

Wealden voices Wealden choices

Wealden LSP

Meeting on Wednesday 6th | July 2005

4pm at Hailsham East Community Centre

Those attending

<p>LSP Members:</p> <p>Fiona Henniker (SD&W PCT) John Kelly (WFVO) Aprile Biggs (rep Rupert Clubb EA) Cllr. Mrs Pam Doodes (rep Ldr WDC) Ian Chisnall (Churches Together) C.I. Rex Matthews (Police) Cllr Tony Reid (ESCC) Tim Sparrow (SALC) Mike Rogers (Fire Service)</p> <p>Christina Reading (ES Learning Partnership) Sarah Boden (Town & Country Housing Association) Ken Stevens (FSB) Jessica Britton (SD&W PCT) Teresa Gittins (rep Jeremy Leggett AirS)</p>	<p>Others:</p> <p>Sherlyn Barrow (ESCC – global grants) Amanda Hodge (WDC – Regeneration) Alison Horan (ESCC) Sean Nolan (ESCC) Caroline Adcock (LSP Co-ordinator) Jack Sephton (Uckfield YDS) Craig Thomson (ESFRS) Paul Becker (Wealden Skills Partnership) Linda Chesney (Beacon C College) Cllr Mrs C Wilson (WDC) Cllr Mrs D Phillips (WDC) Ieuan Sherwood (AirS) Paul Taylor (CAB) Annette Rudman (WDC)</p>
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Apologies:

Kathy Fordham (NFU)
 Jeremy Leggett
 Cllr. Nigel Coltman

Introduction

Tim Sparrow opened the meeting explaining that the meeting would follow a different format to allow members to consider carefully how the limited and non-committed “second homes” funding of approx. £60,000 could be used to enhance strategic partnership working on behalf of the Wealden community. Together with Caroline Adcock he had looked at the 21 applications received and sent a summary to all LSP Members. As it was not felt possible to hear presentations from all 21 proposals, some had been merged into 3 working groups to facilitate a partnership approach in order to deliver more substantial and effective joint working, *using the LSP as a catalyst to attract funding from statutory agencies and support from a variety of other organisations to achieve joint outputs and a shared vision*. The LSP was not a grant providing body but a strategic partnership and therefore needed to use its limited funds as strategically as possible.

Pam Doodes queried the suggestion that projects could be considered by the Safer Wealden Partnership. Tim responded that this did not mean that money would be forthcoming from this partnership, rather that the ideas were in keeping with that

particular theme group. The intention is for LSP to use its resources in a concentrated way for maximum effect.

Ian Chisnall felt more time was needed to bring projects together and was uncomfortable that some of the proposals, especially those from his own theme group (leisure/ cultural), did not fit into "neat boxes".

Tony Reid was sympathetic to Ian's view and felt more time was needed to group proposals together, or alternatively the LSP should consider all 21 in relation to the agreed criteria.

Christina Reading confirmed that she had not had sufficient time to explore potential within her group of projects.

Sean Nolan commented that the 21 bids were stand alone projects and the the process should not get lost in trying to make them fit into themes. He reiterated the need to ensure the LSP was there to make something happen which wouldn't otherwise occur. The added value was all important.

Tim responded that it was important to make time to fulfil the needs of the LSP and not just give money away. He suggested the meeting could listen to the groups he had proposed as a first step. It may then be possible to support all ideas by identifying other sources of funding and support since LSP money was limited.

Pam Doodes informed the meeting that the Wealden Web-site had been a great success and she asked about Global Grants. Sheralyn Barrow explained how Global Grants were funded by European money from the ESF fund through ESCC. A specific sum of money had been set aside which was currently available to match fund suitable projects coming through the Wealden LSP . These initiatives should assist individuals moving into employment and help break down barriers.

After much debate it was felt that the group should consider all 21 bids, giving everyone the opportunity to present their proposal to the LSP. It was agreed that for this to happen it would be necessary to spread the process over two meetings.

Local Area Agreement

Sean Nolan and Alison Horan gave a brief account of the latest news in relation to the Local Area Agreement for East Sussex.

The County Council is pleased to be awarded the chance to run a second round pilot LAA. This invites activity within 4 themes but there is a degree of flexibility and scope to expand them..

The LAA must be delivered through partnership working which will increase the need for all LSP's in East Sussex to work together.

An initial consultation for the second round of the PSA was undertaken but more intense work is required to achieve the tight timetable ie

Submission and draft agreement by September 28th

Negotiations with Government Office up to Christmas 2005

LAA signed off by 21st February 2006 ready to start in the next financial year

A consultation event has been organised for 22nd July at the King's Centre, Eastbourne, to which all are invited. A fuller briefing on the LAA process will be given at this event and LSP members are urged to attend.

PSA targets will now be incorporated into LAA targets but there is still scope to attract a performance reward grant at the end of 3 years for approx 12 outputs if they are sufficiently stretching.

The LAA is a rolling programme and agreements will be agreed for a period of 3 years with an annual update each year. It is an on-going process which allows ideas to be developed and introduced at a later date.

Governance arrangements are still undecided as the county wish to develop their ideas first and then decide how best they are delivered.

The meeting continued with the Partners who had been shortlisted prior to the meeting, making their bids within groups.

Project Presentations

Group 1 - Elderly People (pilot projects in Crowborough) represented by Sussex Downs & Weald PCT and ESCC Number 4 and 19

Crowborough had been selected as this was shown to have a high proportion of elderly people experiencing falls together with difficulty in accessing GP and hospital appointments.

The PCT presented a case study to illustrate the scenario of a 76 yr old living alone experiencing a fall. A volunteer would call, help to complete necessary forms to be forwarded for assessment. An assessment officer would then visit to check home maintenance, fuel poverty, transport, benefits entitlements, exercise, diet and Lifeline connections etc noting any help and arranging delivery. The scheme proposes to use volunteers from Age Concern and this agency has agreed to provide some funding for the project. Local Surgeries would be asked to provide a list of elderly people at risk and these individuals would be invited to participate in the scheme.

ESCC also wish to address problems facing elderly people in relation to accessing health facilities and seek funding towards a co-ordinator to identify volunteers and make links with local churches and their congregation in order to supply transport for GP appointments.

Comments:

There was considerable support from police and fire service partners who are keen to identify those vulnerable to burglary and accidents in the home. This is an opportunity to use volunteers to spot those who need targeting before a crime is committed. Useful links can be made with Community Support Officers,

The project would also identify those who require help with fuel poverty, uptake of benefits, support for carers and those at risk of flood

The main threat to the project was lack of volunteers. Church communities are dwindling and the lack of volunteers was an issue raised by the Crowborough Partnership when carrying out their Health check. Jessica Britton had been reassured by Help the Aged that these people would be forthcoming.

Age Concern may be well placed to identify volunteers who could provide lifts and additional support maybe identified by tapping into links with the Crowborough partnership and Wealden Federation of Voluntary Organisations.

The LSP were very supportive of this group of projects and felt it could provide a conduit for a whole range of organisations who wish to deliver services and support. Aprile Biggs wanted the Environment Agency to be included where elderly people were living in areas at risk of flooding.

Although the activity is limited to Crowborough it has relevance for other parishes in Wealden.

The money could be used to pilot this approach and evaluate how successful it has been. Hard evidence will then provide a good case for applying for funding from other sources such as LAA, the Local Transport Plan, Safer Wealden.

There was general agreement that the two projects should be dealt with as one.

**Group 2 – Transport & Access for Young People
represented by Uckfield YDS, ESFRS and Wealden Skills Partnership
Numbers 12,16,19 and 20**

The scoping report funded from last year's second homes money had highlighted the lack of transport for 8-13 yr olds in rural areas to access leisure centres etc. and was a big issue for those concerned. ESCC has addressed this by proposing to lay on mini-buses one night each week over a 4 wk rolling programme to help young people access places they could not normally get to.

The East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service (a member of the Safer Wealden Partnership) have a "Safe Drive, Stay Alive Scheme" to highlight the issues of road safety. This is based on a local scenario using a video of an accident, plus talks from those involved including an accident victim, the Police, Fire Service, A&E Consultant and parent. Approx 800 16-17yr olds within Wealden, including pupils from state and private schools, would be invited to attend the event. Funding would be needed to hire the venue and provide transport to and from the school. Hopefully the success of such a scheme would create a demand for a year on year event.

Wealden Skills Partnership was represented by Paul Becker-Hounslow from Beacon Community College who outlined the Wheels to Learn/Work scheme. This project would provide a fleet of mopeds for very little cost, including all equipment and training to students aged 16 and over who are following vocational training such as the Young Apprenticeship Scheme including day release from schools. Pupil drop out is a big issue if students face problems in accessing their workplace. The scheme has proved successful elsewhere in the country and Surrey has offered to loan 10 mopeds in the coming year to get the pilot underway. This scheme would be especially helpful to pupils starting at the new Wealden Skills Centre in Uckfield this September who are enrolling on courses including construction and vehicle maintenance. It will also address school travel plans by including a cleaner greener option to the car.

Comments:

All the projects received a high level of support, the Environment Agency were in favour of mopeds and the Police felt this project could address the problems experienced by a small section of society who are disengaged by giving them a purpose in life and something to strive for. It would also encourage better use of the roads as road safety and instruction would be an essential part of the scheme. The scheme may also address the problems in attracting young people into the construction industry where there is considerable demand for skilled labour.

Road safety was also considered a high priority. In addition to the loss of life and disablement, the average accident costs the taxpayer a high price and safer roads are essential to the economy of the district.

Mini buses for young people to access leisure facilities was supported but most felt that the demand could not be satisfied easily. A pilot however, may lead to an application from young people themselves to the National Lottery Young People's Fund and if the scheme could be worked up by younger members of the community it may attract additional funding. Involvement of the Rural Transport Partnership was essential in moving these projects forward.

**Group 3 – Learning & Skills
represented by ES Learning Partnership, Beacon Community College and Wealden's
Citizens Advice Numbers 6,7 13 and 21**

Research was needed to identify issues arising from lack of capacity to meet the demands from "Every Child Matters" agenda, including the new childrens' centres which are being set up across the county. Workforce Strategy requires every child care setting in the district (currently 94) to be run by someone with a degree. Early Years Qualification and Play Work Qualifications are also needed although very few

training centres offer this within easy access of the Wealden area – Brighton and Eastbourne only.

Wealden's Citizens Advice (joining the CABs from Uckfield, Crowborough & Hailsham) wish to deliver a strategic service across Wealden to help both housing association and private tenants in debt with debt advice as well as financial literacy to address debt prevention for young people leaving home. The CAB are keen to engage housing associations in funding a service to tenants and may link with other learning partners to address financial literacy. A comprehensive service with a paid advisor already operates in Uckfield and the CAB wish to extend this to Crowborough and Hailsham

The Adult Learning Centre wish to attract people back into learning, especially those who have been out of touch for some time. Across Wealden six Community Colleges are involved over a 6 wk summer school in Crowborough, Wadhurst, Heathfield, Ringmer, Uckfield and Hailsham. Subjects offered include Skills for Life, Languages and Health & Fitness. Money is required to advertise and promote the course . It was confirmed that Learn Direct also provide courses and are seeking to make these more available, although they were absent from today's meeting.

Comments:

Ken Stevens felt that this was a more challenging group to bring together under the learning umbrella.

Ian Chisnall raised concerns that research into the capacity of those involved in the child care agenda may be useless unless wages for these workers are increased. This was accepted but Wealden needs to be well placed to deal with the demands and reduce barriers to smooth delivery when "Every Child Matters" comes on line. Fiona Henniker felt that this was something that all existing agencies should be doing anyway.

Parish Plans Support Network - Ieuan Sherwood representing Action in Rural Sussex Number 3

Ieuan Sherwood spoke about the achievements of AiRS to date using last year's LSP grant which had helped to develop a database of parish plans, set up a co-ordinators network and contribute to the resource pack. He spoke about proposals for the current application, building on and extending the work achieved so far by developing the network and resource pack. He confirmed that the LSP need to continue this work as it is relevant to all theme partnerships and engages at the grass roots level. It also provides evidence to service providers as to what is needed. The foundations have been built in Year 1 and although the District Council provides some funding to AirS for parish plans support for this is limited. Ieuan explained that out of the 42 parishes within Wealden at present there are still 11/12 who do not work with AiRS in any way, although 8 are engaging on the network and 9 are deeply involved.

Tim thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 6.15pm

Date, Time and Place of next meeting

Wednesday 20th July - 4pm at Hailsham East Community Centre

Minutes compiled by Annette Rudman and Caroline Adcock