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## RUSHMOOR STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

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Notes of a meeting held on Wednesday, 12th January, 2005 at the Rushmoor Borough Council Offices at 4.00 pm.

Present:

<b>Aldershot Garrison</b>		Colonel Stephen Oxlade MBE (Vice-Chairman) Garrison Commander
<b>Basingstoke Canal Authority</b>		Mr Leigh Thornton Director
<b>Blackwater Valley and Hart Primary Care Trust</b>		Mr Femi Oduneye Director of Public Health
<b>Enterprise First</b>	a	Mr John Mitchell Chief Executive
<b>Farnborough College of Technology</b>		Mrs Christine Davis Principal
<b>Guildford Diocese</b>		Reverend Father Keith Hodges
<b>Hampshire County Council</b>	a	County Councillor David Kirk Executive Member for Community Development and Regeneration
<b>North East Hampshire Police Division</b>		Superintendent Joe Apps
<b>North Hampshire Chamber of Commerce and Industry</b>		Mr John Harrocks Chief Executive  Mrs Valerie Cloke
<b>Pavilion Housing Association</b>	a	Mr Mervyn Jones Chief Executive  Mrs Louise Williams Head of Neighbourhood Management and Tenancy Support
<b>Rushmoor Borough Council</b>		Councillor Peter Moyle (Chairman) Deputy Leader  Mr Andrew Lloyd Chief Executive

<b>Rushmoor Citizens' Advice Bureaux</b>	Ms Alex Hughes District Manager
<b>Rushmoor Voluntary Services</b>	Ms Sally Saunderson Chief Executive
<b>TAG Farnborough Airport</b>	Ms Ann Bartaby Director of Operations and Development
<b>Parity for Disability</b>	Ms Alison Cooper

In attendance:

<b>Hampshire County Council</b>	Mr Terry Rath Education Department
	Mr Robert Ormerod Community Strategy Manager
<b>Rushmoor Borough Council</b>	Mr Andrew Colver Head of Democratic Services
	Mr Les Murrell Strategy Co-ordinator (Sustainability), Democratic Services
	Mrs Kathy Flatt Democratic Support Officer, Democratic Services

Apologies for absence had been received from County Councillor David Kirk, Mr Mervyn Jones (Pavilion Housing Association), Mr John Mitchell (Enterprise First) and Mr David Hobbs (Government Office for the South East).

**1. NOTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING –**

The Partnership confirmed the notes of the meeting held on 10th November 2004.

**2. UPDATE ON TOWN CENTRES –**

Andrew Lloyd gave a presentation on proposals and updates on progress in connection with the redevelopment of Farnborough and Aldershot town centres.

**(a) Farnborough Town Centre –**

The Partnership was advised that key development principles had been adopted by the Council in 2001 which formed part of a comprehensive and phased masterplan. The Farnborough Town Centre Strategy aimed to meet the shopping, leisure and service needs of the local community and local businesses. The Strategy also formed part of a comprehensive transportation strategy which included plans for improved public transport facilities, including bus and taxi facilities, improved links to the station, promoted pedestrian and cycle access, provides appropriate transport infrastructure and enhanced car parking facilities.

It was noted that the Council had granted planning permission to Key Property Investments in November 2004 for the comprehensive redevelopment of Farnborough town centre. The proposals would involve demolishing sections of Kingsmead and Queensmead, Nos. 1-28 Firgrove Court and Nos. 32-34 Victoria Road – the loss of 78 residential units and over 7,000 sq m of floor space. The new proposals included plans for 20,000 sq m of commercial floor space, 16,000 sq m of retail, 129 flats and a 77 bedroom hotel.

With regard to the retail development, the Partnership was advised that a Sainsbury's superstore would anchor the new site (6,500 sq m). It was noted that 15% of the town centre's floorspace would be occupied by financial/professional or hot food/drink companies. 3,500 sq m of the site would be for commercial leisure use and would include a bingo operator, although there would not be a nightclub as part of the commercial leisure use. It was noted that a proposal for a cinema was still in the masterplan for the town centre. Plans and artists' impressions of the redevelopment proposals were displayed as part of the presentation.

Following the granting of planning permission, work had commenced on the road closure order, which would take approximately three months to complete. Enabling works, including demolition, would commence in May 2005 and most of the major site works were scheduled to begin in Summer 2005. It was anticipated that tenant fit-outs would start in Autumn 2006 with trading to commence by late 2006/early 2007.

**(b) Aldershot Town Centre –**

Andrew Lloyd advised the Partnership of development proposals for the Aldershot town centre area, including Westgate, Telecom House, High Street, Upper Union Street and the Aldershot Urban Extension.

The background was given to the development of the Westgate site. Arising out of consultation, supplementary planning guidance and a brief for potential developers, plans had been drawn up for a mixed use scheme for the site which would include a cinema, links to the town centre and a gateway to the town which it was hoped would increase activity and assist in the regeneration of the area. It was noted that approximately 400 new homes would be built on the Westgate site, together with a 128 bedroom hotel, a seven screen cinema, bars, restaurants, bingo hall and a health and fitness studio and a non-food retail unit comprising 15,000 – 20,000 sq ft. It was understood that a planning application would be submitted in February 2005, with anticipated completion of the building works by the end of 2006.

Action/Decision	Who	When
The presentation and updates on the Borough's town centres were noted.	---	---

**3. CHILDREN ACT – PRELIMINARY CONSULTATION –**

Terry Rath advised the Partnership on the implications of the Children Act and had circulated a copy of the Hampshire County Council consultation paper (October 2004) on the implementation of the Act in Hampshire. It was noted that a further consultation paper would be circulated in March.

The Children Act would introduce the following:

- new duties on specified partners to co-operate to improve the well-being of children and young people and to safeguard and promote welfare
- the establishment of information databases
- the establishment of local safeguarding children boards
- the appointment of directors of children's services and lead members for children's services
- the establishment of joint area reviews

Colin Hardy, Project Director, Hampshire County Council would attend the next meeting on 10th March 2005 regarding the next round of consultation on the implications of the Children Act. At that meeting, consideration would be given to the role to be played by the Partnership and any priorities that would need to be incorporated into the work of the Partnership.

Action/Decision	Who	When
(1) The Partnership noted the current position.	---	---
(2) Colin Hardy, Project Director, Hampshire County Council be invited to attend the next meeting to lead discussion on the implications of the Children Act.	---	10th March 2005

#### 4. RUSHMOOR CRIME AND DISORDER AUDIT, 2004 –

Andrew Lloyd gave a presentation on the national and local background to tackling crime and disorder and work being carried out by the Rushmoor Community Safety Partnership in the preparation of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy for the period 2005-08.

The Partnership was advised that, at a national level, the Government had placed safer communities high on its agenda and was introducing systems of radical change to policing. These changes were set out in the White Paper "Building Communities, Beating Crime: A Better Police Service for the 21st Century" and the National Policing Plan. The National Policing Plan 2005/08 had five key national priorities:

- reduce overall crime
- provide a citizen focused police service
- take action with partners to increase detection and to target prolific and other priority offenders
- reduce concern about crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour
- combat serious and organised crime

A key factor in achieving the national priorities would be the reduction of bureaucracy with the aim that, by 2008, the equivalent of 12,000 officers would be freed up for front line duties. As part of the planning process to achieve the proposals set out in the National Policing Plan, a number of targets were being set which would involve police forces, community safety partnerships and drug action teams among others.

Rushmoor's Community Safety Partnership had been in existence for over six years and had been set up under the provisions of the Crime and Disorder Act, 1998. The key roles for the Partnership included the development and delivery of strategies to reduce crime and disorder, promoting safer communities and monitoring and addressing crime issues. As part of the work to prepare the Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy for 2005/08, the Partnership had to carry out a crime audit to map the nature of crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour and drugs locally; analyse local need and provision of services to prevent and tackle issues of crime and disorder and drugs.

The main findings of the audit were as follows:

- Overall crime remained low in Rushmoor, both in relation to national figures and "most similar crime and disorder reduction partnership" comparisons. The total number of crimes reported in the Borough in 2003/04 was 9,045.
- Violent crime equated to almost one quarter of all crime, with the main hotspots being Aldershot town centre and Mayfield Ward. 25% of all violent crime was domestic violence (and mainly repeat victims), which represented 6% of the total number of crimes reported. There was also clear evidence of violent crime being fuelled by alcohol.
- Damage and arson equated to almost one quarter of all crime, with the main hotspots being Aldershot town centre (16%) and Heronwood Ward (11%). An average of 60 vehicles and 60 properties were being damaged per month.
- Although it was recognised that most young people were law abiding, the peak age for offending was 17 for both males and females. In Aldershot, school exclusions were three times the national average, whilst in Farnborough they were twice the national average during the audit period.
- Heroin and crack cocaine provided the main drugs issues for agencies and a correlation had been identified between drug users (mainly using heroin) and shoplifting. Cannabis had the most seizures in 2003 (144). Cannabis and alcohol were the most commonly used drugs by young people.

Anti-social behaviour remained a major concern to the local community. Such behaviour appeared to be influenced by alcohol with young people heavily involved, although it was stressed that they were not the only perpetrators. The main focus for this type of behaviour was in Aldershot town centre. The Panel was advised of the use of new powers under the Anti-Social Behaviour Act, 2003 (e.g. dispersal designations, crack house closure notices, crack house closure orders, demoted tenancy orders, parenting contracts, parenting orders, acceptable behaviour contracts, housing/local government injunctions, anti-social behaviour orders).

ABA Research Limited had carried out a comprehensive consultation exercise during the autumn on behalf of the Partnership. This had included a 6,000 survey of randomly selected households across the Borough and a series of focus groups involving councillors, black minority ethnic communities, local businesses, schools/colleges as well as local residents. Approximately 30% of the surveys had been returned, which was regarded as a very good return rate and reflected the high

level of interest among residents. The main findings from the consultations were as follows:

- Rushmoor was generally seen as a relatively safe place to live, although 26% of residents felt less safe compared with the previous survey in 2002.
- Only 35% of respondents thought there was any sense of community spirit in their neighbourhood with many wishing to see stronger community/residents' groups. There appeared to be a low (11%) membership of neighbourhood watch schemes compared to other areas
- 65% would like more visible policing. There were significant concerns about the perceived poor response of the Police (42%).
- The main fears of residents were burglary/attempted break-in at home (69%) and property stolen from a vehicle (57%).
- 49% of people felt unsafe walking alone after dark in their neighbourhood.
- The biggest problems which people perceived as having an effect on safety and crime were:
  - speeding traffic (68%)
  - loud/fast bikes (66%)
  - young people hanging around (63%)

Arising out of the consultation process, it was felt that there were several issues to be considered, including the importance of effective communication, strengthening community involvement through residents' associations/groups and neighbourhood watch schemes, a more visible police presence and improved response, the need for the targeting of specified actions (including improved lighting and graffiti removal) and creating a better relationship with the Borough's young people. The results of the audit together with a questionnaire had been circulated to a range of organisations for their views. The respondees had broadly endorsed the priority areas identified. The information gathered during the audit and consultation work would be used to prepare the Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy 2005/08. The emerging aims of the Strategy from work undertaken focused on the following:

- to reduce the level of crime and disorder in the Borough (likely to be around 16.5% - which was set through the national framework)
- to make people feel safer in the Borough
- to reduce the effects of drugs and alcohol crime and criminality on the local community
- to increase the contribution of young people to a safer Rushmoor

Work on anti-social behaviour would be an important part of the Strategy and it was the intention to identify targets and measures. There was no doubt that efforts to achieve the aims of the Strategy would be one of the most important issues for the Council. The 2002/05 Strategy had ensured progress from previous years, but it was recognised that there was still much to be done which would involve the commitment and involvement of all partners in the Community Safety Partnership.

During discussion, members of the Partnership strongly endorsed the need to highlight anti-social behaviour in the Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy

2005/08. The Partnership was keen to contribute towards future discussions on ways of increasing collaborative working to tackle the problems of anti-social behaviour. One aim that was felt to be worth pursuing was the provision of diversionary activities for young people.

Copies of the Rushmoor Crime and Disorder and Anti-Social Behaviour Audits were available from Andrew Colver.

Action/Decision	Who	When
(1) The presentation on the Rushmoor Crime and Disorder Audit was noted.	---	---
(2) The Partnership endorsed the inclusion of a focus on tackling anti-social behaviour in the Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy 2005/08 and was keen to contribute towards collaborative working to tackle the problems of anti-social behaviour.	---	---

## 5. DELIVERING THE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

### (1) Partnership Steering Group –

Action/Decision	Who	When
The Partnership noted the minutes of the meeting of the Steering Group held on 13th December 2004.	---	---

### (2) Project Updates –

#### (a) Communications – “To co-ordinate consultation methods with residents to provide an effective approach to planning services and facilities in the Borough”

Work would be progressed on assessing areas for collaborative working and options would be circulated to members in due course in an attempt to save resources and to prevent duplication.

#### (b) Aldershot Urban Extension – “Support the planning and implementation of the Aldershot Urban Extension”

It was noted that the Aldershot Urban Extension Steering Group would be considering a design code for development at its next meeting. The Partnership would be advised of progress of the development on a regular basis.

Action/Decision	Who	When
The Partnership noted the project updates.	---	---

(3) **New Projects –**

In order to brief the Partnership on health issues for the Borough, it was agreed that Femi Oduneye, Director of Public Health, Blackwater Valley and Hart Primary Care Trust (PCT) should give a presentation at a future meeting.

Action/Decision	Who	When
Femi Oduneye, PCT to give a presentation at a future meeting on health issues.	Femi Oduneye, Blackwater Valley and Hart Primary Care Trust	27th April 2005

(4) **Resourcing the Partnership –**

It was noted that a bid for funding of £12,000 for each of the next three years had been submitted to Hampshire County Council. Other partners had also agreed in principle to contributing funding for the Partnership. The major part of the pooled funding would provide dedicated officer support to the Partnership and the remainder would assist with some project work.

Action/Decision	Who	When
The Partnership noted the update.	---	---

6. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING –**

Thursday, 10th March 2005 at 4.00 pm at the Rushmoor Borough Council Offices.

The meeting closed at 5.50 pm.

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