

Peacehaven and Telscombe Regeneration Partnership

Transport Working Group

13th May 2002 - 4.00pm at the Peacehaven House Project

Present: Jean Couture – local Resident, Jill and Ronald Fry – Peacehaven and Telscombe Access Group, John Carden - Working Group Leader, Sheila Chalmers – Age Concern and Donald Shier – House Project: Taking minutes.

Apologies: Marcus Dode – Sussex Rural Transport Partnership.

Agenda:

Minutes of the last meeting: Minutes of the last meeting were read and agreed as accurate.

Matters arising from the last minutes:

Highways: Ron Fry told the group that the highways department have installed a post to prevent cars from driving onto the grass verge beside the at the Saltdean garage. People do this a lot. This blocks the pavement and is a problem for pedestrians. Ron advised the group that a further post should be put in if this problem is to be solved. People can still drive onto the verge at the right side of the approach to the garage.

Donald passed round maps of our area for members of the group to mark highways problems on. Ian McFadyen, Highways manager for Peacehaven and Telscombe invited us to send him notification of any blocked pavements, potholes, broken paving stones or any other hazards, nuisances or obstacles to access for all. He promised to look into everything we tell him about. Members of the group should mark the location of any problems they know of on the maps and bring them back to the next meeting. Donald will send maps to members of the group who are absent.

Public Meeting on Traffic Calming. Members of the group reported on the recent public meeting run by the Peacehaven Residents' association. This was apparently heated and strong feelings were aired. The county council will be doing more consultation on the traffic calming six months after it was installed. This should be quite soon.

Partnership Transport Study Unfortunately, Donald had the wrong email address for Marcus Dode so he neither received his copy of the first draft of the study nor the date of this meeting. He has now been sent the study. Donald has asked everyone to make comments to him at the House Project, (write, phone on 582467 or email at mary@houproject.freeserve.co.uk), so he can add these into the final report of the study. John Carden thanked Donald for his hard work on the study.

The group feels that it contains a wealth of information and evidence for the need for additional public transport services for this area. We hope that with help from Marcus Dode it could form the basis of a bid for funding for additional services. It could also possibly provide ammunition to persuade the bus companies and local authorities to improve services for Peacehaven and Telscombe. Donald thanked the group for their comments and the opportunity to do this interesting work. He is sad that he will not be around to follow up on the initial study. He is leaving his job as partnership support worker to take a full time post in Brighton. He would prefer to remain in Peacehaven assisting the partnership but at present finds it impossible to make ends meet working part time.

Marcus Dode previously told the group that the Countryside Agency might send a free consultant to look at public transport needs in our towns. This would be to help assess needs for grants from the Rural Transport Partnership. This could provide up to £250,000 for extra buses or taxi rider services. John Carden will contact Marcus to discuss this with him. Donald feels that a consultant could be useful. Public transport is very complicated. The government is keen to encourage its use but admits there are no easy answers, or huge amounts of money to subsidise uneconomic services. Buses are expensive. For people to be persuaded to use them there must be a regular service, which is a kind of chicken and egg situation.

John has also been talking to Roger French at Brighton and Hove Buses. They are keen to expand their services. East Sussex County Council might be persuaded to let us use their funding for the taxi rider service as match funding for our bids to the Countryside Agency's fund.

Donald will add the comments he has received to the report. He will present it to the main partnership meeting on Monday 20th of May.

Any Other Business: None

Date of next meeting: Monday 10th June, 4pm at the Peacehaven House Project.