

# Community Development Action Group MINUTES



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Minutes of the meeting of the Community Development Action Group of the Test Valley Partnership held on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2010 at Beech Hurst, Andover.

## Present:

Janet Blann (TVCS) - Chair  
Marianne Piggin (TVBC)  
Cllr Sandra Hawke (TVBC)  
David Shields (Grateley PC)  
Alan Evans (Andover Churches Together)  
Melody Mew (Enham)  
Steve Lincoln (TVBC)  
Garry Tallett (TVBC) for items 1-5

## 1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

Apologies were received from:

Alison Angell (HCC)  
Ian Cross (HCC Adult Services)  
Jenny Stevens (Andover Museum)  
Brian Cowcher (TVBC)  
Sharon Goodridge (TVBC)  
Jacqui Evans (TVBC)  
Madina Kamara-Aspin (BME Community Development Officer)  
Sally Simpson (Romsey & District Carers Forum)

## 2. Matters arising from previous meeting (23<sup>rd</sup> September 2010)

- Marianne highlighted an error in the minutes. On page 2, the second bullet point under item 3 should read, "*Partner agencies have agreed to continue to support the job club.*"
- Steve has passed responsibility for contacting James Moody to discuss the community event calendar to Marianne.
- The community planning DVD was not ready in time for this meeting but will be included on the agenda for the meeting in January 2011.

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## 3. Mencap Resource Centre

Simon Tyler, the Chief Executive of Andover & District Mencap, did not attend the meeting to give a presentation on the new resource centre. Steve will contact him to try and rearrange this item for a future CDAG meeting.

## 4. Neighbourhood management pilot

Garry Tallett, Community Safety Manager at TVBC, spoke about the proposed neighbourhood management pilot. Key points were:

- Two years ago, services such as the Council, Police and Fire Service started discussions about adopting a neighbourhood management approach to enable better joint working in tackling issues in identified key neighbourhoods.
- There were three pilot areas in mind - the Turnaround Project (TAP) area within Alamein ward in Andover, a rural community (possibly Kings Somborne) and either Romsey or North Baddesley. There is a need for a number of pilot areas due to the diverse nature of the Borough and the different approaches required in each.
- The next stage was to bring on board other stakeholder organisations such as registered social landlords (RSLs), community associations and other community-based organisations. However, before that could be done the likelihood of cuts in public sector resources became apparent and the work was put on hold. This is still the case and at the current time there is no agreed timescale for recommencing this work.
- When financial pressures start to subside, this style of close joint working will be necessary as it will enable efficient use of resources. It is therefore likely that the pilot will be resurrected once the fall out from the funding cuts has settled.

Garry also highlighted some points related to the future of Police services in Test Valley:

- There is a commitment of no reductions in front-line Police numbers for at least two years.
- It is proposed that the Test Valley Police District will be split, with southern Test Valley becoming part of Eastleigh Police District. Northern Test Valley would stand alone for 12 months but then become part of Basingstoke Police District. The Community Safety Partnership has expressed its disappointment at the proposal to split the district, a final decision on which will be made early in 2011.
- One benefit from the redesigned services is that response time to urgent incidents should be improved, as in future response will come from the nearest unit irrespective of which District they are based in.
- Another implication of the reduced resources is that there are likely to be less Police (or less senior Police) at partnership meetings in future.

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## 5. Performance report update JAF4 – Cohesive and Resilient Communities

Marianne updated on progress with JAF4 since the September meeting. The key projects for achieving the JAF were discussed - please refer to updated performance reports. The following issues were discussed:

- A 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday event was held at Askalot, attended by approximately 40 people.
- The IT sessions have now been re-established with Christine Alexander.
- New counselling sessions have started at Askalot, provided by the Primary Care Trust through a project called Increased Access to Psychological Therapies (IAP). The project takes referrals from GPs.
- It is expected that a Big Lottery pre-application on behalf of the Turnaround Project will be submitted before Christmas.
- Wellow Parish Plan has been published. It was considered by the CDAG working group, with a few comments, and will now go to the LSP Board for approval.

Garry updated on progress with the acquisitive crime actions within JAF4. The following issues were discussed:

- Operation Nemesis was very successful and led to the capture of a number of high profile burglars. This included one case where one of the Council's street cleaning operatives provided valuable intelligence that led to an arrest – a great example of agencies working together.
- The drug action group is currently on hold, as some of the funding that enabled the work has been lost.
- The winter 2010 campaign has been started, with the name Operation Scrooge. There will be increased targeting of town centres and education related to minimising shoplifting. Lanyards have been distributed in the Chantry Centre and via businesses to help reduce the risk of purse lifting. Melody requested some lanyards for Enham and Garry suggested that she be put in touch with Melody Manning at Hampshire Police, whose contact details Steve will provide.
- There will be an increased focus on the night-time economy until January.
- Farm Watch is now up and running. This includes an initiative to tackle fuel theft through use of chemical tagging. This initiative was highlighted on the BBC programme Countryfile.
- There are some issues currently in the Andover area related to poaching.
- All crime is down by 13% on the same time last year, compared to a 6% reduction nationally. Serious acquisitive crime has increased slightly, although that was expected at a time of recession.

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It was agreed that for the next update of JAF4, the score for engagement of partners should be '4 (out of 5) - *We are making good progress. Most of the key partners have been identified and engaged to some degree*'.

Cllr Hawke highlighted a current spate of spurious 'cash back' transactions at supermarkets in the south of England and urged people to spread the word to raise awareness. Check your receipt before you leave the store!

## 6. Performance report update JAF8 – New Neighbourhoods

Steve updated on progress with JAF8 since the September meeting. The key projects for achieving the JAF were discussed - please refer to updated performance reports. The following issues were discussed:

- A meeting of the East Anton Delivery Group took place on 30<sup>th</sup> September to focus on health issues. It was a well attended meeting, with all six GP practices from the Andover area represented. The meeting highlighted concerns at the current provision on-site, which is provision of a plot of land for development with health facilities. The current climate means that it is deemed unlikely that anyone would wish to develop a site, and the preference of the PCT and GPs would be for investment in existing facilities. Another meeting will be held in January 2011 to continue the discussion and seek to identify if alternative options might be possible.
- The temporary community facility at East Anton is still not open for business, as the accessibility issues have still not been resolved. TVBC Planning Department has now issued issues and enforcement notice on the developer.
- A number of planned actions for the Community Development Officer have had to be postponed because of the lack of a venue, although other activities are taking place. Details follow in the project update (item 8).

It was agreed that for the next update of JAF4, the score for engagement of partners should be '3 (out of 5) – *it's going okay but lots of room for improvement*'. This reflects the problems we are experiencing with the temporary community facility.

## 7. TVBC Core Strategy Key Issues

Steve explained that the Council is undertaking informal consultation with Borough Councillors, Parish Councils and members of the Local Strategic Partnership on a 'Core Strategy Key Issues' document. This document has been prepared to provide the starting point for drawing together what we know about the Borough and the key issues the Council, and its partners, will need to address in planning for the future of the area. This will inform

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discussions on the drafting of the new Core Strategy and the Corporate Plan. These are important tools in delivering the themes of the Community Plan.

The purpose of the consultation is to see whether we have correctly described Test Valley and identified the key issues which it faces. Once we have identified the issues the Council can then look to put into place policies and proposals within the new draft Core Strategy to help improve, enhance and protect Test Valley.

The document can be viewed on the [Test Valley Partnership website](#) and comments are required by TVBC no later than 10<sup>th</sup> December.

Melody commented that there should be reference in the document to the role of Enham in providing for disabled people.

All group members were encouraged to submit comments on behalf of their respective organisations. If they want to contribute to a combined CDAG response then comments should be e-mailed to Steve by 9<sup>th</sup> December at the latest.

## 8. Project Updates

### Andover Churches Together (ACT)

Alan Evans - [AEvans7244@aol.com](mailto:AEvans7244@aol.com)

- The [Andover Street Pastors](#) project will be launched at Andover Guildhall on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December. There was great interest in the project so someone will be invited to a future Andover meeting of CDAG to talk about it. Alan to raise this with the appropriate person(s).
- Christmas lunch will be provided at Penton Hall on Christmas Day for older people who would otherwise be alone. Contact [Andover Neighbourcare](#) for more information.
- [Andover Food Bank](#) is preparing Christmas boxes and hampers.
- ACT has a number of volunteers who undertake environmental clean-up work in areas that need some attention. If people are aware of such areas they should contact Alan to see if any volunteer help might be available.
- Staff at [The Bridge](#) and at St Michael's Church are arranging their opening hours to provide co-ordinated refuge for street sleepers and minimise the time during which there is nowhere to go.

### TVCS

Janet Blann - [Janet@tvcs.org.uk](mailto:Janet@tvcs.org.uk)

- There will shortly be a change of staff at [Askalot](#), as Petra is leaving. The hope is to extend the contract beyond December to March 2011.

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- Mags Todd is also leaving from her role as Neighbourhood Activity Co-ordinator. The Turnaround Project (TAP) Steering Group is holding fire on a long-term replacement until the outcome of the lottery bid is known so that the post can be recruited with knowledge of the future shape of the project.
- There is concern for the outcome of the TAP lottery bid, as it has become known that another bid from the Andover area will also be submitted at a similar time. The bid will be from Alabaré for work at The Junction.

## TVBC

Sharon Goodridge - [sgoodridge@testvalley.gov.uk](mailto:sgoodridge@testvalley.gov.uk)

- Health walks are scheduled for 2 December, 6 & 20 January, 3 & 17 February all at 10.00am for an hour, leaving from outside the East Anton temporary community centre.
- A toddler trail walk for parents with pushchairs will take place on 6 December at 10.30am leaving from outside the East Anton temporary community centre.
- East Anton Parent and toddler group starts on afternoon of 10 January.
- A parents coffee morning is taking place at Endeavour School on 1 December.

Steve Lincoln – [slincoln@testvalley.gov.uk](mailto:slincoln@testvalley.gov.uk)

- TVBC is holding a JAF Stakeholder Review event at Longstock Village Hall on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December. In November Steve circulated a request for three volunteers to represent CDAG at the meeting. Two volunteers came forward – David Shields and Alison Angell. Other CDAG members will also be there in other capacities – Janet Blann, Cllr Sandra Hawke and Melody Mew – so the group should be well represented.

## 9. Any other business

Janet mentioned the ‘Community Conversations’ that are beginning in Test Valley. Six ‘Community Conversations’ are to be delivered across Test Valley between January and March 2011 as part of a pilot project being funded through Local Government Improvement (previously IDEA). The purpose of the community conversations are to explore how our most vulnerable and isolated residents access services and to identify where there are opportunities for partners and communities to work closer together in supporting these individuals. An invitation will be extended to James Moody to attend the next CDAG meeting and explain more about the ‘Community Conversations’.

Melody spoke about the emerging Andover & District Disability Forum. It has been modelled on the Basingstoke equivalent and will absorb the existing Andover Action Committee for Disabled People, with a broader remit. Six volunteers have come forward to form a steering group, which will meet for the first time in the New Year. The new Forum is being actively supported by Cllr Jan Lovell from TVBC.

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## 10. Future meetings

The dates of future meetings, and some suggested agenda items, are as follows:

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2011, 10am – 12pm Large Conference Chamber, Dutton's Road, Romsey

- Abbotswood development
- Community Planning in Hampshire DVD
- Community Conversations

March / April 2011 (to be agreed at next meeting) in Andover

- New Mencap Centre
- Street pastors in Andover

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## Summary of actions:

Action	Who?
Contact James Moody re Andover Sound community event calendar.	Marianne Piggitt
Community planning DVD to be shown at the next meeting.	Steve Lincoln
Contact Simon Tyler to rearrange a presentation on the new Andover Mencap Resource Centre for a future CDAG meeting.	Steve Lincoln
Provide contact details for Melody Manning at Hampshire Police to Melody Mew at Enham, in relation to provision of lanyards to prevent purse lifting.	Steve Lincoln
Invite someone to a future Andover meeting of CDAG (date to be agreed) to talk about the Street Pastors project.	Alan Evans
Comments for inclusion in a combined CDAG response to the TVBC Core Strategy key issues document to Steve by 9th December.	All
Submit a combined CDAG response reflecting comments provided.	Steve Lincoln
Invite James Moody to the January CDAG meeting to explain the work underway on 'Community Conversations'.	Steve Lincoln

Any agenda items to Steve (01264 368623 / [slincoln@testvalley.gov.uk](mailto:slincoln@testvalley.gov.uk))