the centre.

#### ***Steve Keogh - Peacehaven Town Council***

Steve informed the group that the council wanted to promote the Meridian Annexe room, which is attached to the Meridian Primary School. It is the only facility in the North of Peacehaven and is self-contained with its own facilities i.e. Toilets. Steve said that Community House was available on Fridays and the rooms could be used for drama. The Sports Park at Piddinghoe could also be used for Playschemes, Youth Centres etc and is ideal because of its outdoor facilities. There is an astro-turf bid going ahead for the ground (report from Steve at next meeting) and also a better skateboard ramp is needed.

Steve also said that The Dell could be used as a possible Skateboard Park as the Playground is little used and cannot be seen from the road, therefore not ideal. Steve said that the possibility of a Youth Centre with better lighting and security is also a consideration and with the Police Station just over the road, this could make better use of the ground. Also, the land at Cairo Avenue (South side) may be used as a disability area but for multi-use (not just disabled).

#### ***John Shepherd – YMCA***

John told the group that there is a central YMCA, but each area is run separately with some involved in running Hotels, Nurseries and even a Funeral Directors. The YMCA is aimed at 2-25 year olds and at Lewes there are a number of activities such as Starfish (4 days a week). They host a number of classes and courses, in particular dance, drama, music, film and media and are now looking to promote these activities in the Peacehaven/Telscombe area, forming partnerships with different groups and the Youth Service. They are looking at holding week long projects in film, possibly a dance project at the Leisure Centre, adult classes in film and dance, possibly DJ skills workshops for 13-18 year olds, amongst other ideas, but initially they are looking at dance, film and drama and the funding for this. John, Steve and Paula want to look at the different venues in the area to see which would be most suitable for their needs and to get a feel for the town, and will be looking at the Leisure Centre after this meeting.

***John Livings – ESCC and Peacehaven Town Council***

John suggested that the best starting place to look at would be The Joff and Piddinghoe Sports Park with a Youth Club priority (It was said that children also want informal areas where they can meet and chat with friends). John asked each member of the group to think about their immediate needs and wants, and to gather information and ideas to bring to the next meeting.

6. **Update on New Small Projects:** See above.
7. **Any Other Business:** None.
8. **Date and Time of Next Meeting:** Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2002, 9.30am at the Joff.