



PORTSMOUTH COMMUNITY NETWORK

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7 SEPTEMBER 2009

Present:

Tom Morton	Chair
Charlie Adie	Motiv8
Charles Burns	Central Southsea Neighbourhood Forum
Terry Carter	Fratton Neighbourhood Forum
Karina Christiansen	You
Marie Costa	African Women's Forum
Carole Damper	EC Roberts Centre
Jan Dod	Patch Ltd
Taki Jaffer	PRENO and Portsmouth Interfaith Forum
Tim Houghton	Groundwork Solent
Marguerite Nudd	U3A
Geoff Phillpotts	First Wessex Housing (PHA)
Ian Piper	Community First for Portsmouth

In attendance:

Matt Gummerson	PCC
Mik Norman	Community First for Portsmouth
Barbara O'Sullivan	Community First for Portsmouth
Jo Eamey	Community First for Portsmouth

Apologies: Tunde Bright-Davies, Ady Clee, Ken Dobson, Mandy Lindley, Brian Miller, Nick Ralph

1. Welcome

Tom Morton (TM) welcomed members and extended a special welcome to Jo Eamey, the new Alliance Co-ordinator who had taken up her post the previous week.

2. Declarations of Interest

Terry Carter (TC) – LINK
Charlie Adie (CA) and Taki Jaffer (TJ) – recipients of ABG

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 June 2009

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 June 2009 were agreed without amendment.

4. Matters arising from those Minutes

All action points had been undertaken and further information as follows.

Page 2, Minute 3: TM had written to Ken Dobson (KD) and had subsequently had a telephone conversation with KD re commitment to PCN and Partnership Boards. KD wished to retain his commitments and therefore he would continue his involvement. TM was delighted at this outcome and it was confirmed that KD's taxi fares would be covered by the Network to facilitate his attendance at meetings. KD sent his best wishes and hoped to attend the next PCN meeting in November.

ACTION: Implement now and review in six months-BJOS

Declaration of Interest – Format: Commended by TM and approved by PCN

Culture Partnership: Matt Gummerson (MG) confirmed the meeting took place in August at which it was recognised that something tangible needed to be put in place by LSP on 30 November 2009. The inclusion of sport in this Partnership was considered important and mention was made of the huge consultation which had taken place in the past and whether it could still be referred to given that some cultural shift had taken place in the city since that consultation.

ACTION: BJOS to contact Steve Bailey re a consultation event around the possibility of a bid for Portsmouth to become a City of Culture

Further discussion identified a need for identification of ownership and responsibility for particular themes. MG agreed to prepare a draft for comment. He would also produce a list of LAA targets along with a breakdown of how the ABG money is spent against targets.

ACTION: MG to prepare a draft re ownership/responsibility and list of LAA targets with a breakdown of spending

5. Representatives' Updates

5.1 Partnership Boards

Completed Representative Feedback and Communication forms for the PBs listed below had been circulated and additional information was provided as follows:

Health & Social Wellbeing – last two meetings cancelled. TM said that a consultant would attend a future meeting on to look at the working of the group.

Children's Trust Board, 14 July 2009

Economic and Wellbeing, 8 July 2009: BJOS circulated copies of the Anti-Poverty Strategy and, although short notice, comments would be welcomed.

Safer Portsmouth – Charles Burns (CB) reported that a recent awayday had dealt with representation on this Board. BJOS added that she had approached Cranstoun Drug Services to develop stronger links.

Community Involvement: Ian Piper (IP) said that this Board aimed to focus on a National Indicator at each meeting. Community Engagement Strategy would be discussed at its next meeting.

Housing, 20 July 2009: Jan Dod (JD) added that Hazel Hine had spoken on sustainability in housing – independent landlords of older properties would be targeted in order to upgrade their homes.

Tim Houghton (TH) mentioned that the Portsmouth Green Fair held the previous Saturday had been well attended. BJOS requested that such events be better publicised

so that information could be disseminated and TH agreed to feed this back to PSAG. KC suggested producing a calendar of events.

ACTION: TH to request better publicity of events

Carole Damper (CD) suggested a record should be kept of how often Partnership Boards actually met and TM noted that this was a well made point which would be recorded and acted upon.

ACTION: BJOS to request to Matt Gummerson that a record be kept of how often Partnership Boards actually met and levels of attendance

CA said that, coming out of the Safer Portsmouth PB, was a strategic assessment. There were concerns about the short timescale for comment and he asked MG to feed this back.

ACTION: MG to feedback concerns at short timescale for comment on strategic assessment

5.2 CYP Alliance: Louise Boyle was the Chair of the Alliance and Jo Eamey its new Co-ordinator. IP proposed a vote of thanks to CA for all his work on the Alliance and this was endorsed by all.

5.2 Compact Group: Mik Norman (MNo) went through the briefing paper which had been distributed and commented that, in the past, Compact had not been widely used or understood locally. In those parts of the country where it was used there was strong evidence of benefits and so it was necessary to promote its use locally by revitalising it. More Compact Champions were needed and promotion would begin on 22 September at CFFP's AGM. Compact wasn't funded in Portsmouth and, indeed, overall community development is under-resourced. The national code was being refreshed and out for consultation at the moment and MNo would wait for feedback before proceeding with the local version. Taki Jaffer (TJ) commented that PRENO had held a full day conference promoting the Compact. He was concerned that the Local Authority wasn't always Compact compliant and sometimes, when challenged, found loopholes. TM said that the Briefing Paper was really helpful and good that the Working Group was there to help them. CD expressed her concerns that while larger organisations could look after themselves, smaller organisations had an important place and care was needed to ensure that their needs were represented. BJOS added that this provision linked in with her work on Strengthening the Voice of the Third Sector.

Providers' Network: MN said that the last two meetings had been well attended and there had been good presentations. It would appear that themed meetings were not wanted. Issues at the next meeting would include personalisation agenda, and meeting costs of social care – there was currently a paper out for consultation and KC wanted to know who was consulting the end users.

MNo left the meeting at this point.

LAA Delivery Board: IP said that the next meeting would look at totality of funding – the bigger picture – instead of focussing on the Area Based Grant. MG said that 'Total Place', when produced, would show where all the money is spent. Big cuts in public spending were expected over the next ten years and feedback of the review would be included on the next LSP agenda. Much discussion followed and BJOS said there was a need to discuss how to strengthen support to IP and AC who sat on this Board, along with informing the smaller organisations of the situation.

KC left the meeting at this point.

CD suggested and it was agreed that a focus meeting should be held to identify six priorities/key issues for reps the following year.

ACTION: A task/focus meeting to be arranged to identify six priorities/key issues for the following year: BJOS

6. **Strengthening the Voice of the Third Sector**

BJOS went over her report which had been distributed and added that she would be meeting with Tunde Bright-Davies re BME. She had asked Geoff Phillpotts (GP) about the possibility of research workers and requested that those present complete the "bean exercise" if they had not already done so. The information the exercise revealed would be collated and produced for the Stakeholders Event on 4 November. BJOS asked if members felt this should be an open meeting or by invitation only and it was agreed this should be an open meeting for the voluntary sector which is followed by a second meeting focussed on statutory authority and Cabinet members, and could include walkabouts.

Marie Costa (MC) expressed her concern that small organisations were over-consulted and under-resourced. It was necessary to make it worth their while to become involved and BJOS agreed citing the recent Training Needs Analysis survey where groups were paid for their time. Unfortunately, this is not always possible.

7. **Community Network Activities**

BJOS circulated her report and invited members to notify her of any issues they would like to discuss with her.

8. **Any Other Business**

TM: The last Annual Report had been well received and he and BJOS would be working on this year's Report. The next PCN meeting on 23 November would need to link in with the PCN Annual Review and elections.

TM: All members of PCN were invited to the Seafarers' Service – contact BJOS if want to attend.

BJOS: Referred to the note from Charles Lewis re progress of Walk in Centre in Guildhall Square.

TC: LINK would be holding a launch during November and flyers would be going out shortly. The Lord Mayor would be attending the event at Paulsgrove Community Centre on 3 November. Further launch events were planned for the Bridge Centre, Gunwharf Quays and Cascades. LINK had the use of an office at CFFP and had recently had a local landline telephone installed so callers no longer had to make contact via Melksham.

JD: The Editor of the News attended a PCN meeting some time ago at which members voiced their objections to the 'We are you' posters as they were not sufficiently diverse. JD was pleased to report that the News were now using a far more acceptable version and asked that a letter be sent to the new Editor congratulating him on the change.

ACTION: BJOS to write to Editor of the News

MC: Asked for an update on the 'Flu' Pandemic and IP would brief MC outside of the meeting.

ACTION: IP to brief MC on 'Flu' Pandemic

MC also mentioned the African and Caribbean Health Awareness Day on 3 October.

IP: Working on 'Flu' Friends' scheme. Britain had come through the first wave and the second wave was expected in the third or fourth week of September. Where the second wave had already hit, the virus had not changed and was not any stronger. The PCT has organised two 'flu' briefings – 10 and 11 September.

IP also mentioned CFfP's AGM on 22 September – all invited.

CA: Requested an update on the Third Sector Consortium.

ACTION: BJOS to update on Third Sector Consortium for PCN

CD: Grass Roots – Portsmouth well behind in the number of applications to this fund - please encourage people to apply. CD also requested help for smaller groups/organisations when the full impact of the recession/cuts take effect.

9. **Date of Next Meeting: 23 November 2009, 12 noon – 3 pm.**
Venue: The Haven, Salvation Army, Lake Road, Portsmouth.

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