



News Update

February 2006

These early months of the year are particularly busy for us. We have had two Partnership Board meetings in quick succession, one in late January and the other, an extra meeting, in early February.

Local Development Framework

At the January meeting we were presented with an overview of the Local Development Framework (LDF). This new planning system is intended to speed up plan making processes, will be easy to monitor and review and will ensure community involvement. There is an emphasis on sustainability from government and in practice this means that Community Strategies must relate closely to the Local Development Framework. When the Community Plan is reviewed it will incorporate the LDF as the spatial element of the plan.

We also received updates on both the Romsey Health Check and the Andover Vision.

Romsey Healthcheck

With regard to the Romsey Healthcheck a steering group has now been formed following an open meeting at Romsey Town Hall on 21st January. The group will work together to formulate a 10 – 15 year vision for the town. As well as providing an opportunity to influence and shape the future of the town the project can access funding from the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) to turn some of the plans into action. If you are passionate about Romsey and want to make a difference do contact Christine Cole on 01264 368308. She would love to hear from you and will tell you how you can be involved.

The Andover Vision

The Andover Vision has different origins to the Romsey Healthcheck and yet is similar in that it is based on a long term vision for the town. It arose from widespread concern that Andover faces a series of threats, especially economic ones, to its future wellbeing. A visioning exercise has taken place which was facilitated by Charles Landry, a consultant in community development of world wide renown. A meeting took place in early February with a view to informing local stakeholders about progress so far and the next steps will lead to the development of an action plan which will shape the way forward.

Stockbridge Healthcheck

There is certainly a lot going on at both ends of Test Valley and, of course, we must not forget the rural area between the two. Just for information, Stockbridge is also at an early stage of the Healthcheck process and those who are currently involved are looking for increased local participation from the Stockbridge community itself and from the surrounding villages. If you would like to be involved then please contact David Basely via e-mail at davidandjune@dbasely.freeserve.co.uk He would be very pleased to hear from you.

Children and Young People

The fourth item on the Board agenda was a proposal from Anthony Fielding of the Youth Service with regard to the setting up of a youth development group. Anthony subsequently submitted the following information for this newsletter;

'During September an event at Paulton's Park was held to consult at local district level on the Hampshire Children and Young People Plan. It was identified that there is currently no forum in Test Valley that brings together those who deliver children's services. It was also identified that young people do not have a collective voice and that it is difficult, therefore, to consult with them as a representative and inclusive group. At the last Partnership meeting the Board listened to proposals that suggested the formation of a group that included young people and practitioners. It was proposed that this group could facilitate information sharing and dissemination to and from Partnership Groups on issues that relate to children and young people. Most importantly it could provide an opportunity for young people to be consulted and to influence decisions about development of services for them. The Board saw this as a productive way forward and acknowledged the legitimacy of young people's involvement and influence.

In order to take this forward we would like, in the first instance, practitioners and team managers/operational managers of direct delivery services to come together and discuss methods of involving the children and young people with whom they work. The aim will be to hold a meeting at the end of March or very early April. In the first instance could you please indicate your interest via e-mail to anthony.1.fielding@hants.gov.uk

The Future of Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs)

At the second Board meeting of the Test Valley Partnership in February we gave consideration to two important consultations. The first from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) is entitled 'Local Strategic Partnerships: Shaping their future'. This gave rise to discussion which will inform a response to the ODPM. The closing date for this consultation is 3rd March 2006. The consultation document and our response will be available on the Partnership website later this month on www.yourtestvalley.com

Health Arrangements

The second consultation was on new strategic Health Authority arrangements in Hampshire and the IOW entitled 'Ensuring a Patient-Led NHS. The proposals in the document are for organisational and managerial changes to the Primary Care Trusts in Hampshire and the IOW. They will not change the way clinical services are delivered; they should improve the way those services are run. There will be a number of local meetings to discuss the proposals and the closing date of the consultation is 22nd March 2006. Again Partnership responses will be available on the Partnership website later this month.

Partnership Groups

The themed Partnership Groups decide on their own calendar of meetings. Some meet regularly and others meet when there is a necessity for them to do so. This is likely to arise from some meaty topical issue that requires partnership consideration or support.

These are details of the Partnership Group meetings in February and early March.

Health and Wellbeing: Tuesday 21st February, 2.30-4.30 pm at TVBC in Council Chamber, Dutton's Road, Romsey

Community Learning: Wednesday 22nd February, 12 -2 pm at the Grosvenor Hotel, Stockbridge

Community Development: Tuesday 7th March, 2-4 pm at Crosfield Hall, Romsey

If you have any questions/comments or require additional information please do contact;
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