



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
PORTSMOUTH COMMUNITY NETWORK
18 SEPTEMBER 2006**

Present:

Martin Affleck	Disability Access Adviser
Jennie Brent	Beneficial Foundation
Tunde Bright-Davies	PRENO
Charles Burns	Central Southsea Neighbourhood Forum
Brenda Cairns	Home-Start Portsmouth
Laura Caton	PCC
Susan Chivers	GOSE
Adrian Clee	Haven Community Project, Salvation Army
Ken Dobson	School Governors Forum and Citizens' Panel
Jan Dod	Patch Ltd
Graham Heaney	PCCS
David Horne	Paulsgrove & Wymering Community Action Board
Delyth Horsley	PCC
Tom Houghton	Groundwork Solent
Jennifer Kelsey	PCCS
Brian Miller	PAG99/Portsea Board
Marguerite Nudd	Chair - PCN, and U3A
Geoff Phillpotts	Portsmouth Housing Association
Isabel Pine	Help in Bereavement
Nick Ralph	PDCSR
Mohammed Riyami	Zanzibar Community
Paula Walker	Patch Ltd and Meridian Trust

In attendance: June Hancox, PCCS (Minutes)

Apologies: Alzheimer's Society, Philip Hudson, Vince Ibbs, Taki Jaffer, Holly Miller, Stephen Morgan, Fiona White

1.0 Introduction and Welcome

Marguerite Nudd (MN) welcomed those present and extended a special welcome to Dr Graham Heaney (GH), Locum Chief Executive at PCCS. This was the first PCN meeting GH had attended so members introduced themselves and gave brief descriptions of their organisations.

2.0 "Hot Topics" and Local Issues

2.1 Draft Local Area Agreement

Laura Caton (LC) said that MN had asked her to give a brief update to members but would be very happy to be interrupted to clarify/explain as need be. LC distributed copies of the Draft Local Area Agreement (LAA) and said that the full draft was available to anyone who wished to view it. LC explained that the LAA was all about delivering better outcomes as the result of better partnership working. The government's template purely focused on data and targets so didn't give the full story. LC appreciated that there was lot of information here and apologised but felt that members would want to be fully informed in order to form an opinion. There were thirty issues in the draft, five of which were cross-cutting. The deadline for submission to GOSE is 8 December, but because of the need to get the LSP and PCC Executive to approve the final draft, in reality it would need to be pretty well completed by the end of October. The LAA would, however, be refreshed annually so providing lots of opportunities to continue to influence it. The PCN is already feeding into this and all ideas are welcomed. LC would support any additional discussions outside of PCN meetings and commented that the LAA would become more exciting at its next stage in the autumn when the cross-cutting themes should get good coverage when further work is done at that time.

LC went on to say that each LAA had to include a statement of how its local voluntary and community sector had been involved and she would welcome comments to make sure that the PCN is happy with the statement. To this end LC would be guided by MN.

Questions were invited and Ken Dobson (KD) asked where LPSA targets fitted in and LC replied that they would be slotted into the most relevant template. Nick Ralph (NR) commented that the measurement for the Community Cohesion Target was a bit thin and would benefit from more resources to improve working together. NR also asked Susan Chivers (SC) what other areas were doing and SC replied that she had

been in touch with LC with some examples. Jan Dod (JD) suggested that evidence should be collected and recorded so that it isn't lost eg a women's group which has been set up for all races. All present agreed that there must be quite a few examples around and, therefore, it was important to decide a method of collection. It was also acknowledged that it would be useful to hold a meeting specifically to discuss Community Cohesion and Jennifer Kelsey (JK) added that, regardless of whether it was measured, there would be a need to improve Community Cohesion. Mohammed Riyami (MR) considered that there was "one way traffic" in the way information was disseminated and JK suggested that this situation could be redressed if the men attending meetings were to pass any information on to their womenfolk. NR didn't feel that it was all one way traffic although he recognised that some did exist and Susan Chivers (SC) pointed out that as there were links to ChangeUp it might be possible to use some of the work already carried out. Tunde Bright-Davies (TBD) said that BME organisations in Portsmouth were not represented at this meeting as they were under-resourced and she had found it frustrating trying to get communities involved. TBD went on to say that she had been disappointed that no reference had been made in the draft BME Code on promotion of services to BME communities in relation to older people. MR hadn't yet seen the draft BME Code and was advised to contact Mandy Lindley at PCC to sight it. TBD invited MR's input to the sub-group and MR responded that he wanted there to be more diverse representation. It was pointed out that the Code was only in draft form at this stage and everyone would have the opportunity to contribute to the final Code.

Paula Walker (PW) expressed her concern that dental care had not been mentioned in the LAA. Currently there was a shortage of both private and NHS dentists and no emergency dental provision - only pain control which had, first, to be approved by London. Whilst accepting that this was a big issue LC said that it wouldn't be addressed through LAA. Other organisations had also flagged it up and work is being carried out to improve the situation.

LC asked if members were ready to support the LAA in general or if they required longer to study it. NR suggested it be agreed in principle so that it could be moved on and all agreed.

Geoff Phillpotts (GP) returned to the suggestion of a Community Cohesion meeting and it was agreed that this should be arranged and invitations be extended beyond PCN. MN invited MR to make suggestions and he said that would be in contact with

JK following discussions at his meeting. TBD also suggested contacting the Multicultural Group for nominees.

2.2 LAA Stakeholder Meeting - Nominations

MN asked for nominations to the LAA Stakeholder Meeting which would take place on 26 September from 1 - 3 pm. Three representatives were required, one for each of the following categories:

- i) Community Boards
- ii) Community organisations
- iii) Voluntary and community sector infrastructure

It was agreed that Brian Miller (BM) would represent the Community Boards and GH would represent the VCS infrastructure. As there were no volunteers from PCN, JK said that she would contact members of the Providers' Group for a representative from community organisations.

2.3 Local Infrastructure Development Plan

JK reported that the Local Infrastructure Development Plan had been submitted on 30 June 2006 and a bid had also gone to Capacity Builders for funding of eg TRACS, community accountancy. Capacity Builders had been inundated with bids but, when a reply is received, decisions would be made on how to spend the money. A Basis Bid had also been submitted, along with one from PRENO, and success would fund training, infrastructure services, book-keeping etc. Other sources of funding would also be explored. JK went on to say that PCCS were nearing completion of their website and this, along with its database and its connection with E-volve, would provide a great deal of information. JK expected both the website and database to be up and running very shortly. Finally, JK said that a meeting of the LIONs group would be arranged soon.

Adrian Clee (AC) left the meeting at this point.

3.0 **LSP Update - LSP Representatives**

3.1 Community Involvement Partnership Board

NR reported that there had been two meetings since PCN last met and Taki Jaffer had been elected Vice Chair. The first meeting had dealt with issues around membership and the revised Terms of Reference, and confirmed that points raised by PCN had been taken on board. There had been a need to clarify its function with respect to that of PCN and NR felt that a balance had been achieved. The second meeting had finalised the Terms of Reference and also included a 'Hot Topics' slot in which participants were permitted just sixty seconds each. By avoiding bureaucracy and too much paperwork the Board hoped to maintain interest. Speakers at future meetings would include Ursula Ward on the future of the Hospital Trust and its bid for Foundation status, and Rob Watt, PCC. The Board had made a promising start and it recognised that it needed to become involved in LAA targets ie volunteering and community cohesion.

Referring to the bid for Foundation status, KD reminded PCN members to return their forms by 13 October. Booklets about the bid were available from local hospitals and KD recommended that members should get involved so that they could influence the services which would be provided. KD clarified that forms returned by PCN members would be considered individual returns rather than an organisation's return. David Horne (DH) pointed out that all seven and a half thousand Hospital staff would be compulsory members unless they opted out so the Hospitals will have no trouble getting adequate numbers.

3.2 Health and Social Wellbeing

KD reported that the LAA document was being pushed forward and he would bring up the issue of dentistry in Portsmouth.

Jennie Brent left the meeting at this point.

3.3 Economic Wellbeing

The redevelopment of Portsmouth North and the remainder of Commercial Road was discussed at the last meeting and a number of issues were raised. The market traders did not want to be moved to the southern end of Commercial Road, dissatisfaction was shown at the proposed re-routing of traffic and traders were challenging PCC with regard to the compulsory purchase of their properties.

The Board had also discussed debt and a debt working group had been attended by the Credit Union along with other organisations.

Jackie Buckley left the meeting at this point.

3.4 Environment and Transport

CB reported that an executive summary of the Transport Plan had been produced and would be distributed to members of PCN. The bus consultation continued prior to the forthcoming bus conference which CB thought would take place on 13 October at which companies would tender for bus services. CB was pleased that the consultations were taking place within the city but was concerned that the regions weren't also being consulted despite the fact that bus operators also provide a service beyond the city limits. KD felt it would be beneficial if PCN were to be involved in the bus consultation and conference and this would enable the Network to have an overview.

A suggestion was made for buses to be able to accommodate bicycles.

Recycling targets for small businesses had fallen flat at the moment and Groundworks Solent were waiting on funding from SEEDA.

NR expressed his concern that £5.6m was earmarked for the redevelopment of Commercial Road but none would go out to the communities in the surrounding areas. NR had written to the developers and they had responded by explaining how the money was acquired and promised to keep NR informed but, unfortunately, NR had not heard anything further. He felt that there were many creative ways in which some of the money could be spent including Buckland Community Centre and PCCS.

At a previous meeting, Brian Miller (BM) had brought up the issue of recycling bins having been removed from high-rise blocks. This was because of contamination by inappropriate items being put into the bins and BM felt that the problem could be resolved by educating residents via leaflets in order that recycling could be improved. Paula Walker (PW) commented that Portsea, where BM lived, must be behind Somerstown as residents of high-rise blocks had been issued with green bags printed with what was suitable for recycling and this bag was taken down to the recycling bins when filled.

3.5 Housing Partnership

BM reported that there had been three main agenda items for the July meeting and had included concern at the lack of progress in the regeneration of Somerstown. The Partnership was currently awaiting a presentation by PCC.

Under the Housing Action 2004, certain properties in multiple occupation have to be licenced. Many landlords had not yet responded and, therefore, their properties should not be let - it is expected that there would be prosecutions.

A lot of properties had been sold under the Right to Buy Act and this had resulted in a shortage of social housing. Five areas of Scotland have been granted permission to stop selling for the next three years in order to increase social housing stock. GH had produced a paper on this issue and commented that legislation would need to be changed and more research needed.

John Butler had resigned as Chair of the Housing Partnership Board.

3.6 Environmental Forum

CB reported that the Forum hadn't liked any of the three options suggested for the Lido. They felt that facilities in the north of Portsmouth were not good and have requested that the Council look at it again.

4.0 **Appointment of PCN representative to replace Nick Ralph on LSP**

NR explained why he needed to step down. MN said that Taki Jaffer had been nominated and asked if there were any other nominations. There were no further nominations and all agreed that Taki be elected. A deputy would also have to be elected.

5.0 **Minutes of the Meeting dated 13 July 2006**

MN explained that the notes and signing in sheet from the meeting dated 13 July 2006 had disappeared and Susan Newcombe (SN) had produced the minutes which were circulated at the meeting from memory! MN gave members time to read the minutes and then asked for amendments:

MR asked that his name be added to those who had given their apologies.
 GP asked that his name be added to those who had attended the meeting.
 PW pointed out that, at that meeting, she represented Patch Ltd and not
 Somerstown Community Board as listed.

All agreed that SN had an excellent recall of the meeting!

6.0 Matters arising from those Minutes

There were no matters arising.

7.0 Future Chairing of Portsmouth Community Network

MN said that she had chaired PCN for two years and would now step down as she had accepted the position of Vice Chair of PCCS. She proposed that Graham Heaney (GH), Acting Chief Executive of PCCS, take over as Chair of the Network and this proposal was seconded by David Horne.

BM asked that a vote of thanks to MN on behalf of members be recorded for all that she had done for the Network. MN thanked members and confirmed that she would remain a member of the Network.

8. Future Agenda Items

MN expressed her concern that the agenda didn't reflect members' concerns and requested that they let JK know any items they wished to go on the agenda.

MN said that a date needed to be set for the next meeting of LSP representatives and their deputies and requested that representatives ensure their deputies attend if they are unable to attend meetings so that the balance of representation is maintained.

KD suggested resurrecting the Delivery Group as he didn't feel enough was achieved at PCN meetings now the sub-groups were no longer feeding into the main meeting.

9. Any other business

INVOLVE Conference

MN mentioned that JK had secured three extra invitations to the INVOLVE Conference to be held on 3 October and interested members were advised to contact JK.

Susan Newcombe's Leaving

MN reminded members that Susan was leaving PCCS at the end of September and JK would co-ordinate the collection.

Community Network Co-ordinator

JK reported that Mary Wishart had been appointed to the post of Community Network Co-ordinator and would take up her duties on 6 November 2006. Mary had been an excellent and very keen candidate who had a good background around funding. Portsmouth born, she currently lived in Leeds and would be taking a small cut in salary to return to Portsmouth.

Social Inclusion Marketing Director

NR reported that a Social Inclusion Marketing Director had been appointed and had originated from New Zealand.

Multicultural Festival

CB had attended the Multicultural Festival which, unfortunately, had suffered bad weather and he didn't feel that it had had its usual "zing".

Portsmouth Local Safeguarding Children Board

Isabel Pine (IP) had attended the meeting on 13 September at which a need for training and advice for the voluntary sector had been identified.

MR requested a list of representatives on Partnership Boards and was reminded that this had been circulated at the back of a previous set of minutes. JK offered to send this list to MR and LC would be able to send the full membership lists.

10. **Dates of Future Meetings -**

Portsmouth Community Network -

Tuesday 14 November, 2006, 12 noon - 2.30 pm, at PCCS

Portsmouth Voluntary & Community Sector Providers' Group -

Thursday 7 December 2006, 12.30 - 3.30 pm, at PCCS

11. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2.35 pm.