

PORTSMOUTH COMMUNITY NETWORK

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15 SEPTEMBER 2008

Present:

Tom Morton	Chair
Charlie Adie	Motiv8
Jackie Buckley	Relate
Charles Burns	Central Southsea Neighbourhood Forum
Ady Clee	Salvation Army
Jan Dod	PATCH
Ian Piper	PCCS
Marguerite Nudd	U3A
Nick Ralph	Diocese of Portsmouth

In Attendance:

Barbara O'Sullivan	PCCS
Mandy Lindley	PCC
Matt Gummerson	PCC

1. **Welcome & Apologies:** Ken Dobson, Taki Jaffer, Katherine Marsden-Broad, Tunde Bright-Davis, David Horne, Stephen Morgan

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 July 2008 and Matters Arising

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 July were agreed.

Item 4 page 1 – Barbara will set a date for a briefing session in the New Year. She is suggesting that the theme be changed from “Advice” to “Poverty” – including an element on advice.

Item 4 page 2 Tom will arrange a visit to PRENO shortly.

Barbara will reiterate the invitation to Tunde to share BME issues with the Community Network, either verbally or in writing, so that Reps can reflect the issues at Partnership Boards. (Jan Dod noted that BME issues will feature on the Housing agenda for its November meeting)

Mik Norman to be involved in developing representation process via the Community Network conference.

Item 6.1 pg 3

Mandy Lindley asked that PCN work on Asset Transfer not overlap with work PCC is doing. Barbara had copied Mandy into her initial approach to Stephanie Linham about this and would consult Mandy before taking the Briefing forward.

3. Climate Change Consultation

Clare Wood gave a presentation which included a description of models indicating the impact of various levels of Climate Change. This included 890 businesses and 25,000 homes under threat of flood in the future. Additional housing is being built in areas at risk of flooding because of government pressure to provide new homes.

Clare described the background to the consultation and welcomed any additional input from Network Reps despite the closing date having passed. She explained that the Climate Change Strategy for Portsmouth covers reducing carbon footprint, adaptation, co-ordinated energy strategy and stakeholder engagement.

There followed a discussion as to what colleagues were already doing and also how this issue can be taken forward. There were issues around the availability and quality of business recycling in the city and it was felt there could be opportunities for the further development of Social Enterprises in this area.

Clare asked colleagues for help in defining an outcome related to community input to aid in the measurement of Portsmouth's effectiveness in responding to the threat of climate change. She also explained that Petersfield's model of a "Greening campaign" would be piloted in Paulsgrove and Central Southsea. Colleagues suggested some groups she could work with in those areas.

4. Updates

4.1 Partnership Boards

Ady Clee gave an update on the fluoridation issue which will soon be debated in Portsmouth.

Charles Burns reported on Economic Well-being and said that there had been criticism of the Portsmouth Plan for not reflecting the work done on the Vision for Portsmouth, with a further suggestion that there should be a consistency of branding with the two documents.

Action: Barbara to contact Mike Allgrove

There followed a discussion of the MAA and PUSH, particularly about how the Voluntary sector can engage at this level. Nick Ralph and Charles were clear about the importance of this issue and suggested that it should form part of the LSP agenda. Matt Gummerson replied that he was preparing it as a special topic for the LSP's December meeting.

Action: Barbara to ensure that PUSH and MAA are given coverage in Community Focus

Jan Dod reported that the Homelessness Sub-Group of the Housing Partnership were looking at a focussed response to beggars. PCC's funded storage of personal items had been implemented and was working well. Adi Clee told colleagues that the Salvation Army may have to withdraw from its furniture provision contract with PCC as they have been unable to negotiate an increased rate to help cover costs.

Action: Charles to send Barbara a copy of Alan Coughley's note on the Housing Crisis

There was a full discussion of the recent CIPB meeting, where several PCN Reps were present and at which there appeared to be questions about the place of the Network. Tom Morton was robust in saying that if there are any issues with the Community Network these need to be brought to the Community Network to be dealt with. He emphasised that the Network is here to stay and that while we have some way to go to reach our full potential the Community Network does matter and has a key role to play. He also emphasised that the Community Network will be robust with the help of PCCS and under the umbrella of PCCS.

Jan Dod said it would be helpful to have a thorough look at terms of reference for various bodies (e.g. PCCS, CIPB, Third Sector Consortium, Community Network) to ensure there is compatibility with no overlap.

Mandy Lindley emphasised that we are all in the business of seeing a thriving third sector, and there followed a discussion about how we can effectively capture and celebrate the sector's and the Community Network's accomplishments.

Action: All agreed that it would be helpful to have an item on the Community Network at the next CIPB meeting (12 Nov) – Nick to take this forward.

4.2 Children & Young People's Alliance

Charlie Adie presented the Business Plan for endorsement. On behalf of the PCN, Tom affirmed that the CYP Alliance was accepted and that he felt the Alliance is working well in reaching out to the wider sector. This was unanimously agreed by all present.

Charlie questioned how we can ensure that we share this good work with Councillors.

Action: Include a communications & marketing strategy in the PCN Business Plan

4.3 Compact Group & Providers Network

Ian announced that there will be an event for Compact Week on 6 November: further publicity to follow. The Compact Group will meet on 3 October.

Innes Riches from the PCT gave a well-received presentation at the August Providers' Group. Adi said that the sector was grateful to PCCS for engaging and helping to demystify the process of working with the PCT. The next Providers Group meeting would take place on 24 September.

4.4 LAA and ABG

Nick Ralph announced that he will be standing down as Chair of the CIPB in November and expects elections to be held for the new Chair shortly thereafter.

Charlie Adie raised concerns about the ABG process, having found that insufficient information had been given to current grant holders with some risking being left out of the current assessment process. He had spent $\frac{3}{4}$ days of his own time helping people to access the process, and was concerned that in the past systems were more robust ensure proper oversight of the budgets. He was concerned that at this late stage in the year some groups had no SLAs and no evidence criteria had been set. Jackie Buckley confirmed that Relate had Early Intervention money and had only found out about the ABG deadline through a phone call from a colleague.

Adi Clee reported that while there had been a clear call for new bids for ABG money, in some cases bids which were encouraged were then described as being "late" although they had met the published deadline.

Matt Gummerson acknowledged the preceding comments and noted that the ABG Board had done its best within a tight timeframe, although there was an awful lot of learning from the current process which would be taken forward.

The general consensus of the PCN was that there had been enormous tension, frustration and disappointment on both sides, particularly in relation to the recent CIPB meeting. We were glad to have the opportunity to work through some of these concerns and to put the case positively at the forthcoming ABG Board.

5.0 **Community Network Activities**

Barbara circulated a report on current and forthcoming activities. She asked for agreement to place details of Partnership Board Representatives and feedback forms on the PCCS website. This was agreed.

We discussed the PCN Conference which will now take place on Thursday the 4th of December from 9:30am – 1:30pm.

**Actions: Barbara to update PCCS website
All to consider what help they can offer
towards Conference planning & support
and liaise with Barbara**

6.0 LSP Restructure

Copies of Lynda Jones' report from the LSP consultation were circulated. Reps were invited to pass any further comments to Barbara, Matt or Lynda for inclusion in the review. This item will be discussed by LSP Reps at the pre-meeting on 29 September and at the LSP on 30 September.

7.0 Planning for a Flu Pandemic

Denyse Moore and Ben Gallagher (Infection Prevention and Pandemic Flu Co-ordination, Ports NHS) gave a presentation on work which is underway to prepare for a major flu pandemic in Portsmouth. A copy of the presentation is available from Barbara on request. Key information included the predicted infection rates and work which was being done regarding a local response (e.g. co-ordination of GP services, as GPs themselves were likely to be infected). Colleagues gave several suggestions about the way the VCS could be involved, including co-ordination of volunteers to collect and deliver prescriptions (through PCCS volunteer bureau) and publicising public health messages to service users.

8.0 AOB

There was no further business.

9.0 Date & time of next meeting

The next meeting will take place on Monday, 17 November at 12:00pm at PCCS.