



RUSHMOOR STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Notes of a meeting held on **Thursday 5th February 2009** at the Rushmoor Borough Council Offices at 4.00 pm.

Present:

Aldershot Garrison	Colonel Tim Forster Garrison Colonel
Aspire Defence Services Ltd	Mr Neil Johnston Garrison Facilities Director
Basingstoke Canal Authority	Mr Ian Brown Director
Enterprise First	Mr John Mitchell (Vice-Chairman) Chief Executive
Guildford Diocese	Canon David Tonkinson Partnership Development Officer
Hampshire County Council	County Councillor Roger Kimber Mrs Cheryl Bosworth HAT Co-ordinator
North East Hampshire Police Division	Chief Superintendent Mark Chatterton
North Hampshire Chamber of Commerce and Industry	Mr John Harrocks Chief Executive
Princes Mead Shopping Centre	Mr David Pickett Centre Director
Rushmoor Borough Council	Councillor Peter Moyle (Chairman) Leader Mr Andrew Lloyd Chief Executive
Rushmoor Healthy Living	Mr Tony Docker

Absent:

**Farnborough College of
Technology**

Mrs Christine Davis
Principal

First Wessex Housing Group

Mr Paul Ryrie
Director of Housing

NHS Hampshire

Dr Martin Ashton-Key
Area Director of Public Health

Parity for Disability

Ms Alison Cooper
Services Manager

**Rushmoor Citizens' Advice
Bureaux**

Ms Alex Hughes
District Manager

Rushmoor Voluntary Services

Mr Greg Alexander
Chief Executive

In attendance:

Rushmoor Borough Council

Mr John Edwards
Director of Community and Environment

Mrs Karen Edwards
Head of Strategy and Communications

Miss Annie Denton
Partnership Officer

Miss Joanna Little
Policy and Performance Officer

Mr Jon Rundle
Assistant Head of Strategy and
Communications

Mr Dave Quirk
Head of Environmental

Mr Les Murrell
Energy and Environment Manager

Mrs April Moakes
Administrative Officer

Apologies for absence had been received on behalf of Martin Ashton-Key (NHS Hampshire), Greg Alexander (Rushmoor Voluntary Services) Alison Cooper (Parity), Valorie Cloke (North Hampshire Chamber of Commerce) and Cathy Evans (GOSE).

1. NOTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING –

The Partnership confirmed the notes of the meeting held on 10th November 2008.

2. ECONOMIC DOWNTURN OVERVIEW

Mr. Andrew Lloyd, Chief Executive, Rushmoor Borough Council gave a presentation on the response that Rushmoor was making to the recession.

Mr. Lloyd explained that there had now been recognition that the UK was in recession. However, current indicators showed that the situation was not as dire as it had been during the recession in the early 1990s. He outlined some of the every day problems that were now being faced:

- Banks were not happy lending and money flows had dried up
- There were particular pressures on smaller businesses
- Larger businesses were focussed inwards

The support that was being given from a County perspective was outlined. Addressing the problems caused by recession was a key priority for the Hampshire Senate and support was being given to work within districts. Hampshire wide initiatives had included identifying major capital projects and bringing them forward, banks had been encouraged to support local businesses and the use of the Hampshire Job Web Portal had been extended.

Mr. Lloyd explained how Rushmoor had responded:

- Support had been given to residents with a major focus on homeless
 - The advice service had been stepped up
 - Rent deposit scheme had been reviewed
 - There was a healthy supply of private rented accommodation
- Business support
 - A coordinated approach was being taken towards giving advice and guidance
 - Small business relief was being promoted
 - A flexible approach was being taken to NNDR payment
- Additional publicity / information
 - Leaflets and a website (www.rushmoor.gov.uk/creditcrunch) were available to give information to residents and businesses
 - There was an investigation into the possible use of car park tickets to promote support for local business
- The Council was working closely with other agencies – this would give a coordinated approach from private / voluntary sectors
- Other business support was being given by Enterprise First
 - There was a series of seminars aimed at local businesses
 - Events included advice on marketing and finance

- There was also a retailers event at Princes Hall on 26th February 2009
- Work was being carried out with Business Link
 - Coordinating activities and support
 - Events were likely to include skills development and encouraging the local market place
- The Council had introduced rapid payment of Council invoices. These were being paid in less than 10 days

Mr. Lloyd concluded by saying that the recession had hit hard but Hampshire had fared better than some areas. He added that the significance of the challenge was not to be underestimated but that Partnership was in a strong position to have made a difference.

The Partnership thanked Mr. Lloyd for his presentation.

3. ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

The Partnership welcomed Mr. Dave Quirk, Head of Environmental Health, Rushmoor Borough Council and Mr. Les Murrell, Energy and Environment Manager, Rushmoor Borough Council.

Mr. Quirk explained that in Rushmoor we would be working towards a strategy of adapting to climate change. Examples of this adaptation included the cultivation and planting of drought resistant plants and investing in urban drainage systems that were sustainable. The Council would also ensure that flood risk areas were addressed.

The Partnership noted that progress towards adaptation was measured by National Indicator 188. A five step model (Level 0 – 4) was used to measure progress and Rushmoor was moving towards Level 1. Mr. Quirk explained that NI188 was important for the Strategic Partnership because climate was arguably the greatest threat to local quality of life and the achievement of the RSP vision; NI188 had also been selected as “important” by the RSP. Communities needed to be ready to manage the threats and opportunities and the RSP had a key role to play in the identification and management of the risks. Mr. Quirk added that continual risk assessment was required to review and meet the risks.

The main threats to Rushmoor included flash floods, droughts, water shortage, storm damage to infrastructure, heat waves which in turn would bring health issues, road subsidence and heathland fires. There would be new diseases due to the warmer climate, there would also be tree stress or loss due to drought, pests and disease, important habitats would also be threatened.

Examples were given of local extreme climate events. In July 2006 the hottest temperatures in living memory had been recorded and elderly residents had suffered from heat stress. In August of the same year flash floods had been recorded, 50 residents had been made homeless and there

had been a railway landslide. In 2007 there had been a tornado and high winds, drought and then heavy rain which had led to severe flooding in Aldershot and sewage contamination. In March 2008 winds had reached speeds of 70 miles per hour and trees had been brought down. In September and November 2008 there had been heavy rain which had led to flooding in several areas.

Mr. Quirk gave examples of where the RSP could work in partnership to tackle climate change adaptation. These included:

- Preparing for more extreme and more frequent climate events/business and service continuity plans
- Carrying out surface water risk assessment
- Putting into place a heat wave plan to address heat stress, heat stroke and sunburn
- Landscaping policies, to include future proof planting
- Biodiversity – habitat projects to assist declining species and to assist new species to adapt
- Exploiting tourism opportunities from a warmer climate
- Promoting new goods and services that local businesses could provide

The summary actions for the different levels of NI188 were:

Level 1 – getting started project planning/scoping and baseline understanding

Level 2 – public commitment and impacts assessment by March 2009

Level 3 – comprehensive action plan by March 2011

Level 4 – implementation, monitoring and continuous review

The key actions for 2009 to enable Rushmoor to achieve Level 1 were:

- (1) use modelling software to determine the severity and frequency of future climate related events
- (2) use the conclusions of (1) to identify future vulnerabilities and opportunities (impacts assessment)
- (3) RBC workshop to identify Council responsibilities and actions
- (4) develop the adaptation theme in climate change strategy
- (5) RSP were to use the above as a baseline to determine joint actions and projects
- (6) draft an RSP climate change adaptation strategy

Mr. Quirk explained that there was some essential baseline information that was required as soon as possible from the RSP. The information that was required included:

- Information regarding current plans, policies and actions to manage the impacts of climate change
- Identification of key documents relating to the above
- Key contact within the organisation
- Initial views on some strategic joint actions

The Partnership thanked Mr. Quirk for his presentation.

4. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

The Partnership welcomed Mrs. Karen Edwards, Head of Strategy & Communications, Rushmoor Borough Council and Miss Joanna Little, Policy and Performance Officer, Rushmoor Borough Council.

Mrs. Edwards reminded the Partnership of the RSP's recent work. The Partnership had

1. assessed the current Community Strategy against the Local Area Agreement (LAA) and the new national indicator set
2. written the Portrait of Rushmoor 2008 and created a shared understanding of what the Borough
3. identified the key challenges for the borough from the Portrait
4. gone through a workshop exercise and prioritised the challenges from the Portrait
5. gone through a visioning exercise (informed by visioning workshops with the public, Councillors, Council Officers and RSP member's staff) and created a vision for the Borough in 2026

The vision for Rushmoor 2026 was:

A thriving, innovative and attractive Borough, proud of its heritage

Rushmoor would be a place:

Where people are happy, healthy, safe and have a bright future

Which is green, open and bright

Which is easy to get around

Which has great places to go and lots to do

With a prosperous and sustainable economy

The priorities for the Partnership's work had been identified and these were:

1. To tackle Mayfield as an area of multiple deprivation
2. To tackle North Town as an area of multiple deprivation
2. To tackle Heron Wood as an area of multiple deprivation
4. Tackle obesity in children
5. To improve the level of achievement at NVQ levels 3 and 4
6. To be able to cope with significant numbers of international migrants
7. To understand the reasons behind high suicide rates and be work to reduce the numbers
8. To improve peoples lifestyle health choices
8. To reduce the amount of certain types of crime
10. To tackle obesity in adults
10. To tackle the perception of crime and anti-social behaviour

The detailed outcomes report from the Challenges Workshop is attached.

The Partnership was reminded of the sustainable community strategy. The Partnership's work on the vision and the key priorities would be used to create the refreshed version of the Sustainable Community Strategy.

The strategy would refer to detailed action plans that would sit below it and there would be action plans and groups for the priority areas

Mrs. Edwards explained the current work that was being carried out to address the priority areas:

- To improve the level of achievement at NVQ levels 3 and 4 – have an extended schools manager at the Council Offices, Learning Partnership, Children and Young People’s Partnership
- To be able to cope with significant numbers of international migrants – actions had been included in the Developing our Communities Project (Mayfield and Grange)
- A reduction in the amount of certain types of crime – actions had been developed in the CDRP action plan
- To tackle the perception of crime and anti-social behaviour - actions had been developed in the CDRP action plan

The proposed work programme for 2009/2010 was outlined. It was felt that the most difference could be made by the RSP initially focussing on developing its actions for:

1. Mayfield as an area of multiple deprivation
2. North Town as an area of multiple deprivation
3. Heron Wood as an area of multiple deprivation
4. Obesity in children
5. Obesity in adults

These areas were grouped into:

Priority 1 - Tackling multiple deprivation - North Town, Heron Wood and Mayfield

Priority 2 - Tackling obesity in children and adults

Mrs. Edwards continued by outlining how the other priority areas would be picked up during the refreshed version of the Community Strategy:

- To have understood the reasons behind high suicide rates and have worked to reduce the numbers – links with mental health work would be investigated
- To have improved peoples lifestyle health choices (linked with tackling obesity) – being covered by the Health and Well-Being Partnership

Miss Little expanded on how Priority 1 would be met. She explained that neighbourhood renewal was the name given to government plans to narrow the gap between rich and poor communities countrywide, with the aim that within 10 to 20 years no one should be disadvantaged by where they live. She added that neighbourhood renewal was similar to tackling deprivation, but was more holistic. She explained that the indices of deprivation provided useful information, and the scores should be improved on, but it was

important to look at all the ways in which the neighbourhoods could be improved.

The overall strategy for neighbourhood renewal was outlined. The immediate focus was on North Town, Heron Wood and Mayfield – but the strategy had the flexibility to address other areas when appropriate. The strategy was to be underpinned by three neighbourhood action plans (one for each with pockets of multiple deprivation). The five step process was:

1. to identify priority neighbourhoods
 - North Town, Mayfield and Heron Wood
2. to understand the problems of priority neighbourhoods
 - Mayfield – in progress
 - North Town – some work being developed by partners
 - Heron Wood – some work has been carried out
3. to map resources going into priority neighbourhoods
 - Mayfield in progress
4. to agree on what needs to be done
5. to implement and monitor agreed action

The Council would move forward with the work on Neighbourhood Renewal and the five step process. It was confirmed that the Partners would be contacted for their nominated representatives who would help with the project and form the project teams

Miss Little expanded on how priority 2 would be met. Priority 2 was to reduce the level of obesity in the borough. She outlined the proposed steps that had been taken by the Health and Well-Being Partnership. These were:

1. to identify those at risk/ currently obese groups
2. to understand the reasons for obesity in these groups
3. to map resources that were being used to tackle obesity – some work had been done on this
4. to agree on what had to be done
5. to implement and monitor agreed action

Miss Little added that she would be in contact with the Partners to move the work on obesity forward

The Partnership were updated on the Portrait of Rushmoor, this had been updated with the Hampshire Quality of Life Report 2008. The key findings were:

- there had been an improvement in levels of domestic burglary from second worst to second best quartile
- there had been a decrease in female suicide levels from fourth to third quartile
- there had been an increase in male suicides from third to fourth quartile
- there were mixed messages on educational attainment as we had improved in some areas and deteriorated in others.

The Portrait would be updated so that it was relevant for 2009. The 2008/09 version was available on the web: <http://www.rushmoorsp.com/portrait.htm> (this was a hidden page).

The Partnership were reminded that they had chosen a vision for Rushmoor 2026 and identified priority areas of work. This information would be used to inform the refresh of the Sustainable Community Strategy.

The Partnership thanked Mrs. Edwards and Miss Little for their presentation.

5. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION PARTNERSHIP (CDRP) UPDATE

The Partnership received an update on the work of the CDRP from Mr. Andrew Lloyd.

Mr. Lloyd explained that the CDRP ensured positive relationships between organisations. The CDRP had enabled much to be achieved including evidence based strategies backed by projects. He added that the CDRP gave local authorities a meaningful role, the resources that were allocated centrally gave synergy and there was greater shared responsibility for funding and implementing solutions.

The CDRP was well established and had been in existence for over ten years, it was a mix of statutory agencies and practitioner organisations with strong links with LSP and LAA's. The Partnership had a philosophy that was based around action.

Reference was made to the CADDIE website as an excellent source of information on crime statistics. Mr. Lloyd highlighted the break down of crime figures in Rushmoor and pointed out that most areas had reduced figures, the exceptions were business robbery, arson and drugs class C which had all increased slightly. The iQuanta comparison chart (01.12.05 – 30.11.08) showed that the rate of crime in Rushmoor was below the Hampshire average.

The Partnership noted that the crime and disorder strategic assessments took place each year but these were reliant on partners' data. The strategic assessments provided the basis for future priorities. The latest assessment confirmed the positive trend of crime reduction. Mr Lloyd explained that an action plan for 2009/10 was being prepared. He added that there was a partnership workshop on 19th July 2009 and consultation on actions was underway.

The strategic assessment found that the main issues were:

- Anti-social behaviour had increased by nearly 5% but a robust approach was being taken to residents' problems
- Rowdy / inconsiderate behaviour accounted for almost 75% of incidents.

- Criminal damage and arson had increased over period, this accounted for 20% of all crime. It was noted that the arson figures did not include secondary arson recorded by Hampshire Fire Service.
- There had been a small decrease in violent crime but it still represented 27% of all crime. 93% was violence against a person, 32% recorded that alcohol / drugs were a factor but the total could have been much higher.
- Domestic crimes and incidents had increased and repeat victims had risen substantially. There was an emerging trend of adults who had been abused by children and honour based violence.
- Drug offences had decreased by 7% overall and there had been a big decrease in class A drugs but there had been an increase in classes B and C. There had been successful targeted operations by police.

Other significant issues were highlighted. It was reported that Aldershot Town Centre was a peak beat for most crimes particularly violent crime / drug offences. There were a total of 640 youth offences, most commonly theft and handling and violence against the person. Road casualty numbers remained stable.

Mr. Lloyd explained that draft priorities were being developed by the Partnership and key areas had been established. These key areas were:

- Violence – particularly alcohol fuelled associated with night time economy. There would be a Prolific and Priority Offender Strategy to address re-offending rate and a violence intervention programme was to be developed with a focus on licensing issues
- Domestic Violence – there would be measures taken to increase the reporting rate and a focus on repeat victims. There would also be school intervention work which would include awareness days and information gathering to improve understanding, including within companies.
- There would be further development of Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy
- Environmental damage and rubbish/litter – there would be a focus on hot spots and measures would be introduced to reduce incidents of arson for example, work with young people
- Alcohol and Drugs – there would be targeted work with motorists to reduce collisions, the North East Hants Drug and Alcohol Group would lead on prevention and support
- There would be a new action plan for Aldershot Town Centre that would focus on 24/7 economy
- Young people – work would be carried out to improve access to and delivery of diversionary facilities. There would be further development with partners of SNAP (Say No And Phone)

- Community engagement and issues – speed awareness courses would be implemented. There would be safer neighbourhood teams and community patrol officers to support neighbourhoods
- There would be a drive to increase the number of and support given to neighbourhood watch schemes
- New communications and action plans for community safety activities would be developed
- There would be a focus for community activity in Heron Wood Ward

It was explained that there were some difficulties with the existing arrangements. Engagement in the Partnership from some agencies was patchy and the Section 17 compliance (i.e. embedding work) was ad hoc. Historical funding streams were now delivered through LAA and expenditure was on centralised projects rather than local projects. It was noted that performance management within the Partnership was generally not strong, capacity was being built and functions were being mainstreamed.

The Partnership noted that there were several issues that should be considered for the future. There was a need to manage increased public expectations, there were resourcing issues, cultural and diversity issues had become more important and a wider input to processes and action was required.

Mr. Lloyd concluded by saying that the Partnership was well established and had made good progress generally on crime reduction but a strong structure and greater partner involvement would be valued. He added that some significant challenges remained and fear of crime in Rushmoor remained an issue.

The Partnership thanked Mr. Lloyd for his update.

6. IN BRIEF

Senate Meeting Update

Cllr Peter Moyle had attended the Hampshire Senate meeting held on 30th January. He reported that, in line with RSP priorities, there were a number of health and deprivation inequalities across the county which the Senate would wish to see tackled. The link to the Senate web page where agendas and minutes can be accessed is <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/hampshire-senate>

Rushmoor Plan Newsletter

Miss Annie Denton distributed a copy of the recent Rushmoor Plan Newsletter which provided an update on progress to Partners. Miss Denton highlighted that the closing date for the consultation on Farnborough Airport and the surrounding area had changed from 9th February 2009 to 20th February 2009.

Hampshire Sustainable Community Strategy

Copies of the Hampshire Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-18 – ‘Shaping our future together’ published in December 2008 were distributed to Partners.

Hampshire Children and Young People’s Plan

Miss Annie Denton reported that the consultation period on the Hampshire Children and Young People’s Plan had now ended and the final plan was due to be published in April 2009.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. John Edwards reported that the Children and Young People's Plan for Rushmoor had been updated, following an extensive consultation. The Chairman of the Rushmoor Children and Young People's Partnership, David Bailey of HomeStart, would attend a future RSP meeting to update on progress.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS –

Rushmoor Strategic Partnership –

4.00 p.m. Committee Room 1, Rushmoor Borough Council Offices,
Farnborough Road, Farnborough:

Thursday, 2nd April

Thursday, 21st May

Wednesday, 8th July

Wednesday, 30th September

Thursday, 10th December

The meeting closed at 5.50 p.m.
