

# Community Development Action Group MINUTES



Website [www.yourtestvalley.com](http://www.yourtestvalley.com)

Minutes of a meeting of the Community Development Action Group of the Test Valley Partnership held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2008 in Crosfield Hall, Romsey.

## Present:

Donna Wagers (TVBC)	David Shields (Grateley PC)
Revd Andrew Ashdown (Knights Enham)	Louise Gordon (Enh am)
Dawn Elson (TVCS)	Mollie Antrobus (TVCS)
Verna Brown (TVBC)	Jo Dixon (Community Action Hampshire )
Sarah Smith (Testway)	Kelly Edmead (Testway)
Dave Ball (Testway)	Marianne Piggitt (TVBC)
Alison Murley (TVBC)	Janet Blann (TVCS)
Brian Cowcher (TVBC)	Graham Smith (TVBC)
June Balcombe (BDBC)	Michelle Morley (BDCB)

## 1. Welcome and Apologies

JB welcomed the group, and introduced the two guest speakers: Graham Smith from the Borough Council's Planning Service, and June Balcombe, Community Development Manager at Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council.

Apologies were received from:

Allison Angel (HCC)	Chris Lawton (Family Support Worker)
Jan Lefley (Romsey Community School)	Cllr Brian Page (Age Concern / TVBC)
David Judkins (Andover Baptist Church)	Cllr Marion Kerley (TVBC)
Cllr Sandra Hawke (TVBC)	

## 2. Matters Arising from previous meeting (21<sup>st</sup> January 2008)

- Minutes agreed
- Calor village of the year – awareness raised among villagers, but little response. If any village and wants to enter, please contact Alison Murley on 01264 368622 / [amurley@testvalley.gov.uk](mailto:amurley@testvalley.gov.uk) (deadline for entries is 28<sup>th</sup> April)
- Scrap store – meeting to move this forward has taken place, involving a number of agencies

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## 3. Major developments in Test Valley – Andover and Romsey

**Graham Smith, Senior Planning Officer** gave a presentation to the group about the new planning system (the Core Strategy), and how this builds on the South East Plan. Graham also gave details about the number of houses Test Valley needs to plan for: 8,910 homes up to 2026. 5,000 of these to be in the North of the Borough (North of Timsbury), and 3,910 South of the Borough. Some of these homes will be delivered through brown field development, but the majority will be greenfield development.

### Southern Test Valley:

800 at Abbotswood. Planning application in.

1,500 South of Romsey.

500 in North Baddesley and Valley Park

300 in Nursling

### Northern Test Valley:

2,500 at East Anton

1,200 at Picket Twenty. Planning permission approved

Each development will be subject to a Section 106 agreement. These detail requirements around community facilities, financial contributions etc. New community centres and community development workers form part of the Picket Twenty Section 106, and would look to replicate this requirement for other developments.

Graham showed proposed plans for each development area.

40% of all homes will be affordable (a mix of rented and affordable home ownership options). These will be 'pepper potted' throughout the developments, with clusters of no more than 15.

If any one has any queries about Graham's presentation, the Core Strategy, or the proposed developments, please contact Graham on 01794 527 814 / [gsmith@testvalley.gov.uk](mailto:gsmith@testvalley.gov.uk)

## 4. How it can work in practice – Basingstoke's experience

**June Balcombe, Community Development Manager** at Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, gave a presentation to the group looking at recent developments in Basingstoke, and how community development has formed an integral part of this from the start. Developments ranged from urban regeneration, urban extension development, and rural regeneration.

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Key messages from June's presentation included the need to involve the community from decision making – with the support of agencies. June gave some examples of what has worked well for Basingstoke, achieving real community ownership, and lessons learnt where things did not go as well, such as the need to involve local residents when completing a community plan, rather than just agencies representatives.

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If you would like a copy of June's presentation, please contact Alison on 01264 368622 / [amurley@testvalley.gov.uk](mailto:amurley@testvalley.gov.uk)

act Alison on 01264 368622 /

## 5. Workshops/feedback

The four workshop groups looked at different areas that are important for creating new communities and integrating with our existing communities. Each group made notes:

**Community Development Worker – new workers are proposed as part of the major new developments. What should their role be? What should their priorities be? Who should they be talking to/working with?**

- Role
  - Co-ordinating partnership working and Community Development Workers – a forum?
  - Being in at the start of the development, welcoming new residents and encouraging sense of community
  - Clear understanding of development timetable and content – keeping people informed and up to date with development
  - Good local knowledge for sign posting – being a channel for concerns until community associations setup.
  - Empowering residents to set up community association
  - Understanding of statutory and voluntary agencies
  - Attendance at CDAG? For relevant networks and information
  - Recording their progress for best practice examples
  - Link in with other local projects, workers and communities – 'hotspots' where people meet up
  - On-going monitoring of needs of local people and outcomes achieved
  - Understanding legislation of other agencies e.g. PCTs
  - Flexibility around working hours and working practices
- Working with the right people
  - Residents – new and existing
  - Contractors and developers, landscapers, designers
  - Other Community Development Workers in the area and beyond
  - Statutory and Voluntary groups and agencies
  - Local schools and youth services

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- RSLs
- Shopkeepers, publicans, faith groups, chamber of commerce
- Police, fire, ambulance services
- Health services

**Community Centre – new centres are proposed as part of the major new developments. What should the centres look like? What sort of activities will be happening there? What facilities will be needed?**

- The Centre
  - Environmentally friendly – low carbon footprint
  - Within 15 minutes walking distance
  - Accessible to all
  - Fit with existing facilities
  - Community should have their say on what the centre should look like, eg. be involved in artwork, branding etc
  - Need to be a flexible, multi-purpose space
  - Large reception, storage, light and welcoming, kitchen facilities, IT suite, youth wing, private consultation rooms, garden, office space, sport hall
  - Open all hours!
- Activities
  - Anything that brings the community together
  - Mother/toddler group
  - Over 50s
  - Youth clubs/youth discos
  - Local people hiring the hall
  - Lunch clubs
  - Coffee mornings
  - Community shop/post office
  - Book clubs
  - Mobile library
  - Sports/dance
  - Private hire – parties, businesses
  - Bar
  - Quiz nights
  - Fetes/Fairs
  - Sports days
  - Training
  - Healthy eating/cooking
  - Exhibitions
  - WI
  - Must be tailored to the community!

**Integrating existing and new communities – new developments with new facilities will be located next to existing estates, some of which are our more deprived areas.**

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**How can we ensure existing areas benefit from the new developments and do not feel 'left out'?**

**new developments and do not**

- Community consultation
  - Faith communities
  - Young/older/disabled/BME
  - Existing and new
  - Old communities wanting to move to new
  - Social and private housing
  - Keep existing facilities up to standard
  - Transport links are crucial
  - New schools – integrate with existing schools
  - Avoid 'dumping ground' for difficult families
  - Stop social exclusion
  - Supported by local agencies/volunteers/communities

**Working with the right people – just one or two age  
Lots of people need to be involved. What organisations  
Who are the contacts? What can they offer? When do**

**agencies cannot achieve this alone.  
Organisations should we be working with?  
they need to be involved?**

- Contacts
  - Community – for ownership and involvement
  - Housing Associations – Sovereign
  - Housing Development Officer, TVBC (Donna Wagers)
  - Existing community associations/organisations
  - Voluntary and faith groups
  - BME groups, eg. Crosslink
  - Parish/Borough/County Councillors
  - Police (Martin Jeffery)
  - HCC (Alison Angell)
  - TVBC (Marianne and Alison)
  - GPs/Healthworkers
  - Education
  - Environmental Groups (Chris Watkins, Laura Wood)
  - Transport (Viv Messenger, Annie Tomlinson, HCC Highways)
  - TVCS (Janet, Dawn and Mollie)
  - Children Centres (Tina Monaghan)
- Map where there are existing community associations
- Link with Turn Around Project, and learn from our experience
- Use TVCS' Valley messenger to keep in contact with voluntary groups
- What can these contacts offer?
  - Local knowledge, expertise and experience
  - Involvement and ownership – continuity of management and use of facilities
  - Community associations/group – can apply for funding
  - Publicity

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- Must all start from day one!

## 6. Next steps

Following feedback from the workshops, this information is going to be used to create a draft work plan for the new developments. Will be brought back to the next meeting.

If any one wants to be involved in putting a work plan together, please contact Alison Murley on 0126436862/ [amurley@testvalley.gov.uk](mailto:amurley@testvalley.gov.uk)

## 7. Dates of future meetings in 2008

20<sup>th</sup> May, 10-12, ConRm5, Beech Hurst, Andover

24<sup>th</sup> July, 10-12, Crosfield Hall, Romsey

22<sup>nd</sup> September, 10-12, ConfRm2, Beech Hurst, Andover

24<sup>th</sup> November, 10-12, Council Chamber, Duttons Road, Romsey

Any agenda items to Alison (01264368622/ [amurley@testvalley.gov.uk](mailto:amurley@testvalley.gov.uk))