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## Community Planning News Sheet September 2003

**This is the first edition of a regular news sheet aimed to keep you up-to-date on an important area of work affecting the whole Borough.**

### What is community planning?



Rushmoor, like all local authorities, has a duty through the Local Government Act 2000 to "prepare a community strategy for promoting or improving the economic, social and environmental well-being of its area, and to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development in the UK".

"Community planning" is the process by which this strategy will be researched and prepared.

### Where are we?

Rushmoor's "Local Strategic Partnership" has been established and is meeting regularly. It is a partnership of the main stakeholders in the community. It can have a number of roles, but most importantly has a key role in trying to improve quality of life in the Borough. It will achieve this by helping to deliver and monitor the Community Strategy. The Partnership can also

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address issues such as duplication of effort, streamlining bureaucracy and sharing resources.

Extensive consultation and research with the public and with agencies/organisations has identified broad "themes" on which the Strategy will be based:

- Safe and Secure
- Transport Choice and Access
- Healthy and Active
- Planning for Prosperity
- Green and Clean
- Learning and Skills

Six "thematic groups" are being set up comprising people whose organisations possess direct powers or responsibilities in those areas, along with other interested persons/bodies. Their first task will be to explore each of these areas and establish short, medium and long term action plans. Where existing partnerships exist, these are being used as thematic groups to avoid possible duplication.

Among the main tasks over the next few months will be:

- Theme groups to develop action plans (Sept / Dec)
- First draft of the Community Strategy to be prepared for consultation (Sept / Nov)
- Stakeholder conference to be held (Jan 2004)
- Rushmoor's Community Strategy to be finalised (Feb 2004)

In the next few updates, we will be providing more information about the progress of the work and give details about each of the themes. If you require further information, please contact any member of the Council's community planning team.

### **Community planning team**

Councillor Peter Moyle (Deputy Leader of the Council) is the Chairman of Rushmoor's Local Strategic Partnership; Councillor John Marsh (Leader) and Councillor Nigel

Baines (Cabinet Member for Borough Services) are also members. The Council has also set up a Community Strategies Group, which has been established to progress the Council's response to the community planning process.

The profile of community planning will continue to rise over the coming months as the production of the Community Strategy draws nearer. In future it will have a major impact on the Council's priorities. Rushmoor's senior management team is closely monitoring progress and Andrew Lloyd (Chief Executive) is also a member of Rushmoor's Local Strategic Partnership.

A community planning team is now in place to drive the process forward and co-ordinate Rushmoor's contribution to the Community Strategy:

**Andrew Colver** (centre) leads the team and deals with the planning and preparation work for the Rushmoor's Local Strategic Partnership and Rushmoor's Community Strategy.

**Les Murrell** (left) works on the policy and action planning work on community planning and the integration with Rushmoor's local Agenda 21 work.

**Kathy Flatt** (right) provides administrative and research support to the process and co-ordinates the Council's work.

In addition, **Chris Todd** from Strategy and Communications is giving full-time support, particularly in the area of communications.

**Contact Details for the Community Planning Team can be found to the right of this page.**



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