
RUSHMOOR STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Notes of a meeting held on Wednesday, 29th September, 2004 at the Rushmoor Borough Council Offices at 4.00 pm.

Present:

Aldershot Garrison		Colonel Stephen Oxlade MBE (Vice-Chairman) Garrison Commander (In the Chair)
Basingstoke Canal Authority		Mr Leigh Thornton Director
Blackwater Valley Enterprise Trust		Mr John Mitchell Chief Executive
Blackwater Valley and Hart Primary Care Trust	a	Ms Debbie Glenn Chief Executive
Farnborough College of Technology	a	Mrs Christine Davis Principal
		Mr Phelim Brady Director of Further Education
Guildford Diocese	a	Reverend Father Keith Hodges
Hampshire County Council	a	County Councillor David Kirk Executive Member for Community Development and Regeneration
	a	County Councillor Adrian Collett
	a	County Councillor Rod Baulk
North East Hampshire Police Division	a	Superintendent Joe Apps Chief Inspector John Anderson
North Hampshire Chamber of Commerce and Industry		Mr John Harrocks Chief Executive
Pavilion Housing Association		Mr Mervyn Jones Chief Executive
Rushmoor Borough Council	a	Councillor Peter Moyle (Chairman) Deputy Leader
		Councillor Nigel Baines Cabinet Member for Borough Services

		Mr Andrew Lloyd Chief Executive
Rushmoor Citizens' Advice Bureaux	a	Ms Alex Hughes District Manager
Rushmoor Voluntary Services		Ms Sally Saunderson Chief Executive
TAG Farnborough Airport	a	Ms Ann Bartaby Director of Operations and Development
Parity for Disability		Ms Alison Cooper

In attendance:

Government Office for the South East		Mr David Hobbs Modernising Governance Team
Rushmoor Borough Council		Mr Les Murrell Strategy Co-ordinator (Sustainability)
		Mr Jon Rundle Assistant Head of Strategy and Communications
		Mrs Kathy Flatt Democratic Support Officer, Democratic Services

Apologies for absence had been received from the Chairman (Councillor Peter Moyle, Rushmoor Borough Council), County Councillor David Kirk, County Councillor Rod Baulk, County Councillor Adrian Collett, Ms Debbie Glenn (Blackwater Valley and Hart Primary Care Trust), Mrs Christine Davis (Farnborough College of Technology), Reverend Father Keith Hodges (Guildford Diocese), Superintendent Joe Apps (North East Hampshire Police Division), Ms Alex Hughes (Rushmoor Citizens' Advice Bureaux) and Ms Ann Bartaby (TAG Farnborough Airport)

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

The Partnership confirmed the notes of the meeting held on 27th April 2004.

2. **ALDERSHOT URBAN EXTENSION –**

The Partnership received a presentation from Mr Andrew Lloyd, Chief Executive of Rushmoor Borough Council on progress with the development proposals in respect of the Aldershot Urban Extension.

In his presentation, Mr Lloyd explained the background to the development proposals. The Partnership was advised that, arising out of the Strategic Defence Review in 1998, the future of Aldershot as a main garrison had been confirmed. The Ministry of Defence was conscious of the condition of the military estate and Project Connaught had established to co-ordinate facilities management at the garrison, improve military accommodation and to release 347 acres of surplus land for redevelopment: the Aldershot Urban Extension.

The Partnership was advised that Aldershot Military Town Supplementary Planning Guidance had been adopted in August 2002 and the Military Town Conservation Area had been established in October 2003. Four planning applications had been submitted for Military development in August and October 2003 and permission had been granted by Rushmoor Borough Council on 3rd March 2004. It was confirmed that construction was due to commence in Spring 2005. The surplus land which had been identified currently remained with the Ministry of Defence/Defence Estates. This surplus land provided a major opportunity for Aldershot to expand. The need had been identified for a masterplan to guide and control the development and English Partnerships, Government Office for the South East, SEEDA, SEERA and the Housing Corporation had been asked to provide help. As a result, an Enquiry by Design event had been held in December 2003 to draft a masterplan.

It was noted that the draft Supplementary Planning Guidance, which had been worked up in consultation with Defence Estates, Hampshire County Council and English Partnerships had been published for consultation in April/May 2004 in order to ensure that the development principles agreed to at the Enquiry by Design exercise were taken forward. The Council was now in a position to consult on revised Supplementary Planning Guidance during November 2004 and it was the intention that Rushmoor Borough Council would adopt the Supplementary Planning Guidance in February 2005. It was understood that an outline planning application for the Aldershot Urban Extension would be submitted in the Spring of 2005. The Ministry of Defence/Defence Estates, which currently owned the land identified as surplus, was awaiting a decision from English Partnerships on their intention to purchase all or part of the site.

Andrew Lloyd explained that Project Connaught maintained and consolidated the Military's presence at the heart of Rushmoor. The Aldershot Urban Extension provided a major opportunity for development. There was a large potential catchment area immediately to the south of the site with implications for jobs, housing and the community. Public transport would be enhanced with better access to Aldershot and around the Borough. It was envisaged that there would be improvements to local roads which would increase capacity and reduce congestion. There would also be increased economic activity for Aldershot and North Camp/Farnborough. It was expected that the project would take approximately twelve years to complete.

During discussion, comments were made regarding the provision of affordable housing, the need for a joined up approach to land release, being mindful of the need for good housing, public transport and schools.

Action/Decision	Who	When
The presentation was noted.	---	---

3. HAMPSHIRE COMPACT –

The Partnership considered a paper which had been circulated regarding the Hampshire Compact; a joint agreement between the voluntary and community sector and the public sector which set out a framework of principles to guide their future working relationship.

Action/Decision	Who	When
The Partnership agreed to support the Hampshire Compact.	Chairman	October 2004

4. REVIEW OF POST OFFICES –

The Partnership noted and endorsed the letter which had been sent by the Chairman of the Partnership to the Post Office in response to a consultation on proposals to close four branches at Cove, Churchill Crescent, Farnborough, The Parade, Yateley and Frogmore following a review of twenty Post Office branches in the area.

The representation that had been submitted to the Post Office on behalf of the Partnership had drawn attention to two of the strategic aims contained in Rushmoor's Community Strategy:

“To address inequalities within the community to ensure that basic needs are met”

“To support the regeneration of town centres and neighbourhoods, including retail and leisure facilities; and to ensure that major new developments promote sustainable and prosperous communities”

The representation had also stated the view that the proposals to close local post offices would serve to accentuate inequalities in the Cove and Churchill Crescent areas, where the post office was a key focal point of the community. If local communities were to prosper, it was considered that such facilities needed to be retained and enhanced. Pockets of comparatively high levels of deprivation existed in the Cove and Churchill Crescent areas. For some groups, such as older people and those with disabilities, access to the town centre might not be easy. Many people also had post office accounts for the payment of benefits, which was frequently their sole income source. The Partnership had serious concerns about the exclusion of these groups and the potential for further isolation. It was considered that more work was required to assess the social and economic impacts of closure before a final decision on proposals for closure was taken.

Action/Decision	Who	When
The Partnership endorsed the letter sent by the Chairman of the Partnership in response to the consultation document from the Post Office on branch closures in the area.	---	---

5. DELIVERING THE COMMUNITY STRATEGY –

(1) Partnership Steering Group –

Action/Decision	Who	When
The Partnership noted the minutes of the meetings of the Steering Group held on 26th July and 15th September, 2004.	---	---

(2) **Structure and Project Process Charts –**

Action/Decision	Who	When
The Partnership noted the charts which had been produced to show the structure of the Partnership and the process for taking forward a priority. Following discussion it was agreed that an evaluation and feedback loop should be incorporated within the charts.	Community Planning Team	October 2004

(3) **Project Updates –**

The Partnership had selected four priorities for action at the meeting on 27th April, 2004. Some work had been carried out since that meeting and the Partnership Steering Group had been monitoring the situation. In addition, a process had been put in place to identify further projects which could be rolled forward as and when required. Progress with the projects was outlined as follows:

(a) **Aldershot Urban Extension – “Support the planning and implementation of the Aldershot Urban Extension”**

It was felt that the development would undoubtedly have a significant impact on the future of the Borough and was therefore important to the Partnership’s work. However, it was felt that, at this stage, there was no specific project open for the Partnership. It was therefore considered that a watching brief should be maintained and that regular briefings should be provided for the Partnership so that progress could be monitored and any potential projects identified.

Action/Decision	Who	When
It was agreed that a watching brief should be maintained on the Aldershot Urban Extension, with regular briefings for the Partnership.	RSP	---

(b) **Hotels - “To introduce measures to encourage high quality hotels to locate in the area” –**

The Partnership noted that some investigatory work had been completed through Rushmoor’s Planning Services. Business organisations had indicated that there was a significant current demand for hotel accommodation in the area and this issue had been picked up as part of the preparatory work for the Local Development Framework. It was noted that there were a limited number of potential sites in the Borough for possible use for hotels. There were a number of operators looking for sites in the area and there were currently three potential hotel sites:

- Wellington Avenue, Aldershot as part of the WestGate development
- Farnborough town centre, integrated within the Key Property Investments redevelopment proposals
- An area specifically allocated, adjoining Farnborough Road (by Farnborough Aerodrome) at the site of the old Officers’ Mess

Action/Decision	Who	When
It was agreed that the Partnership should be advised on the way forward for this project.	John Mitchell	10th November 2004

(c) **Educational Attainment – “Support initiatives which seek to raise educational attainment in schools in the Borough”**

Andrew Lloyd and Terry Rath reported on action taken to date. Further discussions would take place with interested parties and update reports to be given to Partnership.

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

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

The Partnership noted that a Communications Project Group had been established to:

- monitor the effectiveness of communication and consultation in the Rushmoor area
- consider and implement joint consultation methods between organisations and make arrangements to analyse and share data
- discuss and develop methods of joint communication with the public; and
- develop a communications plan for the Partnership.

The membership of the project team comprised communications staff from Rushmoor Borough Council, Hampshire County Council, Blackwater Valley Primary Care Trust, Farnborough College of Technology, Pavilion Housing Association, North East Hampshire Chamber of Commerce and North East Hampshire Basic Command Unit. The Partnership requested that a joint action plan should be produced for the next meeting.

Action/Decision	Who	When
The Partnership noted the progress update and agreed that a joint action plan should be developed for the meeting on 10th November 2004.	Communications Project Group	10th November 2004

(4) **Community Planning Process – Developing the Action Plan –**

The paper prepared by Andrew Colver (Rushmoor Community Planning Team) on the proposed approach to be taken for developing the action plan was noted. It was proposed that the Community Strategy would be supported by other documents which would provide substance to the framework. These other documents would be:

- Profile of the Borough and Strategic Environmental Assessment and Quality of Life Indicators
- Strategy Action Plan
- Local Development Framework

The action plan would provide an essential tool for the Partnership to monitor regularly what action was being taken, identify where action was not achieving the aim, assess progress and identify gaps in the action plan. The action plan would also help in the process of selecting further priorities and developing co-ordinate approaches.

It was noted that an action plan was being put together for each of the Community Strategy's 24 objectives. Information would be obtained from a number of sources, including:

- Actions identified through consultation work
- Priorities already being progressed by organisations through existing strategies
- Priorities established by the Partnership
- National/regional policies translated into local action

The paper set out a template for one of the Community Strategy objectives and this would be developed into a comprehensive plan with assistance from partner organisations. Some temporary support for the Community Planning Team had been secured to progress the action plan for the 24 objectives of the Community Strategy. It was the intention that this would be completed before Christmas, 2004. The plan would assist the Partnership in deciding on future work, particularly in the context of quality of life data which would be contained in another document supporting the Community Strategy.

Action/Decision	Who	When
The Partnership noted the update on developing the action plan for the Community Strategy.	---	---

6. RESOURCING THE PARTNERSHIP –

The Partnership considered a paper prepared by Andrew Colver (Rushmoor Community Planning Team) which examined the possibility of establishing a pooled budget for the Partnership. It was noted that, at present, the major share of the resources for the community planning process was provided by Rushmoor Borough Council. The main element of this was staff time, which in general terms was the equivalent of one full-time employee. Support was also provided by other organisations, including Hampshire County Council. Financial support was also provided by Rushmoor Borough Council, which allocated monies direct and by the County through a bidding process.

It was felt that the Partnership would benefit from a budget which could be used to fund staff support and individual projects. A budget would give the Partnership a degree of independence from any single organisation and ensure that momentum was maintained. It was also considered that, to work most effectively, funding would need to be sustainable beyond a one-off contribution.

Action/Decision	Who	When
The Partnership agreed in principle to the setting up of a Partnership fund and members were asked to contact Andrew Colver of the Community Planning Team at Rushmoor Borough Council to indicate how much financial support could be given to the Partnership. This issue would be considered further at the next meeting.	All	10th November 2004

7. **CONFERENCES AND EVENTS –**

(1) **Government Office for the South East Workshop – Guildford, Surrey – 8th October 2004 –**

It was noted that this event had been cancelled.

(2) **Portsmouth Local Strategic Partnership – 15th November 2004 –**

Action/Decision	Who	When
Members wishing to take up places at the Portsmouth LSP event on 15th November 2004 were asked to contact Andrew Colver, Community Planning Team at Rushmoor Borough Council.	All/ Andrew Colver	October 2004

8. **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS –**

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

- Wednesday, 10th November 2004 at 4.00 pm (at the Rushmoor Borough Council offices)
- Wednesday, 12th January 2005 at 4.00 pm (at the Rushmoor Borough Council Offices)
- Thursday, 10th March 2005 at 4.00 pm (at the Rushmoor Borough Council Offices)
- Wednesday, 27th April 2005 at 4.00 pm (at the Rushmoor Borough Council Offices)
- Tuesday, 14th June 2005 at 4.00 pm (at the Rushmoor Borough Council Offices)

The meeting closed at 5.20 pm.
