

PORTSMOUTH COMMUNITY NETWORK

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 25 FEBRUARY 2008

Present:

Tom Morton	Chair
Charles Burns	Central Southsea Neighbourhood Forum
Ady Clee	Salvation Army
Marie Costa	African Women's Forum
Jan Dod	PATCH
Katherine Marsden-Broad	PUEF
Tony McCarthy	Refugee Action
Brian Miller	PAG99Ltd/Portsea Board
Marguerite Nudd	U3A
Ian Piper	PCCS

In attendance:

Barbara O'Sullivan	PCCS
June Hancox	PCCS (Minutes)
Stephen Morgan	Portsmouth City Council
Matt Gummerson	Portsmouth City Council
Lynda Jones	LINK
Mary Vallely	LINK

1. **Apologies:** Charlie Adie, Ken Dobson, David Horne, Geoff Phillpotts, Nick Ralph
2. **Welcome:** Tom Morton (TM) welcomed members who introduced themselves to Marie Costa (MC) who was attending for the first time in a while and didn't know some of the newer members.
3. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 January 2008**

TM thanked June Hancox (JH) for the quality of the minutes and for faithfully capturing the discussions at this meeting. The minutes were approved with the following amendments:

Page 1: Ian Piper's name should be included with those who gave apologies.

Minute 8: The quorum required for the Health & Social Wellbeing Partnership Board was queried.

Page 4. Nick Ralph's update related to the Community Involvement Partnership Board (CIPB), not the LSP.

ACTION: BJOS to check on quorum

4. **Matters Arising from those Minutes**

Minute 5: IP gave the background to the Reorganisation of PCCS (copy of new structure distributed) which had now passed through the consultation period and been agreed by the Board. Four posts had been made redundant and, of these, it was hoped to redeploy

two members of staff whilst the remaining two, Tony Brown and Shelley Price, would be leaving PCCS. Advertisements for the posts of Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive and Finance Officer had been placed, closing date 6 March and interviews for all three in March – CEO on 19 March. Jan Dod (JD) requested that feedback from the CEO interviews be more formally collated than the last time the post was interviewed for.

ACTION: BJOS to forward comments

Minute 6: TM queried whether the re-energising of PCN could be linked with PCCS' reorganisation. IP felt that, with a new management team in place and a heavy agenda to re-engage with partners, it was possible PCCS would opt for a revamped AGM in September and, so this would leave the way clear for PCN to proceed with its own conference but with PCCS support. The Haven was suggested as a possible venue and it was agreed that a new "hook" was needed to attract people to the event and a strong theme such as Social Cohesion was suggested. People must feel they will benefit by attending. Finally, it was agreed that a Working Group would be set up with the aim of holding a conference in the summer before the main holidays began. Tony McCarthy volunteered to be part of it.

ACTION: BJOS to convene meeting of Working Group

5. LINKs (Local Involvement Networks) Presentation: Lynda Jones (LJ) and Mary Vallely (MV), LINKs Development Officers

MV and LJ were working from January to April to raise awareness of the LINK; Patient Forums would come to an end on 31 Mar and be replaced by LINKs. They will aim to ensure true representation. They awaited guidance from Government but meanwhile were mapping the engagement activity across the city and looking at how to shape transitional arrangements. Events would be held to disseminate information and provide consultation including The Haven on 17 March and six workshops but welcomed information on groups they could contact. Suggestions included U3A, Refugee Action Group, Older Citizens' Panel (contact Claire Pond at Finchdean) and Faith Groups (contact Taki Jaffer). MC requested that contacted groups be provided with feedback so that they would not be put off participating again and LJ confirmed that copies of the final report would be sent to participants. MC also requested that any paperwork be sent as hard copy to those who weren't on email and BJOS agreed to survey members' needs. A discussion took place on ensuring the new LINK did not duplicate existing mechanisms for community engagement.

ACTION: BJOS to survey members' needs re paperwork

(Matt Gummerson joined the meeting at this point)

IP confirmed that PCCS/PHA/PRENO had made a joint expression of interest to host LINKs.

6. Updates – Partnership Meetings:

Partnership Representatives

BJOS asked for ratification of the following new representatives on Partnership Boards:

Katherine Marsden-Broad – Education and Lifelong Learning
Sandra Magnus and Lynne Rigby – Health and Social Wellbeing

The proposal was agreed with no objections but with the emphasis that they must represent the sector, not just their own group. It was noted that neither Sandra Magnus nor Lynne Rigby were at today's meeting and it was agreed they would receive a letter of expectation that they would report back to PCN meetings. Such feedback received by BJOS prior to the meeting would cut down meeting time. MN requested a list of all those who served on Partnership Boards.

ACTION: BJOS to send letters of expectation to Partnership Board representatives.
ACTION: BJOS to send list to MN.

Community Involvement

The results of the MORI survey were discussed. The survey was based on the 2001 Census; however the make up of Portsmouth had changed considerably since then and this needed to be reflected. Adrian Clee (AC) was surprised to hear that volunteering numbers had reduced as the Salvation Army had plenty of volunteers and BJOS said she would liaise with Mandy Lindley (ML) on the matter.

ACTION: BJOS to liaise with ML re volunteering numbers.

Safer Portsmouth

CB was particularly pleased that the three Councillors who attended regularly wore other hats e.g. Police Authority, Fire & Rescue. Issues discussed included the pedestrianisation of Guildhall Walk which PCC was committed to because of the Alcohol Strategy. CB was confident that progress would be made now that PCC had a new Chief Executive and there was a new Police Inspector, (Inspector Peacock), in post. There were, however, issues to resolve eg disabled access, taxis, Lord Mayor's car.

CB also reported that the Police faced a 20% year on year cut which would have financial ramifications.

There had been discussion on an exit strategy for the '101' service but CB felt there needed to be more energy put into making it work.

The Police were concerned about targets as, although Portsmouth was doing very well, it was getting lost in the numbers for Hampshire and therefore the true picture wasn't reaching the Home Office.

PCC's Chief Executive mentioned getting a representative from the Students' Union to sit on the Board. BJOS would approach the Union to invite a representative to join PCN.

ACTION: BJOS to contact Students' Union

Other Updates –

Children and Young People's Alliance

KMB had stepped down as Chair and would share Vice Chair with Richard Soutar until a new chairman was appointed. The Alliance held a successful fourth briefing recently. PCC had advised the Alliance that £20k was available to it for training purposes.

Compact Group & Providers' Network

Both had recently met for the first time after a long gap. A Compact Workshop had been held the previous Friday and agreed to set up a small short-lived voluntary sector group. Around 20 -30 people had attended the Providers' meeting at which there were a number

of presentations. IP would meet with ML to discuss how to get the group going in a meaningful role

ACTION: IP to meet with ML

BJOS understood that both were formerly sub-groups of PCN and, as such, offered to help support them so as not to lose track again and IP agreed that it was vital to re-connect groups with their grass roots.

Stephen Morgan left the meeting at this point.

7. Community Network Activities

BJOS said that the Representation Questionnaire had gone out the previous week and asked members to disregard the deadline and feed back to her. PRENO were holding an event 'Taking your place at the table' on 11 March, 4 – 6.30 pm and BJOS would send out invitations to an event at the Civic Offices which would explain LSP and present an opportunity to register interest. It was hoped to make this a regular event – yearly or half yearly - and BJOS requested that members advise her of anyone who might be interested.

8. Consultation on High Level Outcomes for Vision of Portsmouth

Information had been circulated prior to the meeting and Matt Gummerson (MG) confirmed that the front page with its strapline had been agreed in January. The outcomes for the next ten years were set out in the draft document and the final version would include photographs and graphics. MG had already received some comments and welcomed further comments which he would take to LSP the following week. To this end, members had discussion in pairs and BJOS captured the feedback on a flipchart and would forward to MG and members when written up.

ACTION: BJOS to forward feedback to MG and members

9. Any Other Business

CB distributed a leaflet regarding Involve and a website (www.peopleandparticipation.net) which offers practical help and advice on community engagement.

TMc said that this was likely to be the last meeting he attended as his Community Development post had ended although Refugee Action would continue. TM thanked him for his service to PCN and said TMc would be welcome to attend in a different guise if that were to be possible.

10. Date of Next Meetings: 28 April and 14 July 2008

11. There being no further business the meeting closed at 2.10 pm.