



PORTSMOUTH COMMUNITY NETWORK

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10 SEPTEMBER 2007 FROM 12.30 - 2.30 PM, PCCS CONFERENCE ROOM

Present:

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| Graham Heaney | PCCS (Chair) |
| Charlie Adie | Motiv8 |
| Charles Burns | Central Southsea Neighbourhood Forum |
| Jan Dod | PATCH |
| David Horne | Paulsgrove & Wymering Community Board |
| Taki Jaffer | Portsmouth Interfaith Forum and PRENO |
| Katherine Marsden-Broad | PUEF |
| Tony McCarthy | Refugee Action |
| Tom Morton | PCN (Independent) |
| Marguerite Nudd | U3A |
| Barbara O'Sullivan | PCCS |
| Nick Ralph | PPCSR |
| Fiona White | PCC |

In attendance: June Hancox, PCCS (Minutes)
Jo Newton PCT (from item 6)

1. **Apologies:** Tunde Bright-Davies, Jackie Buckley, Adrian Clee, Ken Dobson, Jennifer Kelsey, Stephen Morgan
2. **Welcome and Introduction of Tom Morton, New Chair of PCN**

Graham Heaney (GH) welcomed members and asked them to introduce themselves to Tom Morton (TM) who had been appointed the new independent Chair of the Network. TM introduced himself and explained that he had served in the Royal Navy until his retirement in 2001 and had since worked at Portsmouth's Anglican Cathedral. Resident in Portsmouth since 1985, he wanted to redress his lack of involvement in the community and had become active as Chair of the Drayton and Farlington Neighbourhood Forum. Although deeply interested in the problems of the community he acknowledged that living in a "leafy" part of Portsmouth he had a

great deal to learn and hoped for members' indulgence when he took over the Chair. He would try hard to be effective and supportive and believed in people working as a team.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held 17 July 2007

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2007 were agreed subject to the following amendment:

Page 4, (f): The first sentence should read "At its recent meeting, Peter Mellor gave a presentation on the hospital's Foundation bid, which had been delayed...."

4. Matters Arising from those Minutes

Page 2, VCS representation on the Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership: GH, Charlie Adie (CA) and Nick Ralph (NR) would meet with Lynda Fisher on 17 September at 3 pm to push for VCS representation on the C&YPSP.

Page 2, 3.2: No date had yet been set. Ken Dobson (KD) was currently unwell but Katherine Marsden-Broad (KMB) explained that PCC's pricing policy had had an affect on small voluntary groups. GH would try to contact KD but, if unsuccessful, the PCN would need to voice its concern. Barbara O'Sullivan (BOS) asked for anecdotal examples which could be used and KMB said she would ask the consent of those involved.

5. Community Network Co-ordinator

GH was pleased to confirm that BOS had now been appointed Community Network Co-ordinator.

6. 'A Vision for Portsmouth' and LSP Conference on 8 November 2007

The consultation event on 18 July had been well attended (50+) and it was felt that the Network was able to bring well presented and substantiated views to the LSP for further action. It was hoped that the LSP Conference would take that vision forward; details of time would be discussed the following day. BOS gave out copies of the draft vision and encouraged members to use it to consult with groups.

(Jo Newton (JN) joined the meeting at this point and explained that she was helping to organise the LSP Conference)

JN's understanding was that the LSP conference was one of a number of consultation events. It would be held at the Students' Union building and attendance would be by invitation. The Compact would be informing all planning for the event. . BOS confirmed that Lynda Jones would be the facilitator as at the first consultation. NR felt it was the PCN's responsibility to put the views of the voluntary & community sector and suggested they met before the Conference. JD said that it was important not to lose sight of the accountability of the new LSP. When the LSP was set up it was agreed that there would be twice yearly conferences to ensure accountability to the public. Closed conferences on specific themes do not meet this requirement for accountability.

TMc suggested a community cohesion themed PCN conference in the future would be useful.

(Fiona White (FW) joined the meeting at this point)

7. Community Network Development

BOS, being new in post, was still on a learning curve herself but had looked at the history of the Network's restructuring and could see that there was still some work to be completed. This included the bedding down of the new structure. Clarification was needed with regard to the capacity in which people attended. She suggested the Working Group be re-formed. Charlie Adie (CA) was in total agreement and added there was some unfinished business. There needed to be a definitive list of the actions needed to be carried out. The PCN was a steering group within the wider remit of 'community'.

Taki Jaffer (TJ) said that Tunde Bright-Davies (PRENO) would like to bring some BME members along to observe and enable them to have greater access to the community.

JD felt there should be a caveat lest the Network revisited issues already agreed and NR said there was a need to settle the fundamentals as a marketing exercise. TM observed that he also felt there were some fundamental issues to be resolved. A weakness lay in the lack of networking beyond the meetings. It was agreed that a

meeting should be held very quickly and outcomes reported back to the PCN in November. The group would comprise TM, JD, NR, MN and representations from the C&YP Alliance and PRENO. Reps not present at today's meeting would also be offered the opportunity to contribute.

ACTION: BOS to set up meeting asap

8. Third Sector Consortium Development

NR said that following the submission of the Local Infrastructure Development Plan to the Government Office last year Capacity Builders had produced documents setting out tasks to drive forward the Change Up agenda. These included the production of a business plan for a Third Sector Development Consortium. The process had begun in spring of this year and had been quite a challenge but a lot of work had been done in a short space of time and showed the infrastructure needed to back up front line organisations. Capacity Builders had now released the £29k. to be spent developing the Consortium.

There was a need for broader representation on the Consortium from organisations which would be able to identify the support needed and, so, help produce the Business Plan.

NR felt that the survey previously carried out by John Fielding hadn't included the scope for future-proofing. This gap needs to be addressed.

FW said the Business Plan would be about where the sector saw itself in 2014/2018 and covered a wide spectrum. It would need to demonstrate an effective consortium for money to be released and to look at how the voluntary sector could flourish and grow over the next few years into a thriving, independent sustainable sector.

GH said that the Portsmouth Third Sector Development Consortium would be launched at the John Pounds Centre on 20 November, from 9 am to 1 pm.

CA asked if there were any other similar voluntary sector groups in order to avoid duplication of what already existed. After discussion of a number of complementary groups, the only potential overlap identified was the Pathfinder's Steering Group.

There is potential for the Pathfinder and Consortium agendas to be streamlined in future.

9. Updates

- 9.1 Partnership Meeting Feedback: TJ was involved in the planning of an event for 'One World Week' which would take place around 28 October, 1.30 - 4.30 pm, and would involve "walking together" around the Somerstown area to encompass various places of worship eg the synagogue, mosque and churches. Details had yet to be finalised but PCN members would be welcome to join in.

Safer Portsmouth Partnership: CA reported that this Partnership hadn't met since the last PCN meeting but would do so on 18 September.

Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership: CA reported that this Partnership would meet the following day. Contact Point, a government initiative, would log all children to ensure they received all the appropriate services and would serve as a reference point for professionals to see who involved with any particular child. The Ten Year Youth Strategy was fantastic news for the voluntary and community sector.

Environment and Transport: CB said that he and JD had attended a meeting the previous week but there was a low turn out. As some senior members were no longer attending CB felt that the Partnership's profile needed to be raised again.

Community Involvement Partnership Board NR mentioned the paper on proposals for Community Cohesion and information sharing on hot topics.

- 9.2 LSP Briefing: The meeting held at the end of July had concentrated on the 'Vision for Portsmouth'. BOS commented that the young people who attended from the Youth Providers Project made an excellent contribution and had conducted themselves well. FW explained the background to the Project.
- 9.3 Alliance Feedback: KMB said that the Alliance's second briefing would take place on 19 September at the Haven and Siobhan Burns was the keynote speaker on safeguarding children strategies.

The election process for an elected Steering Group was now ready to go forward and voting would take place at the briefing on 29 November.

10. Any Other Business

Off the Record: CA explained that Off the Record had provided a service for thirty years but there was now a danger of the Portsmouth office closing. It was now using up its reserves; the money would last until Christmas and then the Board would review the situation and this may result in the service being wound up. The situation had arisen because both sources of income were now finished ie Children in Need and Big Lottery. It had a long waiting list so it was clear that a need for the service still existed. Hampshire County Council had found money to keep the branch at Leigh Park going. CA would forward the report to BOS for circulation; alternatively members could visit its website.

**ACTION: CA to forward report to BOS
For distribution**

PCCS: GH said that Jennifer Kelsey would be leaving in mid November to take up a post with an advocacy project in Godalming. He asked that the thanks of PCN for all her hard work be recorded along with its best wishes for the future.

CA asked about PCCS' recruitment of a Chief Executive. GH said that it was hoped to appoint an interim CX for a period of six months and the process would take place in conjunction with PCC. The interim CX should start in October when PCCS restructuring will be discussed. Mandy Lindley would be working with GH to look at some of the restructuring issues.

NR asked how its Trustees can be supported and challenged. GH said that two new Trustees had been recruited and PCCS was actively looking for more especially from the voluntary and community sector. New Trustees can be recruited at any time, not just at the Annual Meeting, and any nominations would be welcomed.

NR asked if Trustees could be invited to the next PCN meeting as, currently, only MN attended. GH said that he would encourage them to come.

ACTION: GH to invite PCCS Trustees to PCN meeting

FW said that, from PCC's perspective, it was absolutely committed to supporting PCCS to deliver its role within the city, which it felt was in a fairly critical position although GH had done an excellent job. MN underlined the need for PCCS to retain its independence.

Health Changes in West Sussex: GH had received a letter from West Sussex County Council which invited comments on the review of health changes in Sussex - an issue which could impact on Portsmouth.

GOSE: Faith Charnock Wilson had been appointed the new GOSE Locality Manager

Northern Quarter: As part of the development, pedestrianisation of part of Commercial Road and Edinburgh Road had been approved - PCN had objected.

Portsmouth Area Refugee Support (PARS): The Management Committee had met the previous week and decided to wind up PARS which had been running for seven years. GH asked that it be recorded that the PCN had appreciated all the work it had done and was very sorry that it was unable to continue.

Asset Transfer: FW said that, nationally, there was a £30m fund available to take over assets owned by local authorities and, of this, £3m was earmarked for the South East. There was a short window to make a decision as the closing date was 15 November but one suggestion had been a third sector centre of excellence.

PCC Restructuring: CIED and other teams would be coming together in a new unit. FW's post would be deleted in the new structure and there was no timetable yet for the appointment of the new Corporate Priority Heads. David Williams had been challenged about the Council's commitment to the Voluntary & Community Sector as the restructuring appeared to dilute the influence of the CIED team. However, FW reported that he defended the move by saying that the new structure would increase the critical mass of Council work engaged in this area.

Elected Member Training: Hampshire & IOW have received £140,000 to implement a training programme in Community Engagement for Councillors.

Best Value Review Consultation Survey: The results of the survey would help develop options for community involvement for the city and there would be an event around this on 3 October.

Action: FW to let BOS know when & how the review will be available

11. The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Monday 12 November, 12.30 - 2.30 pm, at PCCS.

12. There being no further business the meeting closed at 2.30 pm.