

MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 23 OF THE ST ALBANS AND DISTRICT LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BOARD

held at Rothamsted Research Conference Centre, Harpenden on Tuesday 28 February 2006 at 5.45pm.

Present:

Maureen Batley – St Albans and Harpenden PCT (in place of John Bennett);
Niel Clements – Wheathampstead Parish Councillor, St Albans Association of Local Councils;
Laura Cronshaw – St Albans Council for Voluntary Service (CVS);
Rocco Di Lieto – St Albans Racial Equality Council (SAREC);
Robert Donald – Environment Forum;
Joanna Field – Churches Together in St Albans;
Gill Freeman – St Albans and District Access Group;
Philip Gillmor – St Albans District Chamber of Commerce (Vice-Chairman);
Brian Lee – Councillor, Hertfordshire County Council;
Brian Peyton – (Chairman), Councillor, St Albans City and District Council.
Russell Thomas – Councillor, Hertfordshire County Council (in place of Councillor Derrick Ashley);

Officers in Attendance:

Claire Andrews – Corporate Policy Officer, St Albans City and District Council;
Trevor Brennan – Environmental Resources Officer, St Albans City and District Council;
James Brewer – Planning Officer, Local Plans, St Albans City and District Council;
Gill Clutterbuck - Community Strategy Officer, Hertfordshire County Council;
Jo Grimes, Corporate Administrator, St Albans City and District Council;
Carlton Lomax – Environment and Health Promotions Manager, St Albans City and District Council;
Angela Parry – Corporate Policy Manager, St Albans City and District Council;
Steve Welch – Strategic Director, Community Services

Observers:

David Dixon – St Albans and District Access Group;
Allan Witherick, - Councillor, Hertfordshire County Council

Apologies for Absence:

These were received from the following:

Board Members:

John Bennett – St Albans and Harpenden Primary Care Trust;
Lesley Culley - Hightown Praetorian and Churches Housing Association;
Mark Dawe – Oaklands College;
Stephen James – Rothamsted Research;
Alison Roome – Gifford, Hertfordshire Constabulary.
Philip Waters – University of Hertfordshire

Officers:

Patricia Adley – Head of Paid Service and Strategic Director, Corporate Services, St Albans City and District Council;

Christine Roach – Community Support Manager, St Albans City and District Council;

Stuart Walmsley – Hertfordshire Highways;

Des Welton – Head of Enterprise and Development, St Albans City and District Council.

1. **INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME**

The Chairman, Brian Peyton, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Rothamsted Research for providing the venue on this occasion. He reminded everyone that this special meeting had been called to progress the setting of priorities for the new Sustainable Community Strategy. To facilitate this, presentations would be made on information relating to Area Profiles, Neighbourhood Statistics and the MORI residents survey. He emphasised that the LSP must be a partnership of partnerships before requesting Angela Parry to outline how the meeting was to progress.

The proposed outcomes from the meeting were as set out below:

- A review of evidence that will inform the direction of the next Community Strategy (from 2007)
- Identification of indicators and outcomes that the LSP would like to address during the life of the new Strategy
- Development of priorities for the new Community Strategy focusing on desired outcomes

2. **PRESENTATION ON AREA PROFILES, NEIGHBOURHOOD STATISTICS TOGETHER WITH MORI SURVEY RESULTS AND LAA PRIORITIES**

Claire Andrews gave a presentation on information from the Audit Commission Area Profiles and a review of the MORI survey results. She also referred to the Index of Multiple Deprivation and information from the PCT.

Claire Andrews started by setting out the ten quality of life themes arrived at via the Area Profiles which had been developed by the Audit Commission to chart the performance of Local Authority Areas. These were:-

People and place; Community cohesion and involvement; Community safety; Culture and leisure; Economic well-being; Education; Environment; Health; Housing; Transport.

The ten themes outlined showed how the District performed against other Local Authorities in England. The themes were ordered according to whether they were in the best, second best, second worst or worst quartile when compared with other Local Authorities.

Claire Andrews went on to review the Residents' Survey results for 2005 where key issues had been identified in respect of:-

Affordable Housing; Traffic; On Street Parking; Anti Social Behaviour; Housing Development.

Claire Andrews also revisited the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004 highlighting six super output areas (SOAs) which had higher than the Hertfordshire average deprivation figures. These were located in Batchwood, Sopwell (two SOAs), Cunningham, Colney Heath and Park Street. In addition to these, SOAs located in London Colney and St Peters scored fairly highly to the top six.

The PCT Annual Public Health reports for 2003 and 2004 had revealed that overall the population was healthy and prosperous. However, reference was made to the rise in diabetes and the above average obesity levels amongst 5 year olds in the District compared to 2002. The number of people aged over 85 was also predicted to increase.

The Board was reminded that the current LSP priorities were as follows:-

- Green Travel Plans
- Healthy Living
- Ward focused work to tackle deprivation and improve the quality of life

Angela Parry asked those present to consider the information they had received in three groups with particular emphasis on influences over the next ten years in the City and District.

3. **FEEDBACK FROM WORKSHOPS**

GROUP 1

RESULTS OF BRAINSTORMING

- ◆ Environmental impact of external events such as a new hospital, rail freight terminal and airport expansion
- ◆ Traffic congestion – increase in the importance of public transport
- ◆ Road maintenance
- ◆ Affordable housing
- ◆ Threat to Green Belt to accommodate additional housing
- ◆ The importance of Learning for Leisure and life-long learning availability
- ◆ Perceptions of community safety
- ◆ Sustainability issues including the importance of increased recycling and pollution reduction
- ◆ Communications emphasising the importance of posturing realistic expectations and disbanding public apathy
- ◆ Improvement of employment in areas of high deprivation
- ◆ New sustainable strategy to contain fewer targets

GROUP 2

RESULTS OF BRAINSTORMING SESSION

- ◆ Lack of affordable housing – particularly by younger people in ten years time
- ◆ Increase in the number of young people and lack of reference points and changed values/attitudes
- ◆ Health – concerns regarding obesity/diabetes/increase in the aging population
- ◆ Climate change and increased car usage– need for improved public transport and cycling opportunities
- ◆ Community integration – need for social mixing and community centres

GROUP 3

RESULTS OF BRAINSTORMING

- ◆ Green Travel plans
- ◆ Progress in Sopwell Ward
- ◆ Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership
- ◆ Cultural Heritage
- ◆ Batchwood and other SOAs
- ◆ Green initiatives
- ◆ Collaborative bidding
- ◆ Transport for communities
- ◆ Preventative health strategies
- ◆ Positive communications
- ◆ Diversity and representation

4. DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS AND EXTRACTION OF RECURRING PRIORITIES

Angela Parry led a discussion on the common themes referred to by the three groups and asked whether there were any other major issues not included in this discussion so far. Laura Cronshaw reminded the Board of a recent event held by the Children and Young People's Partnership when they had asked that their input be fed into the LSP and the decision making process. Gill Freeman referred to the integration of ethnic groups and Laura Cronshaw made the point that diversity could be celebrated to forward better understanding and to improve communication. Rocco Di Lieto reported that he now represented the new St Albans Racial Equality Council (SAREC), which had one representative from each community on its board and requested that the needs of ethnic minorities be given high priority by the Board. A request was made for fewer priorities in the new Sustainable Community Strategy. The Chairman, Brian Peyton, suggested that the Core Group consider the items establishing approximately 6-7 priorities. Laura Cronshaw commented that the LSP membership may have to change to reflect new priorities. Laura Cronshaw emphasised the need to include young people in the new strategy and stated that the Children and Young People's Partnership had requested one stop shops in schools and better accessibility of venues used by young people. Gill Freeman mentioned cross-cutting themes and the need to include the disability dimension in any considerations.

The common issues discussed by the three groups were as follows:-

- Affordable housing
 - Transport/congestion
 - Green Travel
 - Young people
 - Green issues – recycling and energy efficiency
 - Healthy lifestyles
 - Communication (public perception and access to services)
 - Climate change
 - Integration between groups in society
 - Celebrating diversity
 - Services for older and disabled people
 - Leisure
 - Addressing deprivation (including education)
 - Lifelong learning and learning for leisure
 - Identification of gaps in service delivery
 - Local focus
 - Disability - integrated into all aspects
 - Children and young people's feedback (set out below)
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- Healthy living
 - Staying safe
 - Enjoying and achieving
 - Making a positive contribution
 - Achieving economic well-being

Note: The dates of future meetings and Forward Plan are included for information

- Thursday, 23 March 2006
- Tuesday, 30 May 2006
- Tuesday, 18 July 2006

The meeting ended at 8.30 pm

(Signed)

CHAIRMAN

SUGGESTED ITEMS FOR LSP BOARD AGENDAS

MARCH 2006 - JULY 2006

DATE	ISSUE	Description	LEAD CONTACT
23 March 2006	Climate Change and its relation to the District Update on Ward Based projects Update on Healthy Living Projects Update on Green Travel Plans Children & Young People Plan for Herts Local Area Agreement Feedback on Butterfly world presentation	Report/Presentation Update on progress Update on progress Update on progress Presentation of plan Update on progress Presentation	Trevor Brennan, SADC Laura Cronshaw, CVS John Bennett, PCT Philip Waters, University of Hertfordshire Nicola Paddick, SADC Claire Andrews, SADC Philip Gillmor, Chamber of Commerce
30 May 2006	Update on Ward Based projects Update on Healthy Living Projects Update on Green Travel Plans Annual Update on Community Strategy	Update on progress Update on progress Update on progress Update on action plans	Laura Cronshaw, CVS John Bennett, PCT Philip Waters, University of Hertfordshire Gill Clutterbuck, HCC
18 July 2006	Update on Ward Based projects Update on Healthy Living Projects Update on Green Travel Plans	Update on progress Update on progress Update on progress	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
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LSP BOARD MEMBER CONTACT DETAILS

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