

Community Development MINUTES



Website www.yourtestvalley.com

Minutes of a meeting of the Community Development Action Group of the Test Valley Partnership held on Wednesday 19th July 2006 at 10.00am in Mountbatten Room, Crossfield Hall, Romsey.

Present:

Janet Blann (TVCS, Chair)
Greg Alexander (TVCS)
Brian Cowcher (TVBC)
Cllr David Bidwell (TVBC)
Jan Lefley (Romsey School)

Marion Woods (Test Valley Partnership)
Alison Murley (TVBC)
Marianne Piggin (TVBC)
Verna Kempthorne (TVBC)

1. Apologies

Lorraine Tate (Parentline Plus)
Christine Brown (TVBC)
Action Hants)
Bob Coates (Mid-Hants PCT)
Sarah Smith (Testway)
Ange Moon (Andover CAB)

Dawn Elson, TVCS
Giv Thornton (Community

Alison Angel, HCC
Louise Gordon (Enham)
Chris Rankin (St Michael's Church)

2. Matters Arising from previous meeting (9th May)

- Turn Around Project – on the agenda
- Grateley Research – now signed off and report was circulated with minutes
- Rural Mentoring – on the agenda
- Evolve – on the agenda
- Compact – on the agenda
- Romsey Community Improvement Partnership – on the agenda
- St Michael's Church – Chris Rankin has met with Verna Kempthorne to discuss training to carry our research in the St Michael's Church area. No funds available from TVBC, but Verna may be able to provide some training

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3. Parentline Plus

Moved to next meeting

4. Romsey Community Improvement Partnership

Jan explained that this group was established in April 2006, in response to problems of anti-social behaviour in Romsey, disaffected young people, and negative press coverage of young people. Romsey Community School was mentioned in some of the press coverage.

Romsey Community School arranged a meeting to discuss what could be done – made it clear from the outset that the group was an action group, not a talking group! A wide range of organisations were represented, including Connexions, Youth Service, Police, Army.

As a result an Action Plan was agreed, and now the group are working towards achieving these actions – with progress being made already. A calendar of events has been put together for Friday and Saturday nights – with each agency doing approx. one event every six weeks, using their own resources.

A reporter from the Romsey Advertiser attended the last meeting, and Jan is hopeful that some positive press coverage will follow. A Youth Conference is taking place in Romsey Town Hall on 20th October (Mike Richardson, Romsey Mayor is the lead), and a 'Mayor's Award' is going to be launched to recognise the positive contribution young people make in the Romsey area.

A Behaviour Modification Programme has been running in Romsey School – working with young people who have challenging behaviour, and making them more aware of their roles, rights, and responsibilities. The Programme is already succeeding in changing the young people's behaviour.

A 'reaching communities' lottery bid has been written and will be submitted next week, The bid is to fund a 'detached neighbourhood worker' who will work with both young people and the community as a whole.

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Action: circulate RCIP action plan with minutes – AM

5. Turnaround Project

A second networking lunch has taken place and was very successful, and some local residents as well as practitioners attended.

The steering group is working to an Action Plan – concerns were raised that this action plan is not widely available, and therefore there was a risk that the local community would not have the input they should have, and the ‘hands on’ practitioners are not aware of the actions they should be working towards.

Post meeting note The action plan is (and always has been) available on the Test Valley Partnership website at www.yourtestvalley.gov.uk (although unfortunately there is a technical problem at present which may mean the documents can not be accessed). In future the action plan will be distributed to relevant colleagues. In future nobody’s name will appear on the action plan other than those on the TAP implementation group. It will be the responsibility of the group members to disseminate actions to their teams.

It is hoped that a project worker will be employed to take the action plan forward. The post will be 25hrs a week on a one-year contract, employed and managed by TVCS. The group highlighted the need to get the right person employed in this post, and on 25hrs this may be difficult. It was also stressed that the project worker should be steered by the needs and wishes of the local community. The setting up of the ‘one stop shop’ will happen following the appointment of Neighbourhood Activity co coordinator.

Marianne reported that the King Arthur mural on the hall has now been painted by John Cockaday (member of the management committee), and Marianne has arranged for the Andover Advertiser to visit the hall on Friday 21st to take photos of the mural, John and the original competition winning who designed the mural – a positive article about the hall.

Following the success of the Easter programme, a summer programme of events has been co-ordinated by Marianne, and flyers have started to be distributed.

Marianne is in the process of making arrangements for ‘community days’ at King Arthur’s hall (1st and 2nd of September) – to paint the hall. There will be a BBQ,

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climbing wall, and other activities for residents. A draft flyer has been put together. Waiting for confirmation of a project manager before publicising the event.

The management hall committee are very enthusiastic about the TAP, but they have raised concerns about their involvement and the dissemination of information from the steering group. Janet explained that she and Steve Benson are going to arrange to meet with the management committee to discuss this further.

Action: BC and JB to take concerns (re availability of action plan) to steering group meeting on 20th July

Action: summer programme to be distributed with minutes – AM

6. Compact

A new code is being developed – re procurement and the relationship with the voluntary and community sector (Priority H of the LAA). The aim is to raise the profile of this sector as a service provider – eg. this needs to be highlighted in TVBC's procurement strategy.

The group noted that there is a need to raise the profile of the compact and its principles. Agreed to use the Compact workbook at the next meeting.

The Compact has been challenged twice in Hampshire, with one challenge coming from a Test valley organisation.

Action: Finalise the Compact leaflet for distribution – AM and JB

7. Project Updates

Evolve – Greg continues to attend steering group meetings. There are technical and legal issues, but this has not stopped TVCS inputting the data

Rural Mentoring Scheme – the Rural Mentoring Team visited South Somerset District Council on 13th July, to learn best practice with regards Parish Plans and Community Development. The visit was very interesting and useful, with lots of

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information provided. Alison handed round some examples of their good practice case studies.

David Gleave, who is leading the mentoring team, is collating the team's thoughts and action points and will then put together a report dealing how to take this forward.

The group raised concerns over the resources available within TVBC to take this forward, and the commitment that was needed from TVBC with regards community development in rural areas and parish plans.

8. Information Exchange

Verna advised the group that TVBC is the lead for the Childhood Obesity target, and work has begun in this area. Verna also asked for Sal Wright, Healthy Living Co-ordinator, to be invited to the next meeting to give an overview of her work.

Greg - Longparish are taking their Parish Plan forward, looking at local transport and a youth club. United Reformed Church has employed a new Community Development Worker. There will be a voluntary sector event in Romsey on October.

Jan - A Family Learning weekend is taking place at Calshot, with 300 people attending. ICT Support and training is on offer at Romsey Community School.

Action: Invite Sal Wright to the next meeting - AM

Action: IT flyer to go out with minutes - AM

9. Date of next meeting - 2pm, 21st September. Conference Room 5, Beech Hurst, Weyhill Road, Andover