



News Update

January 2006

The Christmas celebrations are now behind us and the new-year is already underway. There is an ever growing agenda for the Partnership and some exciting challenges face us in 2006.

A full agenda for the Partnership Board meeting on January 20th requires us to have to convene an extra meeting in February so that we can deal with all of the business. Items listed for the January meeting include presentations on the Local Development Framework, Hampshire Market Town Initiative, Andover Vision and the Children and Young People Plan.

One of the duties of the Partnership is to respond to consultations and we are currently presented with the challenge not only of responding to the latest government paper on LSPs, but in due course, having to translate it into action.

The paper from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister entitled 'Local Strategic Partnerships: Shaping their future' makes it clear that the Local Strategic Partnership is intended to be the 'partnership of partnerships'. In practise for Test Valley Partnership this involves co-ordinating all the various forms of partnership activity going on within the Borough. There is also particular emphasis on the need for sustainability particularly with regard to establishing long term priorities that take account of anticipated changes in the local area.

The paper also helps us to understand more clearly the important role of partnerships in relation to the Local Area Agreement which it is intended will define the detailed outcomes contained within the Sustainable Community Strategy. It tells us that the local authority will be the accountable body for delivery of the Local Area Agreement because it has a democratic mandate which provides a clear basis on which to determine priorities across the local area.

The government sets out clearly the role of LSPs as follows;

1. To be the partnership of partnerships in an area, providing the strategic co-ordination within the area and linking with other plans and bodies established at the regional and sub-regional local level
2. To ensure a Sustainable Community Strategy is produced that sets the vision and priorities for the area agreed by all parties, including local citizens and businesses and founded on a solid evidence base
3. To develop and drive the effective delivery of their Local Area Agreement
4. To agree an action plan for achieving the Sustainable Community Strategy priorities, including the LAA outcomes.

The Partnership will consider the implications of the paper and the closing date for the consultation is 3rd March. The document is currently available on the TVBC website on www.testvalley.gov.uk/Default.aspx?page=5751

The key tasks for the Test Valley Partnership in 2006 are;

- To consider our governance arrangements in relation to our ability to deliver on local priorities including the LAA outcomes
- To refine our monitoring and reporting system in relation to delivery

- To review and update our Community Plan

It promises to be a busy year for us in the Partnership as we move forward to the next phase of development but it will be an extremely worthwhile one if we are able to achieve what is expected of us – and there is no doubt in my mind that we will.

The Turnaround Project

The project is presently waiting to hear what each of the eight Partnership Action Groups can contribute to addressing some of the issues identified during the Participatory Needs Assessment (PNA). We hope to have all of their responses by the end of January. In the meantime, we have reconfigured the Turnaround Project Group to include new members who will be able to assist with the implementation of an action plan.

We have organised a Community Lunch for those who work in the Alamein ward. This will take place in the Entertainer Public House on King Arthur's Way on 9th February from 12 noon to 2 pm. A good attendance is anticipated and we hope that it will help those working in the area to meet one another and to find out what each other is doing.

We are drafting a leaflet which we can circulate to every home in Alamein, describing some of the findings of the PNA and encouraging residents to become involved in the Turnaround Project. We are very grateful to Hampshire Constabulary for its generous contribution towards the cost of this leaflet and the ongoing costs of the project.

We are excited that the Council has agreed to fund a new playground facility for King Arthur's Way at a cost of £250,000. This will meet one of the needs expressed by residents of that estate. The Council hopes that the new play facilities will be in place by the end of March.

Finally, we are planning to hold a further conference to share progress with the Turnaround Project and to discuss the action plan. This is provisionally arranged for 4th May.

From John Spens, Chairman of the Turnaround Project Group

Romsey Healthcheck

Have you heard about the Romsey Healthcheck? This is not specifically health related, as the name appears to suggest, but is part of the Hampshire Market Towns Project funded by the South East Economic Development Agency (SEEDA). SEEDA has been funding this initiative since April 2004 which, in total, is worth some £7 million pounds to South East England over a 7 year period. The project will contribute to the regeneration of market towns. £1.7 million pounds has been allocated to Hampshire of which 32 market towns fit the criteria but there is work to be done to access funding successfully.

The first stage of the project is now completed. This involves gathering local information under a number of headings, Economy and Work, Environment, Social and Community and Transport and Accessibility; all very interrelated aspects of community life.

The next stage is to agree a vision for the town and then an action plan will be determined. Funding from SEEDA, which needs to be cross matched, has to be secured and active partners involved to ensure that action plans can be implemented in order to achieve the vision.

Christine Cole, Town Centre Manager of Test Valley Borough Council who has worked to initiate the project will continue to facilitate the process as it moves forward but the intention is that local people, those who would like to contribute to what is an exciting opportunity to make a real difference in Romsey, to become more involved. If you are

interested in joining the visioning group to develop a twenty year plan for the town and you live in the Romsey locality please contact Christine on 01264 368308. She would love to hear from you.

Romsey Rapids

Just to let you know that this excellent facility has now re-opened having been extended and refurbished. It now provides a hundred station state of the art gym, two dance studios, an enlarged two floor play facility for children and a crèche, an extended catering area and new coffee lounge. There is also a wellbeing area which incorporates beauty therapy treatments. With regard to the pool facilities these have been upgraded and there are improved water features with a pirate theme.

The official re-opening will take place on 26th January. I am told that the work has been finished on time and within budget – so well done all concerned

Upcoming dates

Partnership Board meeting 20th January - Extra meeting February 8th 2006.

For your information

The Partnership Action Groups chairmen are as follows;-

Health and Wellbeing – Derek Overfield indchapand@aol.com

Transport – David Bidwell Bidwell@bulldoghome.com

Leisure and Culture – Madeline Edmunds Tel/Fax 01794 389014

Community Learning – Jan Lefley jan.lefley@hants.gov.uk

Environment – Lt Colonel Paul Harris paul.harris347@mod.uk

Community Safety – Carol Rooke training@victimsupport-hiow.org.uk

Community Development – Janet Blann janet@tvcs.org.uk

Economic Development – Phillip Liddell aceliftaway@tiscali.co.uk

The chairman of the Turnaround Project Implementation Group is John Spens John.spens@testway.co.uk

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