

PORTSMOUTH COMMUNITY NETWORK

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17 NOVEMBER 2008

Present:

Tom Morton	Chair
Jackie Buckley	Relate
Ady Clee	Salvation Army
Carole Damper	EC Roberts Centre
Jan Dod (from 12.55)	PATCH Ltd
Taki Jaffer	PRENO
Julie Killeen	PCCS
Brian Miller	PAG 99 Ltd
Ian Piper	PCCS
Marguerite Nudd	U3A
Nick Ralph	PDCSR
Lynne Rigby	Portsmouth Disability Forum

In attendance:

Mandy Lindley	PCC
Stephen Morgan	PCC
Barbara O'Sullivan	PCCS
June Hancox	PCCS (Minutes)

1. **Welcome and Apologies:** Charlie Adie, Ken Dobson, Katherine Marsden-Broad, Mik Norman, Geoff Phillpotts

2. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 September 2008**

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 September 2008 were agreed with the following amendment:

Page 1: Taki Jaffer's surname was misspelt as 'Jaffir'.

3. **Matters Arising from those Minutes**

Page 1, Minute 2: Tom Morton (TM) had visited PRENO and planned to visit again for a more detailed meeting.

Page 2, Minute 4.1, second paragraph: Barbara O'Sullivan (BJOS) confirmed that she had drafted a letter to Mike Allgrove which would be sent later that day.

Third paragraph: It was hoped to organise a conference on PUSH in such a way as to attract a broader audience; it was not about Portsmouth going it alone but about joining up areas.

ACTION: PCN to take lead

Page 3, Minute 4.1, third paragraph: It had not been possible to have the place of the Network on the CIPB agenda for the meeting in November but it was hoped this would go forward for the January agenda.

ACTION: BJOS to arrange for item to go on CIPB agenda for January

Page 4, Minute 5: BJOS confirmed that some new information had already gone on the website and more would follow shortly.

Minutes of meeting held on 14 July 2008: Marguerite Nudd (MNU) asked if Mik Norman (MNO) had been able to progress the 'voice for older people' and BJOS confirmed that it was still on the programme to be done.

4. Updates

4.1 Partnership Boards

Housing: Carole Damper (CD) reported that at the last meeting there had been a big discussion around tall buildings, flood plain levies and the effects of the credit crunch on local authorities and housing associations. Jan Dod (JD) added that, as a 'hot topic', the issue of the Salvation Army's furniture store was raised and would be discussed at the meeting of the Housing PB to be held that afternoon. It was possible that the furniture store could be set up as a social enterprise but AC thought this unlikely. Brian Miller (BM) said that PC tenants who fall behind with their rent also face hardship and homelessness. It was important that they should attend court and be properly represented so that they had some chance of retaining their homes. Resources to help were available and needed to be promoted. This could be done by an article in Community Focus, as a topic for a briefing in 2009 and by Home-Start volunteers spreading the word to their clients.

ACTION: BJOS to include article on the work of the Help Desk in Community Focus

Community Involvement: Nick Ralph (NR) said that items covered at the last meeting included the Youth Parliament, Cops and ABG. NR had now stepped down as Chair and had been replaced by Ian Piper (IP) with Ady Clee (AC) as Vice-Chair. It was suggested that this PB's next step would be to work out its relationship with PCCS.

Health & Social Wellbeing: TM reported that the previous week's meeting had been cancelled as so many people were unable to attend. It had been intended to announce that Portsmouth had been successful in its Healthy Towns bid which would bring £3.2m over three years to Portsmouth (£6m with matched funding). Whilst it was good that Portsmouth had been successful in its bid it did reflect the city's bad health statistics.

Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership Executive and Safer Portsmouth Partnership: Electronic reports had been received from Charlie Adie and are attached to these minutes.

4.2 CYP Alliance

The Alliance was progressing strongly and BJOS had produced its first Annual Report. Emma Corina, YMCA, was interested in the vacancy on the C&YP Strategic Partnership Executive. There would be an annual round up and update of events and briefings on 2 December at the Discovery Centre.

4.3 Compact Group

As MNo was off sick, BJOS passed on his report. The recent meeting had gone well and, while not attended by huge numbers, the feedback had been excellent. Two new people had been recruited for the Compact Working Group and a Compact Champion with the likelihood of more. Results of the workshop will be disseminated shortly. The overall feeling was one of Compact regeneration in Portsmouth and, between now and Compact Week, November 2009, the group would endeavour to ensure the Compact is at the table of all partnerships and networks, promote a sign-up campaign by individual VCOs and re-promote Compact Champions. Codes of Practice would also be reviewed. The mood of the Compact event was very positive and, in the light of new partnership working, procurement and commissioning, and the Community Engagement agenda, extremely important.

Providers Network

The next meeting would take place on 4 December at the Discovery Centre, following the PCN Conference – further details to follow.

4.4 LSP

IP reported that there had been consultation around the revised LSP Executive and the new structure was approved; the first meeting in its new format would be on 1 December. AC was pleased that it had been possible to protect and strengthen VCS representation on LSP. Chairs of Partnership Boards were not yet in place and a date had not yet been set for this. There were some concerns generally as to how information would be passed up and down the chain and, in particular, that the Transport and Environment PB was currently in abeyance so there was not conduit for issues to be raised.

Action: BJOS to map views expressed by the VCS in consultation against the eventual shape of the LSP to show the impact we have had.

4.5 LAA and ABG

IP reported that proposals and cuts had been discussed at a meeting the previous Thursday along with schemes to utilise any savings. Funding for PCN had been approved for recommendation to PCC for the next year and earmarked for the following years.

NR said that a place for a second representative from VCS had been hard fought for and therefore important to fill the vacancy now that he had left. IP felt that this needed to be filled by someone with a broad understanding of what was happening in the city and who would be comfortable in that environment. TM said that, whilst recognising that it was important the Network should deliver, it had been a challenge to resource meetings. However, he would personally have more time available from January to work with PCCS on PCN matters.

5. **Community Network Activities**

5.1 Co-ordinator's Update

BJOS had circulated her update with the minutes and wanted to acknowledge June Hancox's (JH) help which had enabled her to achieve much more.

5.2 Annual Report

This would be ready in time for the PCN Conference on 4 December.

6. **Community Network Conference, 4 December 2008**

TM ran through the draft agenda which needed members' approval especially around elections and representation. BJOS asked that members let her have examples of the impact being a representative had had so that they could be incorporated into the Annual Report. Clare Hilder, GOSE, will be the guest speaker and so provide an opportunity to look outwardly rather than just at Portsmouth. It was important to get the system of elections and representation right and in place for the Conference so BJOS ran through the proposed process for comments. A suggested deadline for self nominations to be received was 5 January and an Election sub group would look at these on 12 January after BJOS and JH had checked through them. It was agreed that this sub group should comprise IP, TM and an independent scrutineer, perhaps Marion Dawson from The Partnership. The sub group would look at suitability of nominees and, if voting was required, there should be one vote per organisation rather than proportional representation. Successful applicants would become members of PCN Executive and there would be an induction programme for them in March. Mandy Lindley (ML) reminded PCN of the need to be Compact compliant.

Discussion followed on the Conference agenda and suggestions made to make the event more fun so that people attending could engage better and everyone could participate. IP said that BJOS would appreciate any help offered.

7. The Route

Carl Leroy-Smith, an architect, gave a Powerpoint presentation on the details of The Route project which started in January 2008, and copies are available by contacting BJOS. Main points included:

- Premier Waterfront City and what this meant –How does Portsmouth compare to other waterfront cities and what makes us special?
- Density of population – currently around 197,000 – density doesn't always mean poor quality of life
- Getting about the city – need to look at different ways to move around eg cycling and walking. Portsmouth could be similar to Venice but instead have dry canals and, to this end, The Route would start at Castle Road, Southsea, and end at Alexandra Park, Stamshaw, and would, therefore, encompass many points of cultural interest.
- The Route would be opened at a one day event in April 2009 – buckets of water would be passed from person to person along The Route – volunteers are being sought to support the planned opening event.

TM thanked Carl for his presentation and BJOS proposed that she put some time and effort into helping Carl. **Agreed**

8. Any Other Business

BJOS : Highlighted a vacancy for a Local Involvement Network Officer
Posters for the Network Conference on 4 December 2008
Engaging the Community Event, 22 November at John Pounds Centre
The new Chair of PCCS – George Brown (Red Cross)

SM: Play Survey out through MORI

Bid in for Portsmouth to be an Active Citizenship Pathfinder

ML: Bid in for a fee for full time volunteers at PCC

NR: A second representative needed for LAA meetings.

JD: Asked where concerns re transport should be directed now that the Environment and Transport PB had ceased to exist.

ACTION: BJOS to ask Matt Gummerson

MN: Would be away for LSP, pre-LSP and AGM, therefore representative needed for LSP.

ACTION: BJOS to arrange representation

TM: On behalf of the Network, TM gave heartfelt thanks to Stephen Morgan for all his support, he would be greatly missed and the Network wished him well in his new post.

9. Date of Next Meeting: 23 February 2009, 12 noon – 2 pm

10. There being no further business the meeting closed at 2.15 pm.

