



PORTSMOUTH COMMUNITY NETWORK

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20 APRIL 2009

Present:

Tom Morton	Chair
Charles Burns	Central Southsea Neighbourhood Forum
Terry Carter	Fratton Neighbourhood Forum
Ady Clee	Salvation Army
Marie Costa	African Women's Forum
Carole Damper	EC Roberts Centre
Jan Dod	Patch Ltd
Tim Houghton	Groundwork Solent
Brian Miller	Portsea Action Group 99 Ltd
Mik Norman	Community First for Portsmouth
Marguerite Nudd	U3A
Geoff Phillpotts	Portsmouth Housing Association
Ian Piper	Community First for Portsmouth
Azizur Rahman	Bangladeshi Welfare Association
Nick Ralph	Diocese of Portsmouth

In attendance:

Matt Gummerson	PCC
Mandy Lindley	PCC
Barbara O'Sullivan	Community First for Portsmouth
June Hancox	Community First for Portsmouth (Minutes)

Apologies: Charlie Adie, Karina Christiansen, Ken Dobson

1. Welcome

Tom Morton (TM) welcomed members and extended a special welcome to Azizur Rahman who was attending for the first time and who had asked to be addressed as 'Rahman'. All introduced themselves to Rahman.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 23 February 2009

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 February 2009 were agreed with the following amendment:

Page 4, minute 5: 'Pam White' should read 'Pam Grant'.

3. Matters arising from those Minutes

Page 1, minute 1: BJOS confirmed she had sent Ken Dobson (KD) a card conveying best wishes on behalf of PCN and TM would telephone.

Page 2, minute 3, action point: BJOS confirmed that she planned to include the mapping of views expressed by the VCS in consultation against the eventual shape of the LSP to show the impact it has had as part of the Annual Report – a job which was in progress.

Page 2, minute 4: Barbara O’Sullivan (BJOS) confirmed that nomination statements had been requested from Partnership Board representatives so that they could be posted on the website but some were still awaited. If a statement is not received this will be recorded on the website next to the person’s name. BJOS would ask KD if, in the circumstances, he wished to continue as a representative. Representatives didn’t have deputies but there were other representative attending the same Partnership Board.

ACTION: BJOS to ask KD if he wished to continue as a PB rep
ACTION: Anyone who has not submitted a nomination statement please do so!

Page 3, minute 4: Fiona Mabbott has been asked for a copy of the Third Sector Development Consortium Terms of Reference and these will be circulated shortly.

Page 4, first line: BJOS confirmed that this Action point was ongoing.

Page 4, fourth paragraph: Mik Norman (MNo) would ask the Providers Group to identify an LAA Board representative when they met on 22 April and would report back to PCN.

ACTION: MNo to ask Providers Group to identify an LAA Board representative at meeting on 22 April and report back to PCN

Page 5, first paragraph: BJOS said that Terry Carter (TC) would represent LINK at PCN. As TC is also a PCN representative on the Community Involvement Partnership Board, he would, therefore, be ‘wearing two hats’ and so would clarify who he was representing as necessary.

Page 5, third paragraph: Nick Ralph (NR) pointed out that the Prevention agenda targets mentioned were local targets and went on to update members on the current situation which was giving him some concern. He asked that representatives made every effort to ensure those concerns were kept on the agenda at Safer Portsmouth Partnership even though they had been previously noted. Carole Dampier (CD) suggested and it was agreed that NR and Charles Burns (CB) would draft a letter to be sent from TM directly to the Chair of the Safer Portsmouth Partnership Board, David Williams, to formalize concerns.

ACTIONS: NR and CB to draft letter for TM to send to Chair of Safer Portsmouth Partnership Board

4. **Community Engagement**

TM gave a summary of the meeting held on 11 March attended by himself, Ian Piper (IP), Barbara O’Sullivan (BJOS) on behalf of the PCN, Fiona White, Mandy Lindley and Stewart Agland from PCC, and Pam White from NAVCA.

The key outcome from this meeting was an agreement to review and renew the way the voice of the voluntary and community sector is heard in the city.

Ian Piper (IP) said that funding was always a struggle but was delighted that the Network had received £50k from the Area Based Grant and this bid had been supported by FW along with support from NAVCA. There was a real opportunity to take the work forward by finding ways to engage the 700+ voluntary and community organizations in the running of the city.

Following discussion, it was agreed that there was a need to find out what these organizations wanted for the city and this should involve some suggestions from the Network. It was also recognized that there were some communities for whom networking didn’t come automatically so PCN would need to be smart in finding ways to gather their input. CD felt that the Network had made a great step forward but was concerned that it tried to do too much in one year. She agreed that organizations be asked what they wanted but felt the Network should focus on a couple of targets in a year and do them very well. CD suggested that these organizations have a named Community Network member to collect views and bring them to the Network table. TM thought this was a really helpful suggestion and BJOS pledged the support of herself and June Hancox (JH) and explained that she and JJH could help with the logistics of communicating with organizations from the sector.

Timeframe: BJOS would aim for having a plan for the way forward prepared by December and this could be launched at the PCN Conference with key dates leading up to this. There would be consultation with interested groups eg the newly formed Older People’s Group which had recently held its first very successful meeting. The development of another two or three interest groups would be good. It would also be good to get non-Third Sector involvement eg Police, PCT, along with independent support to show impartiality for the change process.

Tim Houghton arrived at this point.

Discussion continued and it was acknowledged that the Network had much to celebrate and be proud of. Mandy Lindley (ML) said that BJOS should be credited with much of this achievement and this sentiment was echoed by TM. CB also thanked ML for her input. Summing up, TM felt that the meeting on 11 March had been constructive and produced outcomes. The next meeting in May would again be supported by NAVCA and TM would report back.

TM asked that his thanks to IP for the support given to the Network be recorded.

ACTION: TM to report back following meeting on 21 May

5. **Representatives’ Updates**

5.1 Partnership Boards

Economic Wellbeing: Geoff Phillpotts' (GP) report was circulated. GP went on to say that he regretted Caroline Collings' decision to step down as Chair of the Board. It was important that someone from the business community chair this Partnership Board. It was agreed that the PCN representatives would support Martin Dennison of the Partnership should he choose to stand. CD suggested that using a 'declaration of interest' at every Partnership Board meeting would help to provide clarity and avoid criticism of people with dual interests.

ML said that Portsmouth hadn't been included in those cities benefiting from Third Sector Recession funding or Grass Roots Endowment.

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

Children & Young People: A report had been received from Charlie Adie. MNo added that funding for three years had been agreed for a CYPA Co-ordinator to be based at Community First for Portsmouth (CFFP) and an advert would appear in May. MNo felt this development showed the Alliance had made itself felt strongly.

ACTION: MNo to proceed with recruitment of Alliance Co-ordinator

Safer Portsmouth: CB went over his report and commented that, in general, crime had decreased in Portsmouth but risen in the Guildhall Walk area. TM added that a new GP led Health Centre would open on 1 July in the former Chamber of Commerce building in Guildhall Walk and would make a big difference to that part of the city. Run by Health Care, it would open from 8 am – 8 pm and patients would not need to be registered thus providing a valuable service to many including asylum seekers. The Street Pastors would also relocate to this building. TM would circulate slides for information.

BJOS said that she had had a request for "good news stories" from Rio Caldwell (RC) in the Strategy Unit and suggested using this as its origins were in PCN.

ACTION: TM to circulate slides to Network members

ACTION: MG to pass suggested item to RC

Housing: Jan Dod (JD) said that the CLAC have given specialist advice to 6000 people over the past year with a 98% success of those they have supported over housing repossession. Their specialist advice covers debt, family law, housing, welfare etc. Brian Miller (BM) added that the sale of flats at the upper end of the market continued to be strong in Portsea.

Portsmouth Sustainability Action Group: Tim Houghton (TH) said that Portsmouth's climate change policy had now been published and it was important that it shouldn't be seen solely as a PCC document as there had been wider engagement. He would take any ideas from the Network back to the Group via BJOS.

Cultural Consortium: TC and MG were in agreement that, whilst interesting, the Consortium consultation was only a beginning in establishing a new Partnership Board.

BJOS asked if all Partnership Boards had Terms of Reference and added that it would be helpful to have an update on the implementation of the LSP restructure. CD felt it critical to find a Partnership Board for now defunct Transport given there were only three roads into Portsmouth and JD requested that CFfP hold a copy of any Terms of Reference. ML added that she would be working on refreshing the Compact this year.

ACTION: MG to produce update on LSP restructure

5.2 Children and Young People's Alliance

Charlie Adie will be stepping down as Chair at the next meeting on 27 April. BJOS would announce the name of the Chair once it had been confirmed.

ACTION: BJOS to announce name of new Chair of CYPA when confirmed

5.3 Compact Group

MNo said that the Compact Group had been "in hibernation" during the winter but would be meeting later that day to set the calendar for the year. There would be a number of Compact events around the city along with more Compact Champions. The Local Compact and the Code of Conduct were up for review – the Compact needed to be evident at all meetings as it should underpin the framework of meetings and is a reference point. It should be seen as a beneficial tool and not a stick and it was hoped that the Partnership Boards would have Compact by the end of the year.

Providers Network

MNo reported that the Providers Network was going very well and went over the provisional agenda for the meeting to be held on Wednesday 22 April to which all were welcome. ML explained her input to Providers Network which she considered to be a key group. She felt that Compact was particularly relevant to "adjudicate" or "resolve" differences on how the statutory and third sectors worked together.

5.4 LSP

MNu reported that items had included events on business support planned at Portsmouth Football Club and the Royal Marines Museum. The LAA Review was presented but there were problems as some government targets were considered unrealistic. Leader of the Council, Gerald Vernon-Jackson, showed the cuts in the budget from the government. MNo gave a presentation on the Third Sector response to the Economic Downturn.

Ady Clee (AC) commented that, because of a lack of money, the statutory sector was sometimes "dumping" clients on to vcs when statutory provision was cut back.

BJOS said that LSP questionnaires were being circulated to Network members and TM urged response. CD pointed out that Portsmouth didn't have as many wealthy people to contribute to the Grass Roots Endowment as, for example, the IOW.

MNo felt it was a shame that not one penny had gone in as it would have been matched by the government. BJOS added that it would be useful if PCN were to feed back to LSP regarding Grass Roots and the huge increase in volunteering as these had both been themes in MNo's presentation.

ACTION: LSP Reps to raise Grass Roots and volunteering at LSP on 22 June

5.5 Local Area Agreement and Area Based Grant

IP reported that these two groups had now amalgamated to become the Local Area Agreement Delivery Board which would focus not only on local area agreements but would also look strategically at how money is put in and spent in an attempt to become more courageous and look at the bigger picture.

6. Community Network Activities

BJOS circulated copies of her report and ran through the list highlighting the recent first meeting of the Older People's Group which had gone well and was enthusiastically attended. Further meetings had been requested and BJOS looked forward to developing this group. MNu congratulated BJOS on her work in setting up this group.

BJOS also mentioned the first bi-monthly Networking Lunch would take place on 30 April at CFfP with a speaker from the Community Contact Point, Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service. She thanked JH for her work in pulling this together along with her input in arranging the Older People's Group meeting. The Networking Lunches would alternate with Portsmouth Information Network (PIN) meetings.

BJOS would meet with Vicky Griffin on Wednesday in order to set up an event in June around Healthy Towns.

BJOS was still looking for a representative to accompany her to Basingstoke on 29 April in order to advise on setting up a Network as Basingstoke liked what had been set up in Portsmouth. (Following the meeting, Jan Dod agreed to accompany BJOS).

Finally, BJOS said that, following today's PCN meeting, there would be a meeting with Clare Wood and MG about the LSP Conference and invited members to join this.

7. Any Other Business

TC: Explained the history behind the setting up of the LINK. Funded by the government, the local Support Officer was hosted at CFfP but his employing organisation's office was based in Melksham, Wiltshire. This had presented problems around governance and support which were still not quite settled. The website was not good and there were lots of issues and problems still to be resolved – much concern was expressed by PCN who had an interest in LINK working properly and TC said he would keep it updated. BJOS added that the two

tenders for LINK from Portsmouth had been unsuccessful and there was a need to learn from this around commissioning.

ACTION: BJOS and TC to meet to discuss the relationship of LINK and PCN

BM: Was pleased to report that the model of the one-stop shop, Portsea Action Point, was being resurrected. Although it had previously been mentioned in government and gained awards it had lost its funding and this had been a real loss to the community.

AC: Office space available at the Haven as the Community Wardens were moving back to the Guildhall at the end of April.

CB: Spoke of a meeting attended by three local MPs to be held on Friday 24 April, 7.30 pm, at the Portland Building, Portsea – CB to send details to BJOS.

ACTION: CB to send details of meeting to BJOS

CB also mentioned that Hampshire Credit Union (formerly Portsmouth Savers Credit Union) had now opened in Southampton.

NR: Was working closely with parishes to make them more sustainable. Also, there would be a meeting of the Interfaith Forum next week.

GP: The Portsmouth Healthy Towns Project's questionnaires would lead to benefits for social enterprises involved in catering in Portsmouth.

CD: Expressed her concern that nothing had been heard about groups under pressure during the current financial downturn even though it was known that a lot of big charities were in trouble.

JD: There was local support for the Foyer to move to St Luke's vicarage although this would result in a reduction of bed space from one hundred plus to fifty plus.

Regeneration of Somerstown – the final stage of consultation would take place at the end of May.

8. **Dates of Meetings: 15 June 2009 and 7 September – both meetings from 12 noon – 2 pm.**

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