

RURAL VOICES RURAL CHOICES

PARTNERSHIP MEETING NOTES

Monday 15 September 2003

Present: **Cllr Shirley James (Chair)**, Lewes District Council (SJ)
Ian Chisnall, Churches Together in Sussex (IC)
Dr Alex MacGillivray, Barcombe PC/LDALPC (AM)
Willie Edmonds, Rodmell (WE)
Sally Harper, Lewes District Council (SH)
Sgt Alan Leslie, Sussex Police (AL)
PC Mark Cranley, Sussex Police (MC)
Tom Hawthorne, RDH Services (TH)
Pauline Lewis, Ringmer PC (PL)
Roger Moore, Lewes District Council (RM)
Teresa Gittens, Action in Rural Sussex (TG)
Jemma Wray, Action in Rural Sussex (JW)

1. Apologies

Paul Rideout, SDCVS

2. Notes of the last meeting & matters arising

The notes of the last meeting were agreed. Matters arising:

- i) TG will check what rural youth groups exist & their roles
- ii) JW clarified the difference between the Local Network Fund (LNF) and the Children's Fund (CF). The LNF is a national scheme administered locally by AiRS which offers small grants for vol/com sector groups. The CF is part of the Government's strategy to eradicate child poverty for 5-15 year olds by adopting a preventative approach. The National Children's Home is the lead agency with ESCC being the accountable body locally. Funds are targeted to existing schemes such as Sure Start but there is also a rural element. AiRS facilitate the partnership but not the funds.

iii) AM explained that access to Broadband was progressing well with Newick & Ringmer already on board. It's possible that some parishes could combine. An update can be obtained from Sally Mitcham at ESCC sally.mitcham@eastsussexcc.gov.uk

3. Election of Vice-Chairman

It was agreed that Theresa Gittens from AiRS would be Vice Chair of RVRC.

4. Youth – Addressing the youth priorities list

SH explained that a model would be proposed at the LSP meeting on 29th Sept regarding the strategic co-ordination of youth issues for the district given that increasing opportunities for young people is a priority for the LSP. The group would be multi-agency based and shaped around the existing Youth Agency Network which has recently struggled to be effective. It would link directly with the LSP and be it's youth task group to realise projects and issues emerging from the area partnerships that should be addressed generically across the district.

It is important therefore to determine out of the RVRC youth priorities list, which ones should be fed to the LSP (or new youth agency group) and which RVRC can tackle in the short and longer term.

SJ stressed that it was important for RVRC to secure some "quick wins". The group decided to focus on the following short-term projects linked to the list:

Priority Number (s)		Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 (A place to meet with a seat e.g. big bus shelter, 12 (somewhere to meet our friends), 28 (shelter clubhouse, somewhere to hang out • 8 (better bus timetables), 18 (more info about new bus service, 32 (information on services) • 3 (bus services after school that come into school for after school activities) • 31 (trips to places like Chessington) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RVRC to request CDRP donate funds to a pilot shelter in Ringmer • Proposal to work with Chailey School Design & tech students to make a display stand of info around bus services • Existing bus services such as Countrylinks will be better publicised to schools • Re-route service 121 Lewes–Newick to in the grounds of Chailey school • Spring 04 	<p>PL/SJ/SH</p> <p>TH to speak with Deputy Heads at schools</p> <p>TH</p> <p>TH with support from Neil McQuire</p> <p>TH</p>

In addition, Jemma Wray will ask her colleague Colin Anderson to extract all the youth issues emerging from the Parish Plans.

There was then a lengthy discussion lead by AM who was concerned about the lack of interest shown by parish councils in engaging with RVRC. SJ stated that Cllr Liz Lee and herself would be prepared to attend each parish council meeting to raise awareness of RVRC, the LSP and the Community Planning process. AM felt that the District Council doesn't engage enough with the rural parishes.

IC suggested that RVRC set a timescale to make the partnership work by and be realistic about the group's future if the deadline is not met.

TG suggested that AiRS could run a workshop as it has done in other districts, which could explain to parishes about the LSP and how it links to RVRC.

All agreed that this would be beneficial so a date of November 26th was set, venue likely to be Westmeston Village Hall (*now confirmed*)

5. Lewes District Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP)

Structure in relation to RVRC - Sgt Alan Leslie explained about ABSTOG (Anti Social Behaviour Tactical Officers Group) which consists of the police, council officers from Environment & Health, Housing & Community Services plus any other official related to the subject area. The aim is to have a co-ordinated response to incidences of anti social behaviour. Those attending the group are expected to have sufficient authority within their respective organisations to take immediate action and commit resources.

SH also circulated a structural diagram showing how the CDRP links to the area partnerships (Appendix A).

The question of racial incident reporting was raised. Alan stated that he directly receives complaints as well as else where in the police (*there is also the Racial Incident Reporting Scheme operated by Sompriti*).

SH to determine how much money is available for projects from the CDRP and to request that it considers donating money to the cost of the youth shelter in Ringmer.

6. Transport

Lewes District Transport Group (LDTG) - SH tabled a paper showing a diagram of how transport & traffic issues may be dealt with on a geographical basis (Appendix B). LDTG will deal mainly with issues arising from all 5 area partnerships. This will act as the transport task group for the Local Strategic Partnership with a transport representative from each area partnership attending alongside transport services providers and planners. Issues, which can not be dealt by this group, can be fed into the Rural Transport Group, which operates strategically countywide and has members from the LDTG on it.

TH outlined the purpose of the Rural Transport Group, which includes trying to strategically bring together all agencies involved in the provision of transport services. IT is clear that there is a wealth of resources that could be harnessed.

Community Bus – SH to obtain update on progress. TH stated that there is already several existing services that may be able to help service the sheltered housing schemes.

POLO cycle path progress – WE updated the group on the project to establish a cycle path between Lewes and Newhaven, which will link with public transport, and Southease Railway Station. A steering committee has been formed and is in the process of commissioning a feasibility study. WE will be interested in receiving feedback on the results of the study.

Speeding – The issues of traffic speeding was highlighted by PC Mark Cranley and that it needs to be addressed as a priority. Observations in Ringmer as resulted in the need to sent out over 420 letters to speeding drivers with a further 200 to follow.

It was agreed that SJ should write to the Deputy Chief Constable outlining the concerns that villagers have about drivers speeding through villages, heavy lorries, and the need to enforce the 30mph speed limit. MC stated that children have been used in some campaigns to help trap speeders.

Your Bus Your Call Update (*should really be in youth section of agenda*) – JW explained that the service is fully live. The helpline is open 3 days a week and receiving both telephone & email queries. The bus is delivering sessions to some villages and having a varied response and at various venues. Wivelsfield was highlighted as being the most successful triggering some very positive outcomes but there are problems in securing a venue to park up in Plumpton. Other villages involved are Ringmer and Chailey.

7. Updates on Community Strategy & Decide on plan to rural proof it

SH gave an update on the status of the Community Strategy and said that it would be available for the next LSP meeting at the end of September.

8. Lewes District Council's Comprehensive Performance Assessment – feedback from self-assessment procedure

AMac had attended LDC's consultation session as part of the mock self assessment for LDC's Comprehensive Performance Assessment process. He was very scathing of the District Council's efforts to link with the parish councils. He stressed that its approach and culture needs to change and any criticism was not necessarily directed at individual officers. This was echoed by the CDRP.

9. RVRC Website

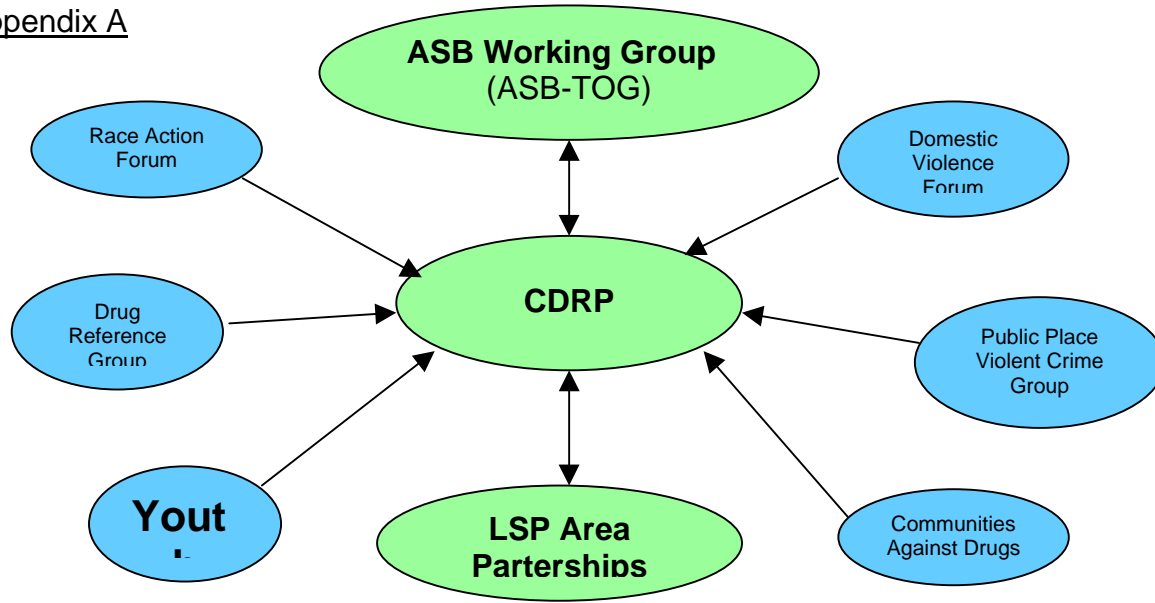
No progress – SJ to liaise with AiRS. Copies of the notes previous RVRC meetings have been pasted on the LDC website.

10. Any Other Business

AMac stated that the matter of speed reduction in the villages was most important and that the concerns about this issue plus the vast size of vehicles should be relayed to the County Highways Department and Sussex Police.

11. Next meeting – Thursday 20th November, 7pm Plumpton Village Hall

Appendix A



Appendix B

