

RURAL VOICES RURAL CHOICES

PARTNERSHIP MEETING NOTES

Thursday 11th November 2004

Present: Cllr Shirley James (Chair), Lewes DC
Dr Alex MacGillivray, Barcombe PC/LDALPC
Sally Harper, Lewes DC
Sgt George Meloy, Sussex Police
PC Mark Cranley, Sussex Police
Insp Jeff Woodall, Sussex Police
Nick Lear, Barcombe PC
John Cornwell, Barcombe PC
Martin Cornwall, Newick PC
Brenda Watson, Plumpton PC
Teresa Gittins (Vice Chair), Action in rural Sussex
Joanne Pollitt, Action in rural Sussex
Michael Bell, Hamsey PC
Stella Hill, Newick PC
Tom Hawthorne, RDH Services
Rosemary Jeffery, Kingston PC
Paul Rideout, South Downs CVS
Rosemary Jeffrey, Kingston PC
Rob Wise, CADDIE
Philip Tucker, Westmeston
Melanie Cuttress, Falmer PC

All were welcomed to the meeting and introduced themselves. Declarations of Interest were received.

1. Apologies

Jan Woolans, Ringmer; Veronica Humphrey, Ringmer; Roger Moore, LDC; Tony Gedge, Streat; Willie Edmonds, Rodmell; CI Bob Gough, Sussex Police

2. Notes of the last meeting & matters arising

A consultation document has been sent to parish councils regarding the Primary Care Trusts' proposals for types of medical services between Haywards Heath & Brighton. The document confirms there will always be a 24-hour Accident & Emergency service at the Princess Royal Hospital, Haywards Heath. There were concerns about the method of distribution. Public workshops are planned for November/December.

3. Update on the LSP

It was explained that the Community Strategy is being reviewed and that the work of the LSP sub-groups is at varying stages of advancement. A bid will be made to the LSP for a large proportion of the money generated by the collection of the second homes council tax.

The bid will be for the costs to employ 2 Development Workers to work on behalf of the five Area Partnerships in Lewes district (RVRC being one of them).

4. Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership/Policing Update

The rural areas of the district have seen a reduction in overall crime in the last 2 months when compared to same time last year meaning that the statistics places the district towards the top quarter performance wise in Sussex.

There are 5 out the final 8 Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) operational. Another officer will be deployed soon. Sussex Police are maintaining & providing the levels of high visibility patrol more or less according to the statement of intention originally set. This includes attending parish and neighbourhood watch meetings.

Falmer appreciate the Police's newsletters and Plumpton is happy with PC Honey who operates in the village. All greatly appreciated the Police but there is concern that incidents of anti-social behaviour are on the rise. Police will try to deal with all the issues.

Kingston - could parish councils be told when police will be undertaking speed checks? It would also be useful to share the data gathered from these surveys.

The tennis clubhouse at Barcombe is experiencing problems. The Crime Prevention Officer came to look at the clubhouse but it was felt by the parish council that the related written report passed the problem back to the parish to deal with.

It was reported that Sussex Police will be carrying out an audit of the security of community buildings across the district. The Police hope to work in partnership with communities to establish what each community wants.

PC Mark Cranley is looking at Local Action Teams in Barcombe and Ringmer and will be canvassing the idea of a farm watch scheme similar to what's happening in other rural areas, aimed at reducing and preventing crime in agricultural areas. Local Action Teams will be village specific.

Incidents of vandalism in Hamsey. The parish council has co-ordinated in conjunction with local young people, the installation of a youth shelter.

Newick has suffered a lot of vandalism recently. The response from the police was excellent and vandalism has decreased. A quicker response would have been gained by calling the police directly. Any parish wanting to help with any policing issues can call PC Mark Cranley personally.

Hamsey congratulated the police for always being at RVRC.

Insp Jeff Woodall reiterated that the CDRP slot at RVRC meetings is about reporting on the workings of the partnership and not about solely reporting on police issues although these can included in this slot.

CDRP update – CI Bob Gough had asked for greater synergy between licensing premises and those giving planning consent. ESCC gave a grant of £30k for the Youth Offending Team for youth projects.

5. CADDIE (Crime & Disorder Data Information Exchange)

Rob Wise, the CADDIE Analyst, gave a presentation on CADDIE. CADDIE is an Internet based service giving access to accurate and up to date information about levels of recorded crime in the Lewes District.

Rob demonstrated how to navigate through CADDIE and the information it holds. There are various links to other sites including access to CDRP information.

He showed maps which plots out crime statistics and how partners can log on as a new user. Reports can also be generated.

There is a library function that includes all information that the CDRP produces and analysis together with the contact details of key personnel.

Rob stated that feedback on CADDIE is always welcome.

www.caddie.gov.uk

Answers to questions:

- The site is updated every 2nd working week of the month. It takes time to depersonalise the crime data.
- At one access level on the site, the ages of offenders can be seen.

There were congratulations on moving away from reporting incidents per 100,000.

6. Progress on the Terms of Reference

Graham Allen thanked those who had given him feedback on the draft terms of reference. The main theme of the comments was that the terms were too complex.

Graham tabled a second paper, which revised the terms of reference suggesting the need to constitute in order to draw down funds for future projects.

He advised to agree on the least complicated route and proposed a simple set of rules and options to take things further including the different ways of constituting RVRC. Some options would be more complicated than others.

General comments from partners:

- It's a good idea to elect officers for a steering committee
- It would have been more helpful to view the second draft earlier
- If Option 2 agreed, funding could be obtained from a whole range of sources; it would depend on the nature of the project
- It wouldn't be necessary to put all parish council projects to RVRC
- An example of a potential project could be obtaining money for a feasibility study into the provision of youth shelters in the RVRC catchment area

- The second draft is a first class paper that uses plain English. Option 2 would be the most favourable which would mean that RVRC would be a voluntary body
- Concern that the Management Group will be liable under Option 2. However, it was explained that the parish council not the members, would be liable but even so it is, unlikely that there would ever be a problem with liability.
- It will be interesting to see how businesses are encouraged to "buy into" the terms of reference
- New parishes joining RVRC can sign up to the terms of reference as RVRC expands

Action: The majority agreed in principle to Option 2 (RVRC becomes constituted as an unincorporated body) pending final comments and ratification from parishes. Some parishes will consult with their elected members again before final ratification.

7. Expanding RVRC's Membership

Some ways in which RVRC membership could be expanded were suggested. This could be by inviting Tenants or WI groups on board. A poster has been produced inviting wider membership, which was given to each parish present.

SH to send to the parishes not yet engaged and to distribute the remainder to other public outlets in the rural areas.

SH, SJ and AM have also been attending some parish council meetings to explain more about RVRC.

Consideration needs to be given on the agenda to the smaller parish's issues.

8. Rural Transport Update

Tom Hawthorne of RDH Services updated partners on some transport issues.

The Lewes & District Transport Group is having trouble getting ESCC to engage and appears to be progressing transport plans independently by establishing very similar local groups looking at transport issues.

Bus tenders are being decided at the moment, which could result in changes to timetables and services.

The Country Links Bus service could end next year. There's hope that the Barcombe taxi bus will prove popular enough to secure funding for the future from ESCC.

8. Issues to take to the next LSP

Lloyds environmental Ltd are putting proposals to ESCC to develop a hazardous waste and landfill site and a materials/recycling/transfer station at the Brickworks in Hamsey. There is much concern amongst residents and especially by the Bevern Residents Association.

The website www.nodumpinchailey.com gives more details.

9. Any Other Business

None.

10. Agenda & venue for next meeting and dates for next year

Next Meeting: 7pm, Thursday 13th January 2005 at the Reading Room (by the Church), Chailey Green.

Agenda Items: Identification of traveller sites in parishes, consideration on how many new houses parishes can accommodate, Area Partnership structures – what is the relationship between Town Councils and the other 4 town based area partnerships? Parish Plans - invite Ieuan Sherwood, project ideas from each parish, smaller parish's issues.