

Community Development Action Group MINUTES



Website www.yourtestvalley.com

Minutes of the meeting of the Community Development Action Group of the Test Valley Partnership held on Friday 12th August 2011 at Stockbridge Town Hall.

Present:

Janet Blann (TVCS) - Chair
Jo Dixon (Community Action Hampshire)
Andy Ferrier, Marianne Piggin, Steve Lincoln, James Moody, Sal Wright, Cllr Sandra Hawke (TVBC)
Neil Cole, Alison Angell (HCC)
David Bidwell, Richard Harwood (Kings Somborne Parish Council)
Cllr Janet Whiteley (Stockbridge Parish Council)
Judith Cohen (Grateley Parish Council)
Karen Rosier, Fiona Franklin (Ministry of Defence)
Jan Lefley (Romsey School)
Beth Holmyard (Sentinel Housing)

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

Apologies were received from:

Jane Selby (HCC)
Jenny Stevens (Andover Museum)
Alan Evans, David Judkins (Andover Churches Together)
Jim Bird (Community Life Centre, North Baddesley)
Sally Simpson (Romsey & District Carers Forum)
Brian Cowcher, Jacqui Evans, Sharon Goodridge, Verna Brown (TVBC)
Madina Kamara-Aspin (BME Community Development)
Ian Cross (HCC Adult Services)
David Shields (Grateley Parish Council)
Melody Mew (Enham Trust)
Rev. Andrew Ashdown (Parish of Knights Enham)
Maj. Kim Wheeler-Mallows (Ministry of Defence)
Ann Reynolds (Shipton Bellinger Parish Council)
Jane Andrews (Wherwell Parish Council)

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2. Matters arising from previous meeting (12th April 2011)

- The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as an accurate representation of the meeting.
- Steve will enquire about the possibility of holding a future meeting at the new Andover Mencap Resource Centre, subject to discussion later in the meeting about the location of future meetings.
- Steve to check whether Sarah Tose provided the requested information regarding Picket Twenty. Also to confirm whether the schools at East Anton will be Church of England.

3. Future work and priorities of CDAG

James and Steve gave a presentation that focussed on:

- Some recent examples of successful community development initiatives:
 - Turn Around Project
 - New communities
 - Community conversations
 - Community events
- The Joint Areas of Focus (JAFs):
 - Why the JAFs are important to partnership working in Test Valley.
 - The decision to reduce to four JAFs from 2011-2013.
 - CDAG's primary interest in the new JAF1: *Increasing the capacity of our communities to take a lead on and resolve issues that are important to them.*
 - The three outcomes that all four JAFs will be expected to achieve:
 - *Have a positive impact on individuals or communities within Test Valley.*
 - *See communities taking more of a lead on tackling issues that are important to them.*
 - *Be able to demonstrate that working together through the JAFs provides the most efficient and/or cost effective way in which to address the issue.*
- The role of CDAG.

A series of group discussions took place, from which the key points to emerge were as follows.

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“Why have community development initiatives in Test Valley been successful and what barriers or challenges have hindered progress?”

Successes

- A ‘cheer leader’ or champion
 - May be more important than funding.
 - In existing communities could be from within.
- People from within community must want it and get involved.
- Different approaches to different communities.
- A co-ordinated multi-agency approach.
- Active role of a community association (such as Longparish).
- Traders take a lead.
- Core of people always involved.
- Adapted to the changing world.
- Consistency – support, people, culture, finance.
- Community involvement.
- Good partnership working / relationships.
- Tradition.
- Capacity building – training.
- Celebration – make it fun!
- Volunteers understand their roles.

Barriers and challenges

- Apathy in communities.
- Lack of volunteers – lack of time / people work longer.
- Shift in attitude about helping.
- Misinformation about things like parish planning.
- Lack of funding.
- Getting people to take responsibility.
- Local authorities coming in to do unto a community.
- Lack of time – full time work / family commitments.
- Diverse needs and requirements of the Borough.
- No one-size fits all – needs to be tailored to the community.
- Core of people always involved.
- Doing the same thing at the same time in the same place may get the same result!
- Sustainability – doesn’t run for free.
- Too much paperwork involved with CRB.

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“What key areas of work should feature in the new Joint Area of Focus (JAF)?”

- Parish planning as a tool to support infrastructure in villages (e.g. shops).
- Acknowledge service personnel within the community and improve integration.
- Internet connection.
- Greater support for rural communities.
- Clustering to deliver parish plans and main services / facilities.
- Local networks to find more volunteers.
- Better use of CUS volunteering placement service.
- CRB checks – not well known that Andover Mencap is an umbrella organisation.
- Volunteering ‘centrefold’.
- Volunteering recruitment and training.
- Section 106 funding – communities taking the lead in how it is spent.
- Community leadership – embryo parish councils / urban councils.
- Youth work provision.
- Focussed work – rural / urban – Over Wallop?
- Transport links.
- Rural focus – smarter use of resources.
- Networks across parish councils / communities.
- Timebank (as an example) where everyone’s contribution has value.
- Understanding the needs of the community.
- Cross-over between LSP sub-groups.

4. Future meetings and outstanding actions

Janet thanked everyone for their attendance and enthusiastic contribution.

It was felt to be a very appropriate group of people to take forward the work of CDAG so it is hoped that all will be willing and able to attend future meetings, or send a deputy. Steve will send a message around with the notes of the meeting to ask people if they are willing to become regular members of the group.

Recently meetings have taken place every 2-3 months and have alternated between Andover and Romsey, but attendance numbers have dropped recently and many group members only attend the meetings nearest to them. The view of those present was that meetings near the centre of the Borough would be suitable, although it must be borne in mind that there would be costs involved with hiring venues.

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The next meeting will take place at 10am on Friday 25th November 2011 in the Upper Hall at Stockbridge Town Hall and will seek to develop the ideas into a draft action plan for CDAG.

If you have any ideas for agenda items please advise Steve on 01264 368623 or by e-mail slincoln@testvalley.gov.uk.