
RUSHMOOR LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP GROUP

Notes of a meeting held on Tuesday, 2nd December, 2003 at the Rushmoor Borough Council Offices at 4.00 pm.

Present:

Rushmoor Borough Council

Councillor John Marsh
Leader

Councillor Peter Moyle (Chairman)
Deputy Leader

Councillor Nigel Baines
Cabinet Member for Borough Services

Mr Andrew Lloyd
Chief Executive

Hampshire County Council

County Councillor David Kirk
Executive Member for Community
Development and Regeneration

a County Councillor Rod Baulk

County Councillor Adrian Collett

Military

Colonel Stephen Oxlade MBE
Garrison Commander

**North East Hampshire Police
Division**

Superintendent Joe Apps

Hampshire Fire Service

Mr Robin Furniss
Fire Inspection Officer

**Blackwater Valley and Hart
Primary Care Trust**

a Ms Debbie Glenn
Chief Executive

a Mr Phil Chapman
Health and Partnerships Manager

Pavilion Housing Association

Mr Mervyn Jones
Chief Executive

Rushmoor Voluntary Services

a Ms Sally Saunderson
Chief Executive

**Farnborough College of
Technology**

Mrs Christine Davis
Principal

Blackwater Valley Enterprise Trust Mr John Mitchell
Chief Executive

North Hampshire Chamber of Commerce and Industry a Ms Barbara Bryant
Chief Executive

Basingstoke Canal Authority Mr Leigh Thornton
Chief Executive

In attendance:

Hampshire County Council Ms Frances Martin
Community Strategy Manager

Mr Terry Rath
County Education Department

Rushmoor Borough Council Mr Andrew Colver
Head of Democratic Services

Mr Les Murrell
Local Agenda 21 Co-ordinator

Ms G Chisnall
Communications Officer

Ms Kathy Flatt
Democratic Support Officer

Apologies for absence had been received from County Councillor Rod Baulk, Ms Debbie Glenn and Mr Phil Chapman (Blackwater Valley and Hart Primary Care Trust), Ms Sally Saunderson (Rushmoor Voluntary Services) and Ms Barbara Bryant (North Hampshire Chamber of Commerce and Industry).

1. **NOTES OF LAST MEETING –**

The notes of the previous meeting held on 22nd October, 2003 were approved.

2. **RUSHMOOR'S CITIZENS' PANEL –**

The Chairman welcomed Miss Alison Bond of ABA Research Limited who was attending the meeting to give a presentation on the work and outcomes of the Rushmoor Citizens' Panel. Miss Bond explained that ABA Research Limited had worked with Rushmoor Borough Council for over three years and had also worked with local authorities in Surrey.

It was noted that, in a 2002 survey, one in five residents had expressed dissatisfaction with the way in which the Borough had developed over the last five years, although around half of the respondents had claimed they were satisfied with what had happened. The Citizens' Panel had been asked why people chose to live in Rushmoor and the response had been that Rushmoor was convenient because of its accessibility to work, schools and the things people did in their lives. In the absence of high quality local shopping and entertainment facilities, local residents tended to go elsewhere outside the Borough and this detracted from the convenience

of living in the area. Research had shown, however, that people would prefer to use local facilities if they had the opportunity to do so. As a result of this research, it was believed that, if the amount of traffic in the Borough increased and the convenience factor started to disappear from residents' lives, then people might not wish to continue to live in the area.

It was felt that there was a need to have something in the Borough that made people want to live in the area. Any initiatives that could be developed to achieve this should be used to bridge the divide that continued to exist between the communities of Aldershot and Farnborough. There appeared to be a lack of awareness and knowledge of what each of the main towns had to offer and this in turn caused resentment and misrepresentation. The Partnership Group would need to develop a vision for the future of the Borough as a whole.

The Partnership Group noted that local residents were knowledgeable and intelligent and their proximity to, and awareness of, what was happening in and around other local districts also meant that they had an expectation of what was not taking place in their own area. An assessment needed to be made of what aspects of the Borough could be targeted and developed as focal points for the area to be used to build a strong and cohesive community. At present, residents appeared to be proud of the Borough's participation and achievements in 'Rushmoor in Bloom' and the steady way in which the Council ran and managed the Borough.

With regard to the different communities in the Borough, the research had established that those living in Aldershot were proud of the heritage of their town and there seemed to be a real sense of civic pride about the place: something which did not exist in Farnborough. It was noted, however, that the perception appeared to be that improvements within Aldershot were most likely to be associated with the influence of the Military authorities. For those who lived in Farnborough, there seemed to be the opinion that there had been much talk about a new town centre but with too little visible action which had left residents feeling that their town had been eclipsed by places such as Camberley and Basingstoke. Farnborough residents seemed to find it difficult to talk about the positives of living in the town and had been more likely to talk about the problems of traffic congestion, local transport problems or streets getting dirtier. It was stressed, however, that the residents of North Camp had been very positive about their area.

According to the outcomes of the Citizens' Panel and focus groups, it appeared that residents wanted to see action, especially when there were abuses of the environment by businesses or residents, all of whom could contribute to quality of life issues in the Borough. Concerns had also been expressed that too many big companies had been allowed into the Borough who then did little to integrate into the community. It was felt that better communication about the benefits that business brought to the Borough, and the asset to the area that such companies were, might help to change opinion.

During discussion, the opinion was expressed that pride could drive a community and that, if enough could be done to increase the feelings of civic pride, that could also drive a thriving community. The Partnership Group could examine the issues raised and include measures within the Community Strategy to attempt to generate civic pride and improve residents' perception of the Borough as a whole.

Mr Mervyn Jones spoke of the results of the tenants' survey which had been recently undertaken by Pavilion Housing Association. It was agreed that a presentation on the outcomes of the tenants' survey should be made to a future meeting.

3. HAMPSHIRE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP –

Ms Frances Martin gave a presentation on draft community strategy for Hampshire – “Hampshire Today, Hampshire Tomorrow” which had been prepared by the Hampshire Strategic Partnership (HSP). The community strategy had been developed as a framework within which the HSP, key partners, stakeholders, district LSPs and the public could work. The document identified a long-term vision and set out how this could be achieved over time within four key themes (“strong and safe communities”, “health and wellbeing”, “economic prosperity and lifelong learning” and “environment, infrastructure and transport”).

The Partnership Group was advised of the principles of the draft strategy, including that the strategy should not duplicate the efforts of the district Local Strategic Partnership (LSPs) but should be complementary and should help facilitate cross-boundary working. Consultation on the draft strategy would be undertaken at various levels during the period 10th November, 2003 to 31st January, 2004. The community would have access to the draft strategy on the County Council’s website (www.hampshirestrategicpartnership.org.uk) and at libraries and information centres. A community workshop would also be organised. Consultation would also be undertaken with partners at district level LSPs and at an annual stakeholder conference. At the end of the consultation period the HPS would meet to revise the strategy in the light of the outcomes of the consultation exercise and to identify headline actions for the strategy before finally launching the strategy.

During discussion, it was suggested that it would be helpful to have a flowchart diagram showing the linkage between the work of the HSP and the district LSPs, like Rushmoor, and showing the processes for dealing with issues within the two types of partnership. Ms Martin undertook to produce the flowchart diagram. In respect of the response to be made to the consultation on behalf of the LSP, the main issues for Rushmoor included transportation, affordable housing and traffic congestion. Members of the Partnership Group were asked to pass any comments to be included in the LSP’s response to Mr Andrew Colver, Head of Democratic Services at the Council. As a result of the discussions at the meeting, a response to the consultation would be drafted and agreed with the Chairman.

4. RUSHMOOR’S COMMUNITY PLANNING WORK –

4.1 Community Strategy –

The first draft of the Community Strategy would be available for consideration at the meeting on 13th January, 2004. Following the discussions on the outcomes of the Rushmoor Citizens’ Panel, it was agreed that issues should be developed as part of the community planning process which could pick up on the need to develop civic pride and to improve residents’ perception of the Borough.

It was also suggested that, as part of the process for developing the Strategy, the Partnership should hold a training event and this was being investigated.

4.2 Theme Groups –

Work was progressing with the organisation of the first meetings of the theme groups. With regard to the ‘Transport Choice and Access’ theme group, it had been decided to defer the organisation of the first meeting until discussions had taken place with the Hampshire County Council on how the Rushmoor LSP could work with the County to progress transport issues in the area.

5. **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS –**

It was agreed that future meetings would be held on the following dates at 4 pm in Committee Room 1 at the Council Offices, Farnborough Road, Farnborough:-

Tuesday, 13th January 2004

Tuesday, 9th March 2004

Tuesday, 27th April 2004

The meeting closed at 5.10 p.m.

**LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP GROUP -
ACTION SHEET**

| DATE OF MEETING | ACTION | BY WHOM | BY WHEN | STATUS |
|------------------------|--|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| 30th July 2003 | Validation of thematic group areas | Community Planning Team | September 2003 | On-going |
| | RBC to nominate a co-ordinator for each of the thematic groups | Community Planning Team | September 2003 | Completed |
| | Nominations to be made from LSP Group for "champions" of thematic groups | LSP Group members | September 2003 | Completed |
| | Obtain information on funding opportunities for work undertaken by thematic groups | Community Planning Team | November 2003 | Work to start early October. Possibility of pump priming resources through the Neighbourhood Renewal Unit being investigated |
| | Develop database of LSP Forum organisations to include brief description of activities of each organisation to provide a searchable facility | Community Planning Team | LSP Group meeting – 2nd December 2003 | Work being finalised |
| | Confirm membership of the LSP Group to encompass representation from all sectors including representative on environmental issues and a further representative of the community sector | LSP Group | LSP Group meetings as required | Basingstoke Canal Authority appointed. Other options being considered |

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| 4th September 2003 | Establish plan for communications and to drive communications on behalf of LSP with support from partners | Chairman/ Community Planning Team | September 2003 | Multi-agency communications team |
| | Development of Partnership protocols and terms of reference | Community Planning Team | LSP Group meeting – 27th April 2004 | Being developed with evolving Partnership structure |
| | Preparation of Community Strategy | Community Planning Team | LSP Group meeting – 13th January 2004 | Included on agenda for meeting on 13th January 2004 |
| | Report back on Local Implementation Team work and options for LSP input to secure improvements to local mental health resources | Primary Care Trust | | |
| 22nd October 2003 | Consideration of draft Hampshire Community Strategy. | LSP Group | LSP Group meeting – 2nd December 2003 | LSP response to be drafted by 31st January 2004 |
| | “LSP Working and Community Plans” – Workshop Event – 28th January 2004 | LSP Group | | Invitation to event to be sent to members of the LSP Group |
| | Meetings to be organised with theme group “champions” to discuss arrangements for the first meetings of each of the groups | Community Planning Team | December 2003 | Meetings being arranged |

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| | Ideas for “quick wins” for each theme group to be developed and raised at next meeting of the LSP Group | Community Planning Team | 2nd December 2003 | Ideas being developed for the first meeting of each of the theme groups |
| | Suggestions agreed by the LSP Group for the Partnership’s identity to be developed | Cr Peter Moyle, Chairman, LSP Group | | Logo and identity being finalised |
| 2nd December 2003 | To give further consideration to the issues raised through Rushmoor Citizens’ Panel | Community Planning Team | | Results being incorporated into the Community Strategy and theme group work |
| | To receive a presentation on the results of the Pavilion Housing Association Tenants’ Survey | Mr Mervyn Jones, Chief Executive, PHA to give a presentation at a future meeting | | |
| | Diagram to be drafted showing linkages between the Hampshire Strategic Partnership and the Rushmoor LSP | Ms Frances Martin, Community Strategy Manager, HCC | | |
| | Training event for the LSP Group | Community Planning Team and LSP Group members | March 2004 | Arrangements being developed for training event |
