

**Notes of Wealden Local Strategic Partnership Meeting - 12 March 2008  
held at Herstmonceux Village Hall**

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**Present:**

Ian Chisnall – Chair  
Neil O'Brien - East Sussex Fire and Rescue  
Jeoff Hart - Freedom Leisure, Managing Director  
Kathy Fordham - NFU Representative  
Cllr Whitehead - WDC, Deputy Leader  
Cllr Doodes – Leader WDC  
Cllr White – WDC Councillor  
Neil Honnor - Sussex Police, Wealden Commander  
David Chaffey - Assistant Housing Services Director  
Lisa Compton - PCT, Director of Patient and Public Engagement & Corporate Affairs  
Cllr Wilson - WDC Councillor  
Karen Crozier - Coordinator, Hailsham Trust  
April Biggs – Environment Agency  
Teresa Gittins - Action in Rural Sussex, Director of Policy

**In Attendance**

Charles Lant - WDC, Chief Executive  
Michelle Patmore –WDC, Community Liaison Officer  
Caroline Adcock WDC, Community Liaison Officer  
Nigel Eveleigh - WDC, Planning Officer  
John Proctor – WDC, Policy Trainee  
Gill Cameron-Waller – Policy and Partnership Manager WDC

**Apologies:**

Alison Horan – East Sussex County Council  
Martin Small – Policy and Planning, South Downs AONB

**Welcome and Introductions**

**Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising**

Capacity Building 5<sup>th</sup> Feb  
LSP Work Programme  
Finance and Youth Matters  
East Sussex Integrated Sustainable Community Strategy

The notes were signed as an accurate record.

**Matters for AOB**

## **Business Items**

### **East Sussex Integrated Sustainable Community Strategy**

“Pride of Place” is now in its final iteration, we believe this is a first to achieve an integrated document for the 6 LSPs, this is the last opportunity for people to make comment before it is passed to WDC Cabinet 2<sup>nd</sup> April then Full Council 28<sup>th</sup> May. All other D&Bs are following the same process.

Gill was thanked for her work on the project. A number of partners spoke how the strategy was being used to inform their plans. The development of action plans by the six LSPs will achieve real activity on the ground to improve the quality of life for our residents. The action plans will come back to this LSP. This may be able to link with the theme partnerships where appropriate.

For those who produced annual plans it would be good to raise involvement with Pride of Place. The Wealden Community Grants Pot is aligned with the Community Strategy.

### **Local Area Agreement**

Many partners will be involved, just to say there is a truncated timetable. East Sussex (on behalf of ESSP) has to send a list of 35 indicators that they have negotiated by 28 March, which are then agreed with GOSE.

We can have local indicators in the LAA, which may be an additional risk. Going back to action plans, they will have targets set against them, there is then the industry of monitoring. Definitions are critical for monitoring.

The East Sussex Rural Partnership has considered all 198 indicators in the new National Indicator set to identify those which have particular relevance to rural areas. The rural form used a blank grid, AiRS will forward this to partners.

Wealden DC offered to share its initial preferred list with partners, and will collate any suggestions from partners for submission to the LAA Project Team. Please pass any comments to the Wealden policy team. There are links with the new Comprehensive Area Assessment in 2009 and many of the LSP partners now also have a duty to engage with the new LAA which will be finalised by the end of May.

### **Carnegie Project - update**

The Carnegie Trust funded projects looking at links from communities into LSPs. It is action research, to come up with a workable model for LSPs to engage with communities. 4 Parishes took part in the project: East Hoathly, Forest Row, Maresfield, Hellingly. It has been about taking LSP members into the community to discuss issues with communities. There has not been an evaluation at present, however there will be a feedback event in due course.

## **LDF Parish Plan Template**

The template developed by Gill is being offered to Parish as a tool to help input their priorities from Parish Plans. Support is being offered to help Parishes with this process with information on-line at the LSP website. We should also ensure that towns have some sort of template to work with too. There is risk of putting too much resource too soon, a structured timely process will help support parishes.

More information is on the LSP website:

[http://www.wealdencommunitystrategy.co.uk/Parish\\_Plans/FromParishPlanstoCoreStrategy.aspx](http://www.wealdencommunitystrategy.co.uk/Parish_Plans/FromParishPlanstoCoreStrategy.aspx)

## **Infrastructure and Town Plans**

Infrastructure will be a regular agenda item in future to help with the LDF and town and parish plan processes.

Cllr Whitehead supported this kind of approach to be more proactive, which can help benefit the development of the LDF, infrastructure providers and communities. It will help make sure that we have talked to the right people. Cllr Willson also supported this approach, and is concerned by the lack of presence of ESCC.

## **LSP Capacity Building Programme**

Joint East Sussex LSPs Event – 5<sup>th</sup> February

Feedback was received on the Working Together event on 5 February, and the learning points will be shared with the East Sussex LSP CO-ordinators' group. There seems to be a lack of knowledge of the LSP among Parish and District Councillors, there is a big task of communication for the LSP.

## **Theme Partnership Review**

It is one of the areas we identified for our work programme. Amberly has been in touch with people to do desk research for this, which is now being pulled together. We do have to make decisions about theme partnerships, which we think we need to maintain and which would work better at the County level. Is there as part of the capacity building process looking at theme partnerships? Half a day would be useful. Even if we only end up with 2 or 3 small themes we give our attention too.

An exercise has been done before, and communication was a key part of this, with someone in an administrating role. The successful ones have specific targets and actions from the community strategy action plans.

From the EA perspective Environment would work better at a County level, it is a matter of resources.

Community Networking Event – 13<sup>th</sup> March

There is a voluntary sector event in Heathfield tomorrow, Ian will be talking about the LSP.

## **AOB**

### **WDC Corporate Plan Consultation**

Many LSP members did respond and was very welcome and response that were not added were kept to feed in the future plans.

**Lewes Climate Change Event – 24<sup>th</sup> April** 10am to 4pm at the Eastbourne Centre

### **South East Rural Summit**

**East Sussex County Council Minerals and Waste Consultation** – ends 24<sup>th</sup> April  
There are some issues for Wealden.

**Gypsies and Travellers** - Consultation that had been planned for May has been delayed.

### **Post Offices**

A resident of Hailsham e-mailed if we would consider lobbying the County Council to consider the Essex model of supporting post offices.

There is a difference between post office type services or post offices. There are community example where post offices type services have been provided. The Essex example cost £18,000 per post office and that does not provide for the employment. There is more talk of “DIY post offices”. If any post office is closed in a village shop they cannot create post services for two years due to redundancy agreements. There are now voluntary closures from people who had been waiting for redundancy.

AiRS are doing a survey of village shops and post in East Sussex to come up with a traffic light system to find out which are most vulnerable and to share details with partners in economic development.

### **Next Meeting:**

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2008 Heathfield Community Centre