

Community Development Action Group MINUTES



Website www.yourtestvalley.com

Minutes of a meeting of the Community Development Action Group of the Test Valley Partnership held on Monday 22nd September 2008 at Beech Hurst, Andover.

Present:

Sharon Goodridge (HCFF)
Chris Davies (The Parish of Knights Enham)
Dawn Elson (TVCS)
Sarah Smith (Testway)
Hazel Bathie (Testway)
Cllr. Sandra Hawke (TVBC)
Brian Cowcher (TVBC)
Madina Boyo-Jalloh (HCC)
Jane Selby (HCC)
Cllr Sandra Hawke (TVBC)
David Judkins (Andover Baptist Church)
Ewa Gunter (Cross-Links)

David Shields (Grateley PC)
Louise Gordon (Enham)
Dr Mark Deal (Enham)
Nick McNally (Haddon Training Ltd)
Rev Derek Overfield (Industrial Chaplain)
Alison Angell (HCC)
Janet Blann (TVCS)
Verna Brown (TVBC)
Frances Candler (CAH)
Rahile Ahi (Andover Muslim Association)
Ania Kinross (Cross-Links)
Marianne Piggitt (TVBC)

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

Apologies were received from:

Martin Jeffries (Hampshire Constabulary)
Chris Lawton (Family Support Worker)
Andrew Ashdown (Parish of Knights Enham)
Jo Dixon (CAH)

James Moody (Partnerships Officer)
Louisa Rice (TVBC)
Jenny Stevens (Andover Museum)
Sandy Craig (Andover Family Learning)

2. Matters Arising from previous meeting (20th May 2008)

- Minutes agreed

3. Housing development update

Brian Cowcher spoke about the current housing market, what the Government and Test Valley Borough Council are doing.

Community Development Action Group MINUTES



Government :

The Government announced a range of measures on 2 September 2008 to address the housing market downturn. Full details of how these proposals might be implemented have yet to be released.

The key measures are:

- a) Stamp Duty will not apply to residential property of £175,000 or less for a period of one year from 3 September 2008.
- b) a £300 million shared equity scheme HomeBuy Direct will help up to 10,000 first time buyers whose household income is under £60,000 by offering an equity loan of up to 30%, co-funded by the Government and the developer, free of charge for 5 years.
- c) a £200 million mortgage rescue scheme will help up to 6,000 vulnerable homeowners facing repossession, who would otherwise have been accepted as homeless, to remain in their own home – with local authorities acting as the gatekeeper/assessor to determine cases.
- d) £100 million investment to shorten, from April 2009, the waiting period before Income Support for Mortgage Interest (SMI) is paid from 39 weeks for new working age claims. This could help prevent a further 10,000 repossessions.
- e) Working with RDAs to support the most critical regeneration schemes with the most potential to transform communities and which have slowed down or stalled due to market conditions.
- f) £200 million available to buy unsold private sector new build homes off the market (as announced in June) and the establishment of a National Clearing House through which developers can make bids.
- g) £400 million brought forward from 2010-2012 to fund new affordable homes developed by RSLs
- h) Expanding free legal representation in county courts for households at risk of repossession
- i) Providing more debt advice with £9 million funding to Citizens Advice Bureaux.

Mortgage rescue – housing associations will buy properties at risk of repossession at the market rate and then offer the householder one of three options:

- converting the property to shared ownership

Community Development Action Group MINUTES



- offering an equity loan and converting property to shared equity
- sale and rent back – the association clears the secured debt and the applicant pays rent at an affordable level.

Cases will be assessed by the local authority which means, in effect, that only households deemed vulnerable and unintentionally homeless will be assisted.

Council to build – it appears that Council without their own housing stock are being excluded. Council with stock may bid for grant funding alongside housing associations by way of an ALMO or special purpose vehicle.

What we are doing:

- We continue to provide housing options advice, prevent and assess homelessness, assist with the Rent Deposit Loan Scheme where appropriate.
- We are working closely with local RSLs to identify opportunities for 'off the shelf' type packages such as at Salisbury Road, Andover.
- We are establishing a new partnership with RSLs to improve development performance and work closely with developers.
- We have identified Council-owned sites that might be developed for affordable housing and are investigating ways of maximising the capital receipt that might be obtained.
- We are investigating options for mortgage rescue arrangements although I suspect we will await further details of the Government's scheme before progressing further.
- We are encouraging Testway Housing to take on a higher number of short term leased properties.

4. Diversity Toolkit

Frances Candler, Diversity Network Officer for Community Action Hampshire (CAH) introduced the Diversity Toolkit. The role funded by Capacity Builders was brought about to increase the voluntary sectors awareness of diversity. Frances has consulted with numerous voluntary sector organisations and collated much information on black minority ethnic (BME) groups across Hampshire. Frances's continuing role now the Toolkit has been completed is to encourage individuals and groups to form forums and focus groups to inform and influence decision makers.

Community Development Action Group MINUTES



The Toolkit is specific to Hampshire and addresses the seven equality strands. It provides basic information you need to understand and apply the principles of equality and diversity. It outlines practical steps an organisation can take to promote equality and diversity and challenge discrimination, and it will help you reach and work effectively with Hampshire's diverse communities.

Some Council for Voluntary Services and CAH are currently offering equality and diversity training.

For more information, please contact;

Frances Candler, CAH

T - 01962 857 357

E – frances.candler@action.hants.org.uk

www.action.hants.org.uk

5. Community development and Test Valley's black and minority ethnic (BME) communities

Madina Boyo-Jalloh introduced her role, Community Development Worker for BME and Social Inclusion. The post is funded by the Primary Care Trust and Hampshire County Council and sits within the local authority. This is a new post; some local authorities are still in the process of recruiting. The role is to work with the statutory and voluntary/community sectors within Test Valley and bring people together to increase people understanding of different cultures and some of the challenges faced. It's about reducing barriers, and access to services.

A sample of Madina's work to date consists of the following;

- Summer drop-in session at Askalot Shop
- Football tournament for young people at Phoenix Community Centre
- Coffee afternoon at King Arthur's Hall – next one is 29th October
- Young peoples project at the Junction
- Organising a Forum on 19th November at Rendezvous

For more information, please contact:

Madina Boyo-Jalloh

T – 01264 368850

E – mboyojalloh@testvalley.gov.uk

Community Development Action Group MINUTES



6. Cross-Link Central and Eastern European Association

Ania Kinross and Ewa Gunter gave a presentation about Cross-Link, a community group which has been recently established to welcome and offer support to foreign nationals in and around Andover.

The group is open to anyone, not just people from BME backgrounds. The group currently have 41 members, they provide a support network assisting people with queries about how to access services, translating information, they have organised specific events around Housing and have one coming up on Education, they hold social evenings and much much more.

Please see the attached presentation for more information or contact;

Ania Kinross

E – ania.kinross@cross-link.org

W – www.cross-link.org (currently under construction)

7. Andover Churches Together

Andover Churches Together is made up of 16 Churches, approximately 2000 church goers. This year all churches have been participating in HOPE 08, which is a national initiative. It's to encourage spreading hope and good news across the board. To date in Andover, under this initiative Churches have;

- Held a very successful fun day at Vigo Road, with approximately 1400 people attending
- Cleaned up Watermills Park
- Litter picks in King Arthur's, and painting of Hall
- Offer support and courses on parenting, homelessness, youth work, debt counselling and much more.

The Churches Together have been involved in a wide range of other community events across Andover. David emphasised that between them they do have a wide range of resources and volunteers and they are able to provide support and advice where possible.

For more information, please contact;

David Judkins

E – david.judkins@andoverbaptist.org.uk

Community Development Action Group MINUTES



8. Project updates / information exchange

Turnaround Project – Summer activities run by the Neighbourhood Activity Co-ordinator at King Arthur's Hall were well attended. However, need to recruit more volunteers prior to next year's activities.

Askalot – Petra Gooden-Husbands has started as Project Co-ordinator at Askalot. She is working 18.5 hours a week. Quit Smoking have recently started sessions and Bridge that Gap, offering debt counselling are to start in due course.

Askalot will be celebrating its 1st Birthday on 18th October (officially a year to the day), there will be face painting, balloon sculpting, book stall, IT tasters and a variety of agencies on hand to give advice.

Play Rangers – The Big Lottery, Play Rangers Project was extremely successful throughout the summer. Play Rangers were based ?????????? Janet are you able to fill in the blanks and approx numbers?

Volunteers Event – The Volunteer Centre are holding Volunteers Event; Saturday 1st November @ Rendezvous, Andover 10am-1pm.

Organisations looking to recruit volunteers are invited to exhibit information about the services offered and potential volunteers are encouraged to attend and see if they can find any suitable placements with those organisations.

For more information, contact Dawn Elson on 01264 362600 / dawn.elson@tvcs.org.uk

Andover Muslim Association – Mrs Ahi explained that the Association are currently experiencing problems finding an appropriate venue at the moment. If anyone has any ideas please contact Madina Boyo-Jalloh.

9. Dates of future meetings in 2008

24th November, 10-12, Council Chamber, Duttons Road, Romsey

Any agenda items to Marianne (01264 368623 / mpiggin@testvalley.gov.uk)