

Coastal Renaissance Partnership Healthy Safe & Inclusive Communities

Report on the outcomes from the Community Future Workshops

Common themes and specific links to the Partnership's themes

The Community Future workshops commissioned by the CRP took place between October 2000 and January 2001 across four communities- Camber, Pevensey, Seaford Peacehaven & Telscombe. Details of what they consisted of and the aims of the workshops can be found as appendix 1 & 2 at the end of this document.

The findings presented below have been taken from the four action plans drawn up by the communities as part of the workshops. They are all now being acted upon by the newly constituted regeneration partnerships in each of the areas. Other existing partnerships have been sent this document in the hope that they might add to or underscore the themes listed. It is also an opportunity for them to highlight a key concern they may feel has been missed. Bexhill Community Partnership have given views already, they are incorporated in this document.

The overview presented is not exhaustive or complete in every detail, but what it tries to do is give some idea of

- a. the commonalities of each partnership
- b. the links to the thematic groups of the CRP

Each partnership is willing to talk in more detail about its plans and all are hoping to make stronger links with each other and already existing structures and partnerships.

Any queries about the document should in the first instance be addressed to *Colin Brown at South Downs Council for Voluntary Service* – 01273 483832-email enquiries@southdowns.cvs.org.uk.

Individual summaries are also available of each of the four sets of workshops from SDCVS

Themes that are common to the 4 partnership areas:

Improve local transport:

- New or re-routing bus routes to main areas of community/social activity e.g. a direct bus route to ECAT (Pevensey) or to Eastbourne DGH (Seaford)

Linking in all bus routes more effectively to provide a good coastal route service.

Link local rail and bus timetables better. Establish walking buses.

Increase local trains.

Where road wide enough (e.g. A259 P&T) create a bus lane to take rush hour flow in each direction

- Increase community transport schemes e.g. establishing better dial and ride facilities and accessibility for disabled people - taxi-rider system

Use these to link outer rim of towns/villages to main bus routes.

- The development of cycle lanes, routes and networks. To address school routes and leisure routes e.g. link coast route to A259, create cycle tracks by coastal paths

Upgrade/establish cycle parking facilities at key destinations – e.g. Pevensey railway station - to encourage use.

- Better traffic management to reduce congestion

Better signage,

More roundabouts and crossings particularly on A259

Better car park facilities

Improve activities for young people:

- The creation of youth café/cyber bar/youth club e.g. 'A young people's centre for 11-25's in central Bexhill'
- Open air recreational facilities designed by young people
- The creation of youth councils
- Increase in youth programmes and youth work focusing on Arts, sports & music education, employment and training

Improve seafront/landscape improvements: to promote tourism

- Improve facilities – kiosk/toilets/public telephones/street furniture e.g. benches, bus shelters

Better large-scale maps and signs for visitors

Renovate central shopping areas

- Increase profile and facilities of local activities – e.g. angling, windsurfing, farmers markets, French markets, beach festivals, fetes
- Improve the environment – cleanups, landscaping & greening - introduce trees, flowerbeds & more suitable seaside planting, improve /erect village gateways (Pevensey /Camber)
- Develop heritage trail – Seaford, upgrade footpath 9 and 1066 trail (Pevensey) extend promenade trail towards Brighton (P&T)

Improve community facilities/activities:

- Developing local central community centre – first stop shop, multi-agency, multi-use – e.g. as ICT centres and social centres, library (Bexhill, Pevensey & Seaford)
- Improve sports and leisure facilities e.g. new cinema club facilities, bowls, tennis, swimming
- Improve childcare facilities e.g. baby clinic, drop in crèche, breakfast club, after school club, safe play areas, a neighbourhood nursery attached to adult training centre (for Sidley in Bexhill).
- Better recycling facilities
- Funding for staff resources to enable better community participation & research

Improve security:

- Improve Neighbourhood Watch scheme
- More / better street lighting
- Staffed police station
- Increase in police patrols

Elements of partnerships' needs analysis that link to CRP themes

S01 Education, training/skills

All partnerships identified need for more youth oriented work based training and support. Wanted this linked in with local employment opportunities.

One also identified support for families in danger of exclusion.

Community based basic skills training (including ICT) and parenting skills support

S02 Address social exclusion

All wished to see capacity of the community/voluntary sector developed and increased.

First stop community centres in central location wanted for Seaford, Pevensey, Peacehaven & Telscombe

Develop / introduce CCTV

Better facilities for young people

An important feature of the 'First Stop' shop in Seaford would be to provide a link to the Newhaven Job Centre since we do not have this facility in our town. We would hope to have a member of the Job Centre staff visiting perhaps once a week and also have a computer link with job opportunity web sites. The intention is also to provide some level of training for employment.

S03 Site development

Seaford

- Cradle Hill Business park needs redeveloping, looking at development of small starter units - both high tech and workshops
- Improving the site's existing local civic waste amenity to reduce nuisance to neighbouring occupiers and also establishing better and sustainable waste recycling facilities for Seaford.
- Developing a local green waste composting site to reduce the heavy lorry transport of this to Isfield.
- Improvement of the infrastructure both on and around the estate making access easier and also cleaning up the working environment.

S04 Business development

- Install high quality ICT facilities
- Improve access & security
- Establish a business resource centre
- Encourage a media/design & knowledge based element

- Encouraging the development of business units/design studios/ light industrial units.

S05 Town Centre regeneration

All wished to address this issue:

- Pevensey & Camber lack of local shops
- All the problem of empty shop properties (although Seaford now full)
- All wanted to see development of amenities to attract shoppers and businesses –
- Car parking facilities,
- Cycle parking
- Landscaping and greening of high streets
- Better signage
- Farmers markets and auctions to bring in trade
- Peacehaven wished to redevelop whole of Meridian Centre to make it more attractive and link up a wide range of cross sector activities and services.

S06 Tourism & culture

All wished to develop tourism for their towns/communities

- Heritage trails,
- Redevelop museum
- Link with France
- Encourage seafront quality restaurant
- Better located cafes
- Landscaping of beachfronts
- Better signage
- More, better street furniture on front
- Run fetes, art/music festivals on the beach.
- Develop better facilities for existing pastimes – e.g. slipways
- Cleaner beaches – e.g. dog litter bins, more waste bins

S07 ICT infrastructure

More support to SME's to develop this

Make the first stop shops ICT learning centres

Low cost/free ICT learning via community groups

S08 Integrated transport & the environment

- Reduce congestion on Coast Road
- Create a good quality bus terminus
- Better bus timetables and better linking up of services
- New bus routes to hospitals and rail stations, re-route services to take outlying parts of towns
- Build bus shelters.
- Disabled access to shops, hospitals and schools

- Reopen Roads
- Roundabouts not traffic lights
- Cycle lanes and cycle network
- Upgrade pavements
- Upgrade roads
- Traffic calming measures to slow traffic down, particularly on rat runs
- New community transport system within the area using taxis also
- More local and regular train services with buses times linked in
- Better evening services to other areas

Peacehaven specific:

New bypass road (ESCC to investigate)

Monorail/tram

Shuttle bus service to Meridian Centre

Flexible priority bus lanes.

Subsidise the 123 bus service.

Appendix 1

Community Future Workshops

What are they?

They are a method of drawing together as wide a range of people living and working in a local community to focus on what they would like to see happen in their locality.

Why are they being held?

In the context of the Single Regeneration Budget round 6 bid - Coastal Renaissance Partnership - which is funding this work, one of the key outcomes will be for the towns on the coastal strip currently without Regeneration Partnerships in place to have developed them. The four towns targeted are – Peacehaven & Telscombe, Seaford, Pevensey and Rye.

The Government's Social Exclusion Unit defines the four imperatives for successful neighbourhood regeneration as:

1. To develop the local economy
2. To revive and empower the local community
3. To improve key public services
4. To re-engage private services such as shops and banks

What is the thinking behind them?

It would be easy for the county council as leaders of the bid, or respective town councils as the local accountable bodies for these towns to just call in those known to them as partners and declare that the job was done! This however undermines the philosophy behind SEEDA's insistence on community participation and also disenfranchises many potential supporters of the work.

The whole approach is therefore based on maximum community participation. Joint working and leadership at a local level underpin this. To obtain as wide an input as possible the following have to be integral to the approach.

That the workshops will:

- Have real **influence** over how priorities are decided
- Be **inclusive** – open to all and with equality of voice within them
- Encourage **communication** – to keep those not part of the process informed also
- Recognise the **capacity** of some groups or individuals or local neighbourhoods to participate may be limited and need resources directed to them to encourage engagement with the process

From the above it can be seen that it is the role of the local agencies already accessing 'levers of power' e.g. council officers, town, district and county council members, large voluntary sector organisations – to develop the workshops to engage those not normally involved in decision making. This **facilitating** role is crucial to the success of the work.

Similarly the role of established community organisations and voluntary groupings as **conduits** to the local community should be used to reach new people or reengage local neighbourhoods.

This should hopefully then lead to residents of the town being empowered to drive some of the agenda and take up key roles in the future work. Another positive outcome would be to create new **social entrepreneurs** in each town.

What happens next?

The workshops cannot work without the active support of the key stakeholders in each community. Town Councils have an important role to play in providing venues and support to running the process. Members – town, district and county – can support the work by raising its profile within the community and to the media. Officers can contribute much needed expertise to the vision and promote the work within their own structures.

The schools and colleges, the police and local health bodies all have valuable insight that can be brought to the work.

The private sector's understanding of what is needed for business to succeed in the area is essential to progressing key elements of any vision.

The voluntary and community sector's links with a wide range of grass roots groups and active individuals within each community are crucial to the success of the workshops.

What will it achieve?

At the end of the process we want to have a fully-fledged, working **Regeneration Partnership** in the town. This way we can then use our combined skills and experience to link into the next round of the Single Regeneration Budget (SRB7) and compete on a level playing field, for the resources our town needs.

Appendix 2

COMMUNITY FUTURE WORKSHOPS – facilitator notes

1 OUR COMMUNITY – OUR FUTURE

Quick outline by facilitator of what CFW all about.

Quick rundown of how set up and the task group – emphasise flexible not there to run things but to support the work. And want someone to join from community.

The vision thing	what do we want?
The baseline	what do we have?
The gaps	what do we need?
	What are the priorities?

Use large town maps to illustrate each element – small post its to stick all over with comments etc.

2 MAKING DREAMS REALITY

Summary of workshop 1 presented

Any relevant data or tasks identified by previous workshop dealt with

What are the different programmes /strategies happening now?

What local initiatives are there?

How are they decided upon and who decides them?

Is there another way to do things?

(Ideally this will lead to the discussion about community participation and the need for a robust and community led regeneration partnership)

Task group to summarise both workshops in written form and publicise work.

Also to draft up terms of reference for regeneration partnership

3 TAKING THE INITIATIVE

Presentation of workshop 1&2 findings by task group.

Look again at priorities – are they theme based or area based?

What action needs to be taken to achieve priorities?

Again post its and anon comment cards used to allow for non threatening methods of participation. Small maps used for individuals to scrawl on etc.

Break into small groups for discussions on way ahead – based on consensus.

Plenary session to agree priorities and inform task group of what to include in a draft action plan.

4 PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Draft action plan presented

Small groups take away sections for discussion and reach agreement/consensus

Report back feelings of each group

If positive consensus ask for stakeholder sign up to action plan.

Agree terms of reference for partnership

Ask for nominations to regeneration partnership

Agree process for reporting back to community and what agency/individual responsible for set tasks.

OUTCOME

The regeneration partnerships meet soon after to make sure that the key tasks identified are actioned. A written summary of all the work is delivered and key issues highlighted to relevant areas. A work programme that ties into the requirements of the next round of SRB should be a clear outcome of this process.