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Minutes of Portsmouth Community Network meeting 16 May 2007 12.00pm – 2.30pm

Present: Jennifer Kelsey, Carole Damper, Adrian Clee, Charlie Adie, Jan Dod, Nick Ralph, Ken Dobson, Delyth Horsley, Paula Walker, Graham Heaney (Chair), Charles Burns, Marguerite Nudd Katherine Marsden-Broad, Paddy May, Mary Wishart (minutes)

Apologies: Taki Jaffer, Catherine Smith, Fiona White, Stephen Morgan, Laura Caton, Mohammed Riyami, Jackie Buckley, Martin Affleck, Lynne Rigby, Brenda Cairns, Geoff Phillpotts, Tracey Jones, Tunde Bright-Davis

1. Welcome and apologies

GH welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were given.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the last meeting on 19 March 2007 were agreed with the following amends:

- Apologies – Paula Walker
- 3. Housing - CD queried whether the issues around refugees and asylum seekers facing homelessness had been raised at the Housing Partnership. NR explained that more evidence was required to take it as an agenda item to the lead partnership. It was agreed that a letter would be written to the Bill Sergeant Trust to request this information.
Action: MW will draft the letter and liaise with CD, NR and Tony McCarthy, and it will be sent to Andrew Mason and John Kerry.
- 3. CYPSP – CA clarified that the figure should read £1.4million not £4 million.
- 5. AOB – It was clarified that there is representation from Buckland and Portsea residents on the City Centre Improvement Project Steering Group. The planned changes to Commercial and Edinburgh Roads have now gone to a public inquiry. The Community Network has already lodged concerns which will be taken forward. Written responses need to reach GOSE by 22 May 2007.
Action: KD to write a letter stating grounds of objection, and will see if Neighbourhood Forum colleagues can object also at this stage.
- CD clarified that whilst she has agreed to join the Hampshire County Foundation Board, this has not yet been approved formally.
Action: CD agreed to forward Sport Relief details to be circulated with the minutes.

3. Community Network – Moving Forwards

A document detailing a revised structure, role and purpose for the Community Network was tabled at the meeting (attached to minutes for information). GH provided an update as to how further discussion, in particular to attempt to work with CIED team had resulted in this structure. GH had been asked to

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feedback from FW that she still had reservations (although these were not made explicit and remain unclear from FW's email input) and that more work would need to be done over coming months. It was once again stressed that this is a developmental model for the Community Network to move forward, and all progress will be reviewed.

There was some discussion around whether this model has enough focus on the community. Everyone was referred back to the purpose and role descriptors of the circulated document which clearly include both community and voluntary sectors.

There was some discussion around the role and function of Neighbourhood Forums and Community Boards.

A vote was taken to agree to implement this model for the Community Network, and all members bar one voted in favour.

Action: The proposed structure is now implemented.

4. Chairing arrangements

GH explained that he would be stepping down as Chair of the Community Network as it was felt it should be a CN member fulfilling this role as has previously happened, and also his responsibilities as Chief Executive for PCCS were demanding the majority of his time. (GH letter of explanation attached to the minutes).

A new chair will be advertised for, in a similar way to the process the LSP Chair is being recruited.

It was agreed that anyone can apply for the post but they will be shortlisted against the person specification and skills requirement.

It was agreed that the successful candidate should live, work, learn or be interested in Portsmouth.

Action: MW to circulate advert, job description and person specification, and other information via email by 17 May 2007.

5. Updates

Lead partnership representatives gave the following updates:

Community Involvement

- Best Value Review – consultation is ongoing, slight slippage in timings

CYPSP

- Joint Commissioning Group (JCG) – This is the operational arm of the CYPSP and priorities of this feed into JCG. Not all the delivers of Children

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& Young Peoples Plan currently have representation on JCG however. Terms of Reference of JCG being reviewed currently.

- Connexions transition – PCC has prepared a paper outlining recommendations to Executive Member (Eleanor Scott) on 23 May 2007. This will then be shared with members on 4 June 2007. As previously reported, this will have a big impact on Connexions staff but also on service delivery in the city.
- BVR on youth provision – government has suggested integration of youth services, though the Connexions decision is being reached prior to this review. No wide consultation with VCS around youth service integration so far.
- Children & Young Peoples Plan has now been published and there are 13 priorities.
- Community Improvement Partnerships (CIPs) - Paper by Andrew Olive, Head of Community Learning was tabled (and attached to minutes) which looks at the future of CIPs. The deadline is cited as the 18 May, but there is flexibility around this. It was acknowledged that it was unlikely we would be able to get a consensual view from the Community Network as a group, so people are asked to feed back their opinions individually. This is an excellent opportunity for the VCS to have a say on how CIPs will work in the future should the initiative continue.

There was some discussion as to where the current funding for the CIP manager posts come from. Currently they are employed by the LA. The Education Department did not plan an exit strategy when CIPs first launched; it was intended that schools and other agencies would look to pick up future funding. The consultation looks at how the CIPs should continue and how they will be made sustainable.

- Children's Trust – the arrangements for this are also up for review.
- Representation of VCS on CYPSP – It was once again flagged up that only having CA on this group is not representative of VCS. Discussions to progress this have been going on for 8 months now and no further forward as the view from the Chair of CYPSP is that it not technically a lead partnership, therefore the agreement to 4 CN reps does not apply here, even though the group leads on delivering part of the LAA. This leaves CA in a difficult position sometimes as the sole representative from VCS currently. It was agreed that the CN should support CA and try and influence more CN representation on this group.

Action: MW to draft letter of support on behalf of CN, which will be signed by GH and NR as Chair of CIPB.

Action: This issue is to be raised at next LSP meeting on 26 June – MW to contact LC.

Health

- LAA update from LC/PM about the Sustainable Community Strategy (as featured later on in today's meeting).
- Needs assessment on oral health in the city. Lack of access/facilities in particular is being looked at and a strategy is being pulled together. It was noted that there is a difference between going on a dentist's list and then actually receiving treatment.

Economic Wellbeing

- Job Centre is taking over bowling alley premises in June 2008.
- South Coast Design Forum – this is to enable creative designers to network
- Presentations from Barry Walker and Jane Hurdley from PCC about City Centre Improvement Project:
 - John Lewis and M&S have signed up, with M&S taking up a large space for future development which is very positive.
 - The openings will be rolled out over a period of time, finishing in 2013.
 - Impact on local residents mentioned a lot
 - Cycle Forum is picking up on issue about lack of cycle lane provision
 - Retail; Academy is progressing and linking in with Highbury College
- The City Centre Steering Group looking at traffic management. There was some discussion about monorail development. There are clear links into the Local Development Framework and the Sustainable Community Strategy There is likely to be 6,000 jobs created through the project.

Housing

- Somerstown & North Southsea Regeneration consultation update from 1,500 responses. The questionnaire went to every household in the areas and options 2 & 3 (residents supporting more/most change to the areas) were chosen by respondents. 5 sites are being investigated. More detail can be seen by visiting www.portsmouth.gov.uk/living/5859.html
- John Butler will be stepping down as Chair of the Housing Partnership

Environment & Transport

- Presentation about Brownfields Strategy Results – Fratton and Goldsmith Avenue were the sites chosen. Residential development is ongoing in Fratton. PCC to go back out to communities to see how best to develop sites.
- Consultation ongoing around Station Square and Station Street developments
- Zurich Insurance moving out of city – impact on economy
- The new nightclub opening in the city centre may have an impact on policing though it is too soon to tell. Marshalling is not working so well currently so training being looked at. Taxi loading in three phases is working well so far. Impact on residents needs consideration especially around noise.

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Education & Lifelong Learning

- Reps on this partnership are being expected to have good all round knowledge of all areas of education and learning – training is something we need to think about for all reps. MW pointed out that PCCS will be running representation training from July onwards which CN reps should attend.
- Partnership mapping exercise has been carried out to show which lead partnership is responsible for what.

CYP Alliance

- Briefing session on Tuesday 5 June 2007 2.30pm to 4.30pm at Frank Sorrell Centre. Flyer with further info to be circulated with minutes.

6 Sustainable Community Strategy development

Paddy May set out the reasons for looking to review the existing Community Strategy, namely the Community Safety Review and the changes in focus of the LAA. The White Paper sets out a much more visionary sustainable strategy than the existing CS provides, with a longer term view.

The LDF is being developed and the Community Strategy should link in with the spatial plans for the city, with sustainability a key focus. City Growth Vision, Joint Strategic Needs Assessment etc – there are many initiatives to link in with and the LSP and the LA executive have agreed to do this.

A broad timetable is set out on p. 3 of the discussion paper (attached to minutes) and much work has already been carried out – consultation of LAA, report card updates etc.

10 year period agreed with a review built in halfway.

It is planned to work within existing structures – i.e. a suggestion that we have only 4 lead partnerships is not going to be taken up, we will stick with the existing 7.

Political buy in is necessary for successful delivery of the SCS. Previously the CS has been seen as held by the LSP and members have not engaged. Keen to get this support this time.

City Growth Vision doesn't reflect the social, environmental or community aspects and this is our chance to input into the Vision – to broaden it out from the weighting on business/tourist aspect it currently has. Community issues need to be made more explicit in the 5 values of the vision.

Discussion was had as to how the CN could respond to the key questions set out in the briefing paper. It was agreed an event would be a good way to ensure consultation can be wide and focussed. The Strategy Unit has a budget which could help put on the event.

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Action: A small working group to meet to take this forward comprising of JD, CD, JK, NR, and MW. Meeting to be arranged.

7 AOB

- MW advised that there will be a training course run through TRACS on 9 July looking at representation and what it means. There are 12 places available, 6 of which have been reserved for CN members. The LSP members have been given priority but there will be opportunity for all other lead partnership reps to do the training as it will be rolled out regularly. For more information please contact Fiona Mabbott, TRACS Co-ordinator at PCCS or visit <http://www.tracs-pccs.org.uk/>
- Stronger Safer Communities Fund – NR reported that this budget has been reduced, without explanation, by £14.5K by central government. The 4 partnerships funded by this have been asked to find this saving somehow. Neighbourhood Management Steering Group think that they can absorb the whole amount but would be looking for support from other areas to ensure planned activity can happen. There was some discussion over the Community Cohesion post and whether this should be looked at again in light of this budget reduction. More detail will be shared when available.

8 Date of next meeting

As the new structure is to be implemented, the meeting need to be rescheduled as it will involve different representatives. Dates to be confirmed.