



PORTSMOUTH COMMUNITY NETWORK

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

DRAFT

Present:

Tom Morton	(Chair)
Charlie Adie	Motiv8
Charles Burns	Central Southsea Neighbourhood Forum
Jan Dod	PATCH
Taki Jaffer	Portsmouth Interfaith Forum and PRENO
Tony McCarthy	Refugee Action
Ian Piper	PCCS
Ady Clee	Salvation Army
Marguerite Nudd	U3A
Carole Damper	EC Roberts Centre
Ken Dobson	Eastney NF, School Governors' Forum

In attendance:	Barbara O'Sullivan	PCCS
	Isabel Pine	PCCS Board
	David Stephen Butler	PCCS Board
	Trevor Burnop	PCCS Board
	Vicky Piper	PCC (Item 4)
	Paddy May	PCC (Item 7)

1. **Apologies:** Geoff Philpotts, Brian Miller, Katherine Marsden-Broad, Nick Ralph, Stephen Morgan, Fiona White, Shelley Price.

2. **Welcome:** Tom Morton welcomed everyone to his first meeting as Chair, and especially representatives of the PCCS Board who had been invited to attend. He asked for declarations of interest, and David Butler indicated that he is Acting Chair of Development Control (related to item 4).

3. **Minutes of Meeting of 10 September 2007 & matters Arising**

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record with one change. At item 9.2 "Youth Providers Project" should read "YAP (Youth Advisors Project)".

Matters Arising

- Item 10 The report from Off the Record was circulated with the minutes.
- Item 10 Graham Heaney wrote to PCCS Trustees to invite them to attend the Community Network meeting.
- Item 10 The Best Value Review is available by request from the PCC Strategy Unit.

In relation to this last item, Ady Clee reported that there is pressure to have a “consultation” but that some community representatives felt that undue pressure was being applied in committee.

Action: TM to write as Chair of PCN expressing concern about the way this is being handled and emphasising the need for real consultation.

4. Core Strategy

Vicky Piper (PCC) gave a presentation on the options for consultation in forming the Core Strategy. She explained the process of consultation and distributed copies of the consultation document inviting PCN representatives to submit their views. There followed a discussion of both the process and the content of the consultation with the following key points:

The language of the document appears politically loaded.

Much of Portsmouth’s housing development is in-fill and there is lack of infrastructure to support it

Looking to the future, the strapline should include a reference to “One World”

The link with public transport needs to be *explicit*

What happens to Portsea and the people of Portsea?

Will there be a dedicated travellers’ site?

Need to be clear about the links between strategic initiatives e.g. how does allowing planning zones which promote lots of fast food (takeaway) outlets link with the drive to reduce obesity?

How is PCC going to reach vulnerable people in this consultation?

CB complimented the planners on the work they were doing to consult the community.

Actions: PCN Representatives to use the consultation document and respond to it. VP to send the document via e-mail so that PCN representatives can circulate it. BJOs to promote the consultation via Community Focus.

5. “A Vision for Portsmouth” and LSP Conference – 8 November

CA raised a concern about the difference between the Vision and Statutory principles and priorities. There followed a discussion of the need for the Community Network, via its representatives on the LSP, to strive to ensure the Vision reflects what is best for the people of Portsmouth. This should include balancing attractiveness to inward investment with the best quality of life for local people, and ensuring that the key elements of the Vision statements are not lost through rewording.

Paddy May (PM) explained that the report on all elements of the consultation (of which the LSP Conference formed a part) will be available from 22 November.

Action: LSP Reps and Deputies to review the report and take their views to the LSP on 29 November.

6. Community Network Development

- a. The Working Group met on 5 October
- b. Terms of Reference were distributed to those present for comment, with a view to signing them off at the next PCN meeting.
- c. The draft Business Plan was tabled.
- d. Representation on Partnership Boards: There is still some confusion about who are representatives are. It was agreed that in the short term where vacancies exist we would carry out a selection process based on expressions of interest and vetting by the PCN, with an election to be held in the case of more than one suitable candidate standing for a vacancy. It was also agreed that general elections should be for a term of three years to allow for continuity and stability.

Actions: BJOS to circulate Terms of Reference to those not in attendance. BJOs & TM to finalise the Business Plan in consultation with IP. BJOS to circulate a list of current Partnership Board representative for checking and to carry out a selection exercise thereafter. We would aim to “shadow” current representatives with a view to training for future appointments.

7. Progress on LAAS

Paddy May gave an overview of the current LAA system and the introduction of new-style LAAs. Key points include the way the LAA will be the delivery arm for the Sustainable Community Strategy (Vision). The LAA grant will be replaced by an Area-based grant, which puts the decision-making much more in the Council's control.

All PCN representatives are concerned about the way money is no longer ring-fenced, and questioned what mechanisms are in place to ensure that the Voluntary & Community sector gets fair access to the resources and that the Council doesn't use the money to help fill its own funding gap. There is also concern about the delay in notification of funding which may mean that projects have to close and key staff might be lost in the coming months if funding is not assured.

Actions: PM to forward the latest version of The Story of Portsmouth & the LAA Board budget paper to BJOS for circulation to PCN Representatives. LSP Representatives to put down a clear marker about expectations regarding funding for the Voluntary & Community Sector.

8. Updates

Verbal updates were given on all partnerships which have met since the last Community Network meeting.

Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership: We are in disagreement about the number of Community & Voluntary Sector Reps on this Board.
(Action: TM to write to JC as Chair of LSP)

Housing: A future work programme is being developed focusing on Strategic Context, Bricks & Mortar and Advice & Support.

Health & Social Well-Being has become a Statutory Board. Ken and Ady are confirmed as representatives and we have been asked to find two reps to fill existing vacancies. It is good news that Learning Links won the tender to provide the community Health Trainers. **(Action: TM to write to PEJ about representation)**

Education & Lifelong Learning: There appears to be some overlap with the CYPSPB. Reps have raised the issues of ESOL and 14-19 provision.

Safer Portsmouth Partnership: business Plans have gone forwards. The Street Pastors project has been recognized as a model of volunteer service delivery and it is particularly heartening that the cost of this type of service delivery has also been recognized.

9. AOB

TM expressed the view that feedback from the Partnership Boards is vital and that to work effectively the PCN needs full participation from representatives.

KD said that the Compact Working Group needs to get back on track.
(Action:KD)

CD asked if anyone had put in a bid for the Asset Transfer and was told that Learning Links had put in a Hampshire bid. CD also explained that she is now a trustee for Hants & the Isle of Wight Community Foundation, which means she assesses Sports Relief bids, amongst other duties.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Monday, 21 January 12:30 – 2:30pm at PCCS.