

SEAFORD REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP

Minutes of Steering Group Meeting 6 held at St James' Club (Seaford Volunteers) 4th April 2001

Present:

Cllr David Schueler
Cllr John Freeman
Maggie Simons
Mary Crutch
Colin Brown
Ted Cowdrey

Liz Riley
Mary Crutch
Peter Sinclair
Joan Pearce
Sue Moffatt

Cllr Laurie Holland
Nigel Pargiter
Cllr Duncan White
Tony Baker
Inspector Ron Preddy

0. Introductions and Apologies

Apology from Owen Clifford

1. Minutes of Meeting 5 - 7th March 2001

Under item 2.2 the second paragraph should read that Owen South (not Neil Brown) had met with Ted Cowdrey & Ray Finch. With this correction the minutes were agreed.

2. Healthy Living Partnership

Colin Brown reported on the formation, under the auspices of SDCVS, of a Seahaven Healthy Living Partnership which is preparing a bid for funding of a Healthy Living Centre. The aims are to support children and families under stress, provide access for young people to information on health - particularly sexual and substance misuse, promote independence for older people and combat isolation, and promote mental wellbeing and reduce social exclusion.

A central feature will be the development of Community Cafes on new and existing sites in the towns of Seaford, Newhaven and Peacehaven/Telscombe together with improving transport for easier access to these for the various groups.

The partnership includes various voluntary groups within the towns, together with the local Health Authority and ESCC, LDC and the four town councils. The bid, to be lodged will comprise a business plan based on the original expression of intent and comprises financing over five years for a total of £1.5m, the majority of which covers revenue costs for salaries of staff and other running costs, which is of great importance for sustainability.

A discussion took place on the relationship of this project with the 'first stop shop' theme being developed by SCP and it was agreed that considerable benefit would ensue to Seaford by close co-operation with the Healthy Living Partnership.

3. Reports from Thematic Task Groups

3.1 Seafont Improvement (Liz Riley)

A meeting on 15th March was attended by representatives from the Seaford Lifeguards and Seaford & Newhaven Sailing Club.

The Lifeguards pointed out that the allocation of Blue Flag status would enhance the position of Seaford as a top-class beach resort, but in order to meet the necessary criteria the Lifeguards would need to:

- increase their 'presence' on the beach area
- have a new headquarters building sited closer to the promenade with improved visibility over the beach, with better facilities for recruitment and training and with the provision of emergency phone and first aid facilities.

Architectural plans have been submitted to LDC who have agreed them in principle but funding sources have not yet been investigated.

- A slipway is also required for speedier launching of rescue craft.

Funding is the key element in achieving these objectives.

The Sailing Club representative stated that the land on which the clubhouse stands is currently owned by Sea Containers with 12 years remaining on the lease. The Club has explored the possibility of purchasing the freehold but this is complicated by the possible sale of Sea Containers' holdings to Seine-Maritime, but enquiries are continuing.

The uncertainty of ownership is inhibiting longer-term planning but the Sailing Club would like to improve the facilities they offer.

- Off-Shore Sail Training - at present the only training is inland at Piddinghoe Pond
- Sailability - access to sail training for the disabled - this is hampered by the lack of safety facilities
- A slipway is essential for both these areas of training and would benefit other users.

The Sailing Club is a major provider of recreational facilities on the seafront but needs sources of funding to improve these.

The task group consider that both the Lifeguards and the Sailing Club should receive support and assistance from the Seaford Community Partnership to secure suitable funding for their improvement projects.

The Sea Anglers had not been able to attend the meeting and the Scuba and Sub-Aqua Club had not been in touch, but efforts would be made to establish these two organisation's detailed proposals for improvements. The Anglers have already supplied information about their needs for a slipway.

3.2 Local Transport (Ted Cowdrey) -

In view of Ted Cowdrey's only recent return from business abroad there had not been any meeting of the task group.

Ray Finch (an architect who had been approached about producing conceptual sketches of the station redevelopment ideas) would be approached regarding progress and Neil Brown regarding his discussions with Railtrack regarding the possibilities of the redevelopment.

3.3 Community Centre and First Stop Shop (Mary Crutch).

A visit had been made to Infopoint at Hailsham on 31st March to view the drop-in centre for young people.

The visiting group was welcomed by Ceri, the Centre Manager who gave an open and factual account of how

the Centre is running since its transfer to its newly acquired and refurbished premises.

Reception/Offices open immediately from the High Street and displays information on the following

Jobs, (faxes are sent daily from Employment Office Job Centre)

Housing

National Youth Agency's Information Database on computer.

Leaflets on alcohol and drug abuse.

Information on money management.

Running alongside the offices is a large open area containing, kitchen, dining area, pool, TV, play station and an alcove with 4 computers. There is a counselling room and an outside area for smoking. Alcohol and smoking are not permitted on the premises.

Ceri emphasized that changes and adjustments in provision were being made in the light of experience. Great value is placed on counselling, strong personal contact is needed to support written information. Counsellors are trained or in training.

Members are allowed to use phone to contact other agencies.

Staff help particularly in finding accommodation. There is a lack of single accommodation in Hailsham.

The upper floors of the Centre have been converted into flatlets to help this need. Tenants are allowed to stay for up-to three years.

Publicity for the Centre

The Centre has had a steady increase in clients since opening. Ceri uses a questionnaire to find out what youngsters know about the service and when it is available.

Ceri and other workers also visit sites where youngsters gather and distributes leaflets and verbal invitations to attend. Ceri is also employed in the Youth Service at the Hailsham Community College.

Ceri also gave us a copy of a questionnaire on sex.

Both questionnaires were well designed for the purpose, clear but not intimidating.

Ceri said there is nothing in Hailsham for youngsters to attend, and that in holidays they went to Eastbourne.

Grants received from Escc

Wealden District Council
Hailsham Town Council
Lacey Tate Trust
National Lottery Charity Board

The meeting discussed the relationship of the task group's approach to the concept of a 'first stop' shop for Seaford, in view of the experiences in Hailsham and also the Healthy Living Centre's view of the function of Community Cafes. It was agreed that the task group should draw up a specification of the purpose and objectives of the Seaford model together with a business plan.

3.4 Cradle Hill Business Park (Peter Sinclair)

Approaches have been made to various bodies on the basis of the paper tabled at the last meeting on the SCP's objectives for Cradle Hill. All traders on the site are being invited to a meeting which is being arranged under the sponsorship of the Chamber of Commerce and Seaford Community Partnership on Wednesday 9th May at 5.30pm at the Seven Sisters Pub in Alfriston Road. This will give the traders the opportunity of discussing their views on improvements needed to the estate with council officers as well as the C of C and the SCP.

The case for a revision in planning policy to enable small start-up units to be established was discussed and it was agreed that the Partnership should now write to LDC setting this out in detail.

3.5 Town Centre Regeneration (Mary Crutch)

The possibilities of a farmers market is still being considered. It was noted that Lewes District Council had approached the Town Council about the hosting of a French Market in the autumn. STC has replied suggesting this should be held at the Downs Leisure Centre on the 15th July to coincide with the Seaford Fun Day.

4 Priorities, Timescales, Costing and Funding Sources

A revised 'vision' statement was tabled which it was proposed should be sent to each of the main Coastal Renaissance Partnership thematic groups together with a short summary of the proposals which the Seaford Partnership would wish to be included on their behalf in the coastal strategy. It was agreed that the revised document would be acceptable for this purpose.

5 Public Relations

It was considered that May would not be a suitable time for a public meeting to present a report to the Seaford residents on the activities of the Partnership since elections would be taking place at that time. June or July would be a more suitable time and it was felt that this could be used to present the Partnership's general vision as well as deal in detail with the concept of the 'first stop' shop.

4. Partnership Constitution

A joint meeting of the four new town partnerships is being planned by SDCVS to discuss common themes which have developed since the workshops. This could include advice on suitable constitutions for the partnerships.

A seminar on fund-raising had been arranged by SDCVS, which David Schueler had attended and it was thought that a similar seminar for the SCP would be beneficial.

5. Any Other Business

None

6. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 2nd May 2001 at 5.00 pm at Seaford Volunteer's HQ - St James' Hall, Blatchington Road.

DS/1/5/2001

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