

MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 25 OF THE ST ALBANS AND DISTRICT LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BOARD

held in the Council Chamber, District Council Offices, Civic Centre, St Peter's Street, St Albans on Tuesday 18th July 2006 at 7.00pm.

Present:

Derrick Ashley – Councillor and Executive Member for Planning & Partnerships, Hertfordshire County Council;
Gill Freeman – St Albans and District Access Group;
Kevin Tighe – St Albans and District Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership;
Laura Cronshaw – St Albans Council for Voluntary Service (CVS);
Philip Gillmor – St Albans District Chamber of Commerce (Vice-Chairman);
Philip Waters – University of Hertfordshire
Rocco Di Lieto – St Albans Racial Equality Council (SAREC);
Robert Donald – St Albans City & District Council Leader & Portfolio Holder for Community Leadership & Communications;
Stephen James – Rothamsted Research;
Theresa Heritage – Councillor, St Albans City & District Council;
Chris White – Councillor, Hertfordshire County Council;

Officers in Attendance:

Claire Andrews – Corporate Policy Officer, St Albans City & District Council;
Daniel Goodwin – Chief Executive, St Albans City & District Council;
Gill Clutterbuck – Community Strategy Officer, Hertfordshire County Council;
Jo Grimes – Corporate Administrator, St Albans City & District Council;
Angela Parry – Corporate Policy Manager, St Albans City & District Council;
Rob Smith – Assistant Director (Environment), Hertfordshire County Council;
Steve Welch – Strategic Director Community Services, St Albans City & District Council.

Observers:

Viv Williamson – Learning Partnership Co-ordinator;
Jo Stephens – Community Development Agency, Hertfordshire;
David Dickson – St Albans & District Access Group;
Allan Witherick – Hertfordshire County Councillor and member of Hertfordshire Police Authority.

Apologies for Absence:

These were received from the following:

Board Members:

John Bennett - St Albans and Harpenden Primary Care Trust (PCT);
Niel Clements – Wheathampstead Parish Councillor, St Albans Association of Local Councils;
Mark Dawe – Oaklands College;
Alison Roome–Gifford/Mark Hunter – Hertfordshire Constabulary.

Officers:

Trish Adley – Strategic Director Corporate Services, St Albans City & District Council;
Dr Joel Bonnet - Director of Public Health, St Albans and Harpenden Primary Care Trust;
Trevor Brennan – Environmental Resources Officer, St Albans City & District Council;
Carlton Lomax – Environment and Health Promotions Manager, St Albans City & District Council;
Christine Roach – Community Support Manager, Community Safety Team, St Albans City and District Council.

1. **INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME**

In opening the meeting, Philip Gillmor welcomed Daniel Goodwin, the new District Council Chief Executive. Philip Gillmor referred to the resignation of the previous Chairman, following the recent District Council annual meeting and the formation of a new Council Cabinet, Councillor Brian Peyton and suggested that a letter be sent on behalf of the Board thanking him for all the work he had undertaken since the inception of the LSP. He stated that Brian Peyton was owed a great debt of gratitude and Gill Freeman referred particularly to Brian Peyton's championing of disabled people in the City and District.

DECISION

That the Corporate Administrator write to Brian Peyton on behalf of all Members, to record their appreciation for all his work as Chairman of the LSP.

2. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the previous meeting of the Board, held on 23 March 2006 were agreed subject to the following amendments:-

- (i) **Minute No 4**
 - Deletion of 'no' in 4th paragraph of this Minute relating to a Local Area Agreement and pertaining to stretch targets for the voluntary sector.
- (ii) **Minute No 6**
 - Deletion of 'County' and substitution with 'District' in the first part of the decision pertaining to the draft Children's and Young People's Plan.
- (iii) **Minute No 7**
 - Development of Community Strategy – Deletion of final sentence prior to decision about a fifth Theme Group. Substitution with 'this would be progressed by the Core Group'.

3. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

Board Members were asked to consider nominations for Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the LSP. Nominations had been sought and the closing date for this was Monday 3 July 2006. One nomination had been received for the post of Chairman for Robert Donald and two had been received for the Vice-Chairman, one of which was after the deadline.

Councillor Robert Donald addressed the Board and made a presentation to Members on his vision for the LSP. He referred to the successes of the LSP over the last 4 years and suggested that past achievements be built upon with fresh vision, greater focus and a new way of working. Copies of his presentation were circulated to Board Members for discussion on the issues raised

DECISION

That Councillor Robert Donald be elected as the Chair of the Local Strategic Partnership Board.

4. **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman referred to receipt of two nominations for this position - Philip Gillmor and Laura Cronshaw. Laura Cronshaw's nomination had been received after the deadline and Board Members were consulted by email on whether this late nomination should be accepted. The responses were that five Members were in favour of acceptance whilst four were against the acceptance of the late nomination. The Chairman set out three options:-

- Non-acceptance of the second nomination.
- Election between the two candidates for the role of Vice-Chairs
- That two Vice-Chairs be elected to serve the Board.

In answer to a question, the Chair stated that the two Vice-Chairs would have different responsibilities on an administrative or practical basis and either could deputise for him in his absence.

DECISION

That Philip Gillmor and Laura Cronshaw be elected as Vice-Chairs to the LSP Board.

5. **UPDATE ON PROGRESS FOR 2007 COMMUNITY STRATEGY**

Claire Andrews reported that the consultation for this had officially closed on 14 July 2006 but that responses were being welcomed until the end of the month. A Priority Day had been held by the Health, Housing & Social Care Theme Group. Others were planned for later in the year. She anticipated that a report on the priorities for the 2007 Community Strategy would be made to the next meeting of the LSP Board.

This report would also consider the Theme Group findings and the future membership and Structure of the LSP and their relationship to the next community strategy. The Chairman asked whether special events were to be scheduled during consultation on the strategy and Claire Andrews responded that these would take place over a three month period to end in January 2007. Gill Freeman raised a question about responding to different deadlines and the Chairman emphasised the need that it was important for all parties to work together towards the next Community Strategy. Daniel Goodwin referred to the importance of training and involvement of voluntary organisations together with Town and Parish Councils. He also made reference to the Local Development Framework (LDF) and the achievement of close partnership working such that the LDF reflected the priorities set out in the Community Strategy.

DECISION

That the report be noted.

6. COMMUNITY STRATEGY PRIORITIES

Green Travel Plan

Philip Waters had passed to the Chair a job description to be advertised for a Transport and Environment Assistant who was to be appointed to deal with Green Travel including the LSP Project. His or her remit included the creation of a Travel Plan for St Albans. The Chair stated that he welcomed the appointment and hoped that car sharing initiatives could be jointly considered together with a possible Park and Ride system based at Hertfordshire University.

Healthy Living

Laura Cronshaw referred to a Priority Day held by the Health, Housing and Social Care Theme Group on 22 June 2006 that had involved themed workshops investigating how best to promote healthy lifestyles. This was going to be taken back to the Partnership Health, Housing and Social Care Theme Group to work out potential priorities to be included in the new Community Strategy.

DECISION

That the reports be noted.

7. UPDATE ON SOPWELL INCLUSION PROJECT

Laura Cronshaw presented a report informing Board Members of the progress made in partnership working in Sopwell Ward. The LSP had previously agreed to develop a pilot project in Sopwell Ward following their consideration of the PCT Public Health Report reviewing the impact of deprivation and child poverty on health inequalities and access to Health Care in a number of wards including Sopwell. As a direct result, an initial partnership meeting had been held in January 2006, from which a Steering Group had been formed that had been meeting to plan the consultation conference held in May.

A total of 33 people had attended the conference in the afternoon, 9 of which were local residents and 22 of whom were from local agencies and community groups. In the evening, a total of 37 people had attended, 24 of whom were local residents. A total of 25 people had signed up to get involved in issues pertaining to health provision, activities for young people and adults as well as improving the environment. Particular concern had been expressed by residents about the lack of bus services to Hatfield, lack of a GP's surgery and access to shopping facilities.

Additionally, local Day Centres had been targeted and the Hertfordshire Children's Trust Partnership had commissioned two localities studies, one of which was to be in Sopwell. Laura Cronshaw emphasised that achieving targets was a long-term process and that resources were needed to improve day to day living in Sopwell. She went on to thank Gill Clutterbuck and Gerry Foster for their help in developing the Sopwell project. Gill Clutterbuck referred to the need for 'quick wins' and stated that Police and Housing Officers present at meetings had taken on board the several concerns from residents that could be dealt with by immediately.

Jo Stephens referred to an example of local campaigning in order to improve bus services that had occurred as part of the Colney Health Parish Plan. The Chair emphasised there was a potential for pooled budgets to be created for the achievement of LSP targets, which mean that District Council resources will need to be used in support of agreed common targets. He suggested that the Sopwell initiative should come forward with larger projects as well as smaller ones for which specific bids for funding could be made.

DECISION

- (i) That the information in the report be noted and that the Board continue to support the work undertaken in Sopwell.
- (ii) That those involved in the Sopwell Project be requested to come back to the Board with specific projects that could be supported.

8. BUTTERFLY WORLD UPDATE

Philip Gillmor reported that the AIB (Allied Irish Bank) was interested in providing a loan to establish the project and that Lafarge was interested in providing concrete for the road and dome construction to the proposed project set in the Gardens of the Rose. Fund raising included a celebrity lecture planned for the Autumn and he reported that the Royal Entomology Society was buying the Manor House to use as their HQ on the site. Additionally, Herts Prosperity (EEDA) had expressed an interest although representatives of Butterfly World had reported difficulties in contacting County Council Officers to discuss the scheme. Philip Gillmor undertook to send out a new brochure about Butterfly World as soon as it was available, to every LSP Member and stated that it was anticipated that construction would commence in the Spring of 2007. Additionally, he believed there to be good local support for the project.

DECISION

That the report be noted.

9. **PCT FUNDING OF COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS**

Laura Cronshaw stated that a meeting had taken place between the District Council and PCT to discuss the withdrawal of funding from Community and Voluntary Groups by the PCT which she attended. At this meeting, concerns were expressed, particularly about the criteria applied to different projects. The shortfall of £70,000 could be as much as £140,000 next year to help compensate for the PCT overspend of £7 million. Laura Cronshaw sought that support from the LSP for working with Gill Clutterbuck to identify ways of compensating for the funding shortfall. The Chair voiced concern that the PCT's partners had no prior knowledge of the funding reduction, particularly as PCT STET Officers had regularly attended the LSP. He was also concerned that further reductions were likely to be made in 2007/08 and he referred to the need to be made aware of the criteria used in making the reductions in funding. He had written to Patricia Hewitt MP, stating that the cuts were unacceptable, particularly in respect of the Grove House Hospice. Laura Cronshaw referred to the funding aimed at keeping people out of hospitals and in shortening waiting lists which had been lost.

DECISION

That the LSP endorse Gill Clutterbuck and Laura Cronshaw working together to seek ways of alleviating the funding shortfall.

(Note: The meeting was adjourned at 8.45pm and resumed at 9.00pm)

10. **ANNUAL UPDATE ON COMMUNITY STRATEGY ACTION PLANS**

Board Members considered the report on the progress made to date on each of the Theme Group Action Plans. It was suggested that Board Members focus on the targets where there had been no significant progress, and that more information would be produced for the next scheduled meeting.

DECISION

That a further report be prepared for the next Board meeting providing more information on the targets where there had been "no significant progress".

11. **CELEBRATING SUCCESS**

Increase in Licensed Drinking Hours and Anti-social Behaviour

Steve Welch reported that, despite the World Cup and recent hot weather, there had not been a noticeable increase in anti social behaviour in the District despite the increased licensing hours. The Chairman also referred to the assistance offered by Taxi Marshalls in containing late night potential anti-social behaviour in the city centre at weekends.

Sopwell Project

Laura Cronshaw referred to the success being achieved in this area.

Travel Plan Co-Ordinator at Hertfordshire University

The Chairman advised the Board that Philip Waters had informed him that this post was due to be filled shortly and he referred to a job description which Philip had indicated could be shared with the Board.

Business Crime Reduction Co-Ordinator

Steve Welch reported that Linda Treasure now held this post which would make an impact in the area of business crime.

Improvement to Russell Avenue / Drovers Way Car Parks

The Chairman referred to the Safer Car Parks Award and the success achieved by NCP in improving safety and security at these car parks.

12. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Police Authority of the LSP Board

Alan Witherick requested that consideration be given to the provision of a place on the Board for a representative from the Police Authority as distinct from the Membership already established for Herts Constabulary. Members were reminded of the need already expressed to restructure the LSP.

Angela Parry

The Chair reported that Angela Parry was to leave the District Council for a new job in Derbyshire County Council. He congratulated her on this appointment and thanked her for her contribution to the Board.

13. **FORWARD PLAN**

The Chair invited Members and officers to consider this document and make amendments appropriately. As a result it was amended by the inclusion of the Children and Young People's Action Plans and Health, Housing and Social Care Action Plans for the Meeting scheduled for September 2006. The Forward Plan from September 2006 – January 2007, as amended at the Meeting is appended to these Minutes as Appendix 1.

14. **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

The Chair asked that suitable dates be found via emailing Board Members to set dates for September and November 2006 and January, March and May 2007.

The meeting ended at 9.26pm.

(Signed)

CHAIRMAN

lsp7

SUGGESTED ITEMS FOR LSP BOARD AGENDAS

SEPTEMBER 2006 – JANUARY 2007

DATE	ISSUE	Description	LEAD CONTACT
Sept 2006	<p>Results of joint consultation on Local Development Framework/Community Strategy</p> <p>Potential Themes and structure for Sustainable Community Strategy</p> <p>2003-7 Community Strategy Action Plans</p> <p>Action Plan for St Albans and District Children and Young People Strategic Partnership</p> <p>Update on Ward Based projects</p> <p>Update on Healthy Living Projects</p> <p>Update on Green Travel Plans</p>	<p>Feedback and discussion on results of consultation with public and theme groups</p> <p>Report and discussion</p> <p>Report on items which have had no significant progress</p> <p>Report</p> <p>Update on progress</p> <p>Update on progress</p> <p>Update on progress</p>	<p>Claire Andrews, SADC</p> <p>Claire Andrews, SADC</p> <p>Claire Andrews, SADC</p> <p>Kevin Tighe, St Albans DCYPSP</p> <p>Laura Cronshaw, CVS</p> <p>John Bennett, PCT</p> <p>Philip Waters, University of Hertfordshire</p>
Nov 2006	<p>Draft Sustainable Community Strategy</p> <p>Update on Ward Based projects</p> <p>Update on Healthy Living Projects</p> <p>Update on Green Travel Plans</p> <p>LSP Annual Event to report on progress with</p>	<p>Presentation of draft strategy to Board</p> <p>Update on progress</p> <p>Update on progress</p> <p>Update on progress</p> <p>Annual Event to be held as stated</p>	<p>Claire Andrews/Angela Parry, SADC</p> <p>Laura Cronshaw, CVS</p> <p>John Bennett, PCT</p> <p>Philip Waters, University of Hertfordshire</p>

	the Community Strategy	in Terms of Reference	Claire Andrews, SADC
Jan 2007	Sustainable Community Strategy Update on Ward Based projects Update on Healthy Living Projects Update on Green Travel Plans	Sign off of final version by Board Update on progress Update on progress Update on progress	Claire Andrews, SADC Laura Cronshaw, CVS John Bennett, PCT Philip Waters, University of Hertfordshire

This is not an exhaustive list of all key issues/decisions that the LSP will undertake but gives an indication of those issues which it is known that the LSP have chosen to consider in the coming period.

Please contact the Corporate Policy Officer at St Albans City and District Council on 01727 819571 or the relevant officers/members for further information. Contact details are listed below.

Chair of the Local Strategic Partnership
St Albans City and District Council
Council Offices, Civic Centre,
St Peter's Street, St Albans AL1 3JE

LSP BOARD MEMBER CONTACT DETAILS

Cllr Niel Clements	Association of Local Councils	01582 833239	Ndclements@hotmail.com
Philip Gillmor	Chamber of Commerce	01727 860281	Penna-press@btconnect.com
Joanna Field	Churches Together	01727 763205	
Rocco di Lieto	St Albans Racial Equality Council (SAREC)	01727 865174	Roccodilieto@aol.com
Laura Cronshaw	Council for Voluntary Service	01727 852657	Laura@cvsstalbans.org.uk
Gill Freeman	St Albans and District Access Group	01727 846481	Tomandgillfreeman@btinternet.com
VACANT	Environment Forum		
Alison Roome-Gifford	Hertfordshire Constabulary	01727 796661	alison.roome-gifford@herts.pnn.police.uk
Cllr Chris White	Hertfordshire County Council	01727 845300	chris.white@hertsc.gov.uk
Cllr Brian Lee	Hertfordshire County Council	01727 826397	brian.lee@hertsc.gov.uk
Cllr Derrick Ashley	Hertfordshire County Council	01462 450892	Derrick.ashley@hertsc.gov.uk
Mark Dawe	Oaklands College	01727 737789	mark.dawe@oaklands.ac.uk
John Bennett	Primary Care Trust Chair	01727 831219	john.bennett@stalbansharp-pct.nhs.uk
Cllr Teresa Heritage	St Albans City and District Council	01582 761014	cldr.t.heritage@stalbans.gov.uk
Cllr Roma Mills	St Albans City and District Council	01727 866084	cldr.r.mills@stalbans.gov.uk
Cllr Robert Donald	St Albans City and District Council	01727 841647	cldr.r.donald@stalbans.gov.uk

Philip Waters	University of Hertfordshire	01707 284033	p.e.waters@herts.ac.uk
Stephen James	Rothamsted Research	01582 763133 (x2440)	stephen.james@bbsrc.ac.uk
Kevin Tighe	Chair, St Albans and District Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership	01727 866100	k.tighe@stalbans.gov.uk
VACANT	Hightown, Praetorian and Churches Housing Association		