



PORTSMOUTH COMMUNITY NETWORK

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15 JUNE 2009

Present:

Tom Morton
Charlie Adie
Charles Burns
Terry Carter
Ady Clee
Marie Costa
Carole Damper
Jan Dod
Sally Hiscock
Tim Houghton
Geoff Phillpotts
Ian Piper
Nick Ralph

Chair
Motiv8
Central Southsea Neighbourhood Forum
Fratton Neighbourhood Forum
Salvation Army
African Women's Forum
EC Roberts Centre
Patch Ltd
Brighton & Hove Com & Vol Sector Forum
Groundwork Solent
First Wessex Housing (PHA)
Community First for Portsmouth
Diocese of Portsmouth

In attendance:

Matt Gummerson
Barbara O'Sullivan
June Hancox

PCC
Community First for Portsmouth
Community First for Portsmouth (Minutes)

Apologies: Karina Christiansen, Ken Dobson, Mandy Lindley, Brian Miller, Mik Norman, Marguerite Nudd

1. Welcome

Tom Morton (TM) welcomed members and extended a special welcome to Sally Hiscock (SH), Chief Executive of Brighton & Hove Community and Voluntary Sector Forum, with whom he and Barbara O'Sullivan (BJOS) had a very interesting meeting immediately prior to PCN. All introduced themselves to SH.

The agenda was rescheduled as some members had to leave early to keep other meetings but these minutes reflect the original agenda for clarity.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 April 2009

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 April 2009 were agreed with the following amendment:

Page 1, list of attendees: African Women's Association should read African Women's Forum.

3. **Matters arising from those Minutes**

Page 2, third paragraph: TM said that Ken Dobson (KD) remained unwell and it was agreed that BJOS would write to KD to regarding the reallocation of his place on the Economic Wellbeing Partnership Board.

ACTION: BJOS to write to KD

Page 2, sixth paragraph: It was confirmed that Ady Clee (AC) would be the LAA Board representative on the Providers Group.

Page 2, last paragraph: Nick Ralph (NR) reported that Rachael Dalby had formed a new group to include Taki Jaffer (TJ) and himself and there was no longer a need to write the letter as this was considered to be work in progress.

Page 4, minute 5.1, first paragraph: Action point re 'declaration of interest' to be repeated.

ACTION: Matt Gummerson (MG) and Marguerite Nudd (MN) to take this to LSP

Page 4, minute 5.1, fifth paragraph, first action point: TM apologised that he hadn't circulated the slides of the new GP led Health Centre; however, he was able to confirm that Dr Charles Lewis would be speaking about the Centre, which would open on 1 August, at the next PCN meeting and BJOS added that Dr Lewis would also give a presentation at the Networking Lunch on 25 June and all were welcome to attend.

Page 5, first paragraph: Matt Gummerson (MG) provided a paper on the LSP restructure. There was an issue around the Culture Partnership Board not having yet held its first meeting and MG would take this to next week's LSP meeting.

ACTION: MG to take the issue of delay of the Culture PB to hold its first meeting to LSP on 22 June

Carole Damper (CD) added that the Chair of the Housing Partnership Board experienced difficulty in feeding into LSP. Hazel Warwick had asked to present on Housing at the next LSP and PCN members would advocate for her continued attendance. Additionally, BJOS reported that, with regard to the Safer Portsmouth Partnership Board (SPP), there had been a difference between the Partnership's Terms of Reference and the PCN's agreed procedures for the recruitment of new reps. This meant that Karina Christiansen (KC) had not yet been welcome to the SPP. Work is ongoing to resolve this issue.

ACTION: TM to respond to David Williams letter re:SPP

Page 5, minute 5.2: The new Chair of the CYPA was confirmed as Louise Boyle, Home-Start, and its previous Chair, Charlie Adie (CA), would remain a member of the Steering Group.

Page 7, minute 7: Terry Carter (TC), BJOS and Jock McLeesh had met and discussed issues around the LINK – minutes of the LINK Publicity Group would be sent to BJOS.

4. **Representatives' Updates**

4.1 Partnership Boards

Completed Representative Feedback and Communication forms had been circulated prior to the meeting and additional information was provided as follows:

Safer Portsmouth, 21 May 2009
 Economic Wellbeing, 20 May 2009
 Evening and Late Night Economy, 3 June 2009
 Community Involvement, 10 June 2009:

Housing Partnership, 18 May 2009: It was felt that the Somerstown Area Action Plan did not address a lot of the issues Somerstown had; it was very reliant on money from the PFI bid so some of the planned changes may not happen. In light of the Northern Quarter plans being delayed, care must be taken to feedback when expectations are raised and then cannot be met. BJOS felt that this wasn't a satisfactory outcome for residents and wondered if the Network could provide them with more help.

Children's Trust Board, 2 June 2009: CA mentioned that Margaret Geary had chaired this meeting as Lynda Fisher had now left PCC. The new Director of Children's Services would help shape the future of the Board when he took up his post in September. Future governance arrangements are challenging to all partners as we look at how to implement Section 10 arrangements locally. CD advised putting ourselves forward as a critical friend rather than by having the statutory right to be at the table. Issues over conflict of interest needed to be resolved (see also item 3 above ref Page 4 minute 5.1). Matt Gummerson (MG) will draft guidance for the LSP and will consult the PCN before finalising them. Nick Ralph (NR) asked that LSP representatives keep this issue to the forefront.

BJOS thanked representatives for their efficiency in completing Feedback forms and requested that, as only one report per meeting was required, they should decide who should complete the form in cases where more than one representative was in attendance.

5. **Brighton Voluntary Sector Forum**

Sally Hiscock, Chief Executive of Brighton Voluntary Sector Forum, introduced herself and described how the Forum worked. "Taking Account", an audit completed last year, revealed around 1600 voluntary and community sector groups in Brighton. Representation on the Forum had grown in recent years to 70 elected representatives on 30+ partnerships. Elections were held every two years and representatives' organisations received £20 hour for attendance at partnership meetings. This payment acted as a leverage to get feedback forms returned and also enabled smaller organisations to participate. Policies and procedures around representation were in

place along with a representatives' manual and role description. Themed meetings and consultations helped to develop position papers which inform the views Reps express at partnerships. Although a Compact was also in place it needed to be refreshed – it was regarded as an awareness raising tool of how partnerships should work. The Forum showcased stories to demonstrate how representatives' expertise had had an impact. Sally recognised that this was very much a journey and there was a need to reach out to the wider sector to get broader representation – some partnerships and representations were working very well. There needed to be clarity about why representation was invited and the Forum was trying to work more with elected members.

Charlie Adie (CA) asked if the organisations involved were Brighton based or national and Sally confirmed that they were mainly Brighton based. She added that she thought Brighton were behind Portsmouth in terms of commissioning.
CA and MG left the meeting at this point.

Marie Costa (MC) asked where smaller groups fitted in as it was currently difficult for ethnic groups to attend meetings. BJOS said that the issue of strengthening the voice of ethnic groups would form part of the project on Strengthening the Voice of the Third Sector in Portsmouth.

CD was conscious that the same people were around the table five years on from the setting up of the Portsmouth Community Network and SH commented that elections gave the opportunity for turnover but there was still a natural tendency for certain people to come to the fore.

NR asked about funding sources and SH said these included the University and ABG.

TM thanked SH for her presentation.

6. **Community Network Activities**

BJOS went over the report which had been circulated prior to the meeting. Key points included:

- Children and Young People's Alliance were recruiting an Alliance Co-ordinator, interviews to take place on 17 July. The post will be funded for three years and the post_holder will work with BJOS and June Hancox (JH)
- Networking Lunch on 25 June at the Haven
- Second meeting of the Older People's Group on 30 June at CFfP

Ian Piper (IP) also mentioned the 'Celebrating the Third Sector' event/CFfP's AGM on 22 September – more information to follow.

Re 'Strengthening the Voice of the Third Sector', BJOS was aware that PCN was not reaching a lot of organisations and had scope for the development of broader community engagement. BJOS would be working on a consultation programme over the next six months in order to extend opportunities and invited comments along with

information around the resources which could be offered eg community researchers, free resources – any ideas would be welcomed. Key phases had been identified and deliberately overlapped. Full interviews with key stakeholders would take place in order to tease out what would be needed to bring a broader range of organisations to the table.

Members were mindful that care should be taken to not raise expectations which couldn't be met as it was unlikely there would be extra money available; however, ideas such as low cost, no cost solutions and engaging those partners not yet on board were suggested. TM asked for approval to proceed with the work plan and see where it took the Network and all agreed. TM thanked BJOS for her hard work in producing the work plan.

7. **'Flu' Pandemic Planning Update**

IP said that Level 6 had now been declared and a 26-page guidance document had been sent out to Third Sector organisations. IP would be attending a meeting to ascertain what the Third Sector could realistically offer, this being of a different nature to other emergencies. Confused messages were going around so it was important to clarify the situation. CD commented that the Third Sector couldn't simply shut down as its raison d'être was to serve those in our society who are most vulnerable. NR felt the voluntary sector would be asked to carry out tasks such as collecting prescriptions. He sat on the Excess Deaths Group which dealt with big issues such as the necessity to carry out funerals within 48 hours. TM requested that NR send any relevant information to IP.

ACTION: NR to send relevant 'flu' pandemic information to IP

8. **Any Other Business**

IP: The new Queen Alexandra Hospital opened today and maps were available. There was also an event on 2 July to showcase Asset Transfer at the John Pounds Centre.

BJOS: TRACs training news. Also conference entitled: the UniverCITIES Shaping of the City 23/24 July. The cost would be £130 for two days and BJOS was trying to get a subsidy from LSP to enable Third Sector delegates to attend.

Update: Tim Houghton negotiated a £50 fee for VCS organisations.

9. **Dates of Meetings: 7 September 2009 and 23 November 2009 – both meetings from 12 noon – 2 pm. Venue: Community First for Portsmouth.**

10. There being no further business the meeting closed at 2 pm.