
RUSHMOOR STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Notes of a meeting held on Wednesday, 27th April, 2005 at the Rushmoor Borough Council Offices at 4.00 pm.

Present:

Aldershot Garrison		Colonel Stephen Oxlade MBE (Vice-Chairman) Garrison Commander
Basingstoke Canal Authority		Mr Leigh Thornton Director
Blackwater Valley and Hart Primary Care Trust		Mr Olufemi Oduneye Director of Public Health
Enterprise First	a	Mr John Mitchell Chief Executive
Farnborough College of Technology	a	Mrs Christine Davis Principal
Guildford Diocese	a	Reverend Father Keith Hodges
Hampshire County Council		County Councillor Tim Knight Executive Member for Community Development and Regeneration
North East Hampshire Police Division	a	Superintendent Joe Apps Inspector Antonia Weeks
North Hampshire Chamber of Commerce and Industry		Mr John Harrocks Chief Executive Mrs Valerie Cloke
Pavilion Housing Association	a	Mr Owen Ingram Chief Executive
Rushmoor Borough Council		Councillor Peter Moyle (Chairman) Deputy Leader Mr Andrew Lloyd Chief Executive
Rushmoor Citizens' Advice Bureaux		Ms Alex Hughes District Manager

Rushmoor Voluntary Services	a	Ms Sally Saunderson Chief Executive
Parity for Disability		Ms Alison Cooper
In attendance:		
Government Office for the South East		Mr David Hobbs Modernising Governance
Hampshire County Council		Mr Terry Rath Education Department
Rushmoor Borough Council		Mr Andrew Colver Head of Democratic Services
		Mr John Edwards Director of Environmental Services
		Mr Les Murrell Strategy Co-ordinator (Sustainability), Democratic Services
		Mr Tim Richings Principal Planning Officer
		Mrs Kathy Flatt Democratic Support Officer, Democratic Services

Apologies for absence had been received from County Councillor Rod Baulk, Mrs Christine Davis (Farnborough College of Technology), Superintendent Joe Apps (North East Hampshire Police Division), Mr John Mitchell (Enterprise First), Reverend Father Keith Hodges, Mr Owen Ingram (Pavilion Housing Association) and Ms Sally Saunderson (Rushmoor Voluntary Services).

1. NOTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING –

The Partnership confirmed the notes of the meeting held on 10th March, 2005.

2. ALDERSHOT GARRISON –

The Partnership received a presentation from Colonel Stephen Oxlade MBE, Garrison Commander on the role the Garrison played in the community and the Partnership. It was noted that:

- There were over 5,000 servicemen and women at the Aldershot Garrison
- Ministry of Defence land constituted 27% of the Borough
- There were approximately 2,000 Ministry of Defence houses in the Garrison
- Approximately 1,500 children were resident within the Garrison
- Approximately 1,600 civilians worked in, or provided services to, the Garrison
- Aldershot Garrison was a centre of sporting excellence for the Army

The Partnership was advised of the regiments that were based at the Aldershot Garrison in addition to the Royal Military Police, the Defence Food Services School and Military staff of Frimley Park Hospital – Royal Army Medical Corps and the Queen Alexandra’s Royal Army Nursing Corps.

The Army had undertaken many projects with the community, including:

- Project Allenby/Connaught (re-building of the Aldershot Garrison)
- Aldershot Centre for Health
- Aldershot Army Show
- Restoration of the Wellington Monument
- Rushmoor in Bloom
- Southern England in Bloom
- Aldershot Civic and Historical Society
- Reducing Crime and Disorder (including youth sports scheme)
- Membership of various committees, including
 - Development Control Committee
 - North Camp
 - Aldershot Regeneration
 - Agenda 21
 - Mayor’s Charity

With regard to the welfare of army personnel and families within the Borough it was noted that:

- Families used normal health and welfare services
- a holistic approach was used to the delivery of primary care (medical, psychiatry, dental, spiritual and welfare)
- over 500 children per day were in education for the under fives within Garrison facilities
- young people could attend two youth clubs in the Borough (Quetta Park and the Clock Tower)
- communications had been developed, which included a website (www.army.mod.uk/aldershot), Garrison Radio (1287 medium wave) and the Aldershot Garrison Herald.

The Partnership was also advised that, when not in use by the Ministry of Defence, the Army Garrison Sports Centre was open to members of the public. Facilities at the Centre included a gym, swimming pool and squash courts.

During discussion, the Army was complimented on developing the sports scheme for young people. Engaging young people in such diversionary activities had been developed through work with the Rushmoor Community Safety Partnership and in particular Hampshire Youth Services.

Colonel Oxlade was thanked for his informative presentation.

Action/Decision	Who	When
The Partnership noted the presentation	---	---

3. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION STRATEGY 2005-08 –

Andrew Lloyd gave a presentation on Rushmoor's Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy 2005/08. The Partnership was advised that, under the provisions of the Crime and Disorder Act, 1998 there was a requirement for the Rushmoor Community Safety Partnership to undertake a crime audit in the Borough every three years and to prepare a three-year Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy. Rushmoor's Community Safety Partnership consisted of 20-25 organisations across many disciplines and backgrounds. The primary purpose of the Rushmoor Community Safety Partnership was to develop and deliver strategies to make the Borough safer.

Since 1998, the Partnership had prepared three strategies and processes and plans had improved over time with work being better focused. A number of major projects had been established, including an integrated CCTV system in the Borough, neighbourhood wardens and facilities for young people. There was a recognition that significant challenges faced the Community Safety Partnership in terms of Government requirements, rising public's expectations and complex issues like anti-social behaviour to be dealt with.

Andrew Lloyd explained that the Strategy preparation process spanned a full year and involved a multi-agency team. The key stages were:

- review previous audit/strategy
- analysis of crime statistics
- detailed analysis of issues raised
- separate analysis of anti-social behaviour
- comprehensive community consultation

The audit process had been used to identify areas for future work and potential resources.

It was noted that the main findings of the audit were that Rushmoor remained a safe place when compared with national figures and the fifteen most similar partnership areas. Total crimes recorded in 2003/04 were 9,045. A number of priority areas had been identified around crime type and locality. The audit process had also raised other issues around effective information and data collection and community engagement. The priority areas identified the main issues of violent crime, damage and arson, youth crime and victimisation and drugs (particularly heroin and crack cocaine). Other issues of importance were repeat victimisation and domestic violence. A separate audit had been carried out on anti-social behaviour, which appeared to indicate that there were a small number of persistent perpetrators with some links to communities in deprived areas of the Borough. It was stressed that not all perpetrators were juveniles.

A consultation had been carried out with residents in the autumn of 2004, including a 6,000 survey of randomly selected households, sector focus groups (young people, BME, business, councillors) and area focus groups. The main issues arising out the consultation had been the importance of effective communication, the need to strengthen community spirit and involvement (through residents' associations and Neighbourhood Watch schemes), the desire for a more visible police presence and improved response and the need to target specified shorter-term actions (eg improved lighting, graffiti removal).

Using the information gathered in the crime audit and the consultation process, the Community Safety Team had drafted the Strategy, with input from the

Community Safety Partnership and partnership organisations. In drafting the Strategy, the Community Safety Team endeavoured to show that the Partnership

- had learned from past experience
- used evidence based proposals
- incorporated realistic aims
- balanced national priorities and local needs
- allocated responsibilities to partner organisations

The proposals for the Strategy had also been drafted being mindful of the National Policing Plan, National Drugs Strategy, Public Service Agreements (national and local) and using national guidance delivered through the Government Office for the South East. The framework for the Strategy had been based on an agreed approach of a vision and priority aims, key measures of success, secondary aims or outcomes, a high level action plan and detailed action plans by leads.

The Strategy's vision for 2005/08 was through partnership working, to make Rushmoor safer for all those who live in or visit the Borough by:

- reassuring the public by making people feel safer (the priorities for the Strategy would be to develop accurate information systems, increase engagement opportunities, enhance the local environment to promote safety and to increase the awareness/visibility of practitioners)
- reducing the level of crime and disorder (the priorities for the Strategy would be to focus on particular activities (vehicle crime, domestic burglary, arson and domestic violence), project on Aldershot Town Centre, local plan for persistent and priority offenders, monitor and respond to anti-social behaviour and focus on repeat victimisation)
- reducing drug and alcohol related crime and criminality (the priorities for the Strategy would be to improve and develop information systems, promote drug education and awareness, focus on alcohol (including issues raised through the Licensing Act, 2003), reduce drug supply and increase access to drug treatment)
- reducing the number of young people committing crime and to support young victims of crime (the priorities for the Strategy would be to provide enhanced diversionary activities, focus on youth victimisation, improve the range of support services and develop work on crime prevention and reduction)

It was hoped that there would be opportunities to develop some joint working between the Rushmoor Community Safety Partnership and the Rushmoor Strategic Partnership as some of the priorities in the Strategy were relevant to a few of the strategic aims in the Community Strategy. There were potential areas of involvement by providing diversionary activities, supporting the suggested 'one stop shop' approach for logging and dealing with anti-social behaviour and supporting environmental initiatives.

During discussion members raised issues regarding the reporting of hate crimes, the 'True Vision' initiative, CCTV and the impact on people of the fear of crime.

Andrew Lloyd was thanked for his informative presentation.

Action/Decision	Who	When
The Partnership noted the presentation	---	---

4. QUALITY OF LIFE INDICATORS –

John Edwards, Director of Environmental Services at Rushmoor Borough Council, introduced a discussion paper that had been circulated regarding quality of life indicators. It was noted that, for many years, most strategic organisations had been collecting data independently to monitor progress on initiatives and to meet statutory requirements. The importance of using indicators for monitoring and evaluation had recently increased with the emergence of local strategic partnerships. The paper outlined the considerable amount of research that had already been undertaken to develop a set of quality of life indicators that collectively provided basic information on local quality of life trends. It also made the case for a partnership approach to monitoring key local quality of life issues to assist the decision-making process and to raise awareness in the local community.

The Partnership was advised that a corporate indicator group had been established by Rushmoor Borough Council to progress a project to develop indicators for the Borough. A provisional timetable had been produced and was set out in the paper. Provided that the task was conducted using existing staff resources there should initially be no financial implications arising from the proposal. There would be a need for annual detailed data analysis for the Rushmoor Strategic Partnership. Resources to undertake this task would need to be sought at a later date. It was hoped that Partnership organisations would readily be able to provide data with some analysis which was already collected, should this be required. The financial implications arising from the publication and distribution of annual indicator reports could initially be met from within existing Council budgets.

The Partnership was requested to notify Les Murrell, Strategies Co-ordinator, Rushmoor Borough Council (telephone 01252 398538) of:

- any recommended amendments or additional indicators to the draft holistic set of indicators which had been circulated;
- any data relating to indicators on the list that could be provided annually with agreement to release that data with some basic analysis;
- any in-house data analysis resource that could be made available to the Partnership for this project; and
- views on the preferred format of the final report(s).

Action/Decision	Who	When
The Partnership noted the information and was asked to contact Les Murrell, Strategies Co-ordinator at Rushmoor Borough Council along the lines set out above.	All	June 2005

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 4th April, 2005.	---	---

(2) **Project Updates –**

The Partnership received brief updates in respect of anti-social behaviour, educational attainment, solar energy project and the re-laying of the Basingstoke Canal towpath.

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

(3) **Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Partnership –**

The Partnership noted with regret that Colonel Stephen Oxlade MBE would be taking up a new posting in Cyprus in July and there would therefore be a vacancy for the position of Vice-Chairman of the Partnership. Members would be invited to nominate someone to be Vice-Chairman.

Cr. Peter Moyle would be taking on new responsibilities at Rushmoor at the end of May 2005 as Leader of the Council and had been due to retire as Chairman. However, in view of the departure of Colonel Oxlade, it had been suggested that Cr. Moyle should continue as Chairman for the time being. Cr. Moyle indicated that he was happy to be Chairman for the next few months until a suitable successor could be found.

(4) **Partnership Officer –**

Andrew Colver advised the Partnership that interviews would be held on 12th May for the post of Partnership Officer. The interview panel would comprise Colonel Oxlade, John Mitchell and Andrew Colver.

6. **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS –**

The following dates were agreed for future meetings of the Partnership:

Tuesday, 14th June 2005 at 4.00 pm at the RBC Offices
Thursday, 14th July 2005 at 4.00 pm at the RBC Offices
Tuesday, 4th October 2005 at 4.00 pm at the RBC Offices
Tuesday, 15th November 2005 at 4.00 pm at the RBC Offices
Wednesday, 14th December 2005 at 4.00 pm at the RBC Offices

The meeting closed at 5.15 pm.
