

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 Thursday 24th July 2008 at Crosfield Hall, Romsey.

Present:

Lucy Jones (TVBC)	David Shields (Grateley PC)
Revd Andrew Ashdown (Knights Enham)	Karen Trimmer (Enh am)
Dawn Elson (TVCS)	Viv Parsons (TVCS)
Dave Ball (Testway)	Monica Lanigan (Romsey Carers Forum)
Kelly White (TVCS)	Jan Lefley (Romsey School)
Cllr. Sandra Hawke (TVBC)	Cllr. Peter Boulton (TVBC)
Alison Murley (TVBC)	Janet Blann (TVCS)
Martin Jeffery (Hampshire Constabulary)	

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

Apologies were received from:

Verna Brown (TVBC)	Kelly Edmead (Testway)
David Judkins (Andover Baptist Church)	Chris Lawton (Family Support Worker)
Cllr. Brian Page (Age Concern/TVBC)	Sarah Smith, Testway Housing
Marianne Piggin (TVBC)	Cllr. Mrs Janet Whiteley (TV BC)
Brian Cowcher (TVBC)	Ann Meader (Romsey Carers)

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

- Minutes agreed

3. Housing development update

- Picket Twenty MDA – first homes due to start on site Spring 2009 (planning permission given, subject to housing market/economy)
- East Anton MDA – first homes due to start on site Spring 2009 (subject to planning permission and housing market/economy)
- Abbotswood – first homes due to start on site Autumn 2009 (subject to planning permission and housing market/economy)
- Shaw House, Appleshaw (10 affordable homes for rent) – due to start on site in August/September

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- New Street, Andover (18 affordable homes for rent) – already started on site
- Salisbury Road, Andover (13 affordable homes for rent) – already started on site
- Orange Lane, Over Wallop (3 affordable homes for rent) – due to be completed in August
- Monxton, Grateley, Stockbridge, and Hurstbourne Tarant – 4 rural schemes all due to start on sites shortly

Karen informed the group that Enham are putting together an outline planning proposal for redevelopment of some of their land, and to improve an development would provide approx. 400 homes, including some affordable.

There is some funding available from the Housing Corporation to enable RSLs (Registered Social Landlords) to buy homes 'off the shelf' from developers who are struggling to sell. This, and other possibilities, will hopefully help Test Valley to increase the number of affordable homes provided this financial year.

Cllr. Hawke pointed out that Test Valley has a number of affordable rural schemes that are being provided through HARAH (Hampshire Alliance for Rural Affordable Housing). Test Valley has been particularly successful in securing rural sites through this partnership.

4. Test Valley's open access play project

Kelly White introduced the Test Valley Play Rangers scheme – this is one of three projects that have been funded through a successful lottery bid. The other two projects are at Hillier Gardens and Phoenix Park in Andover. The projects have funding for three years.

The project has two play rangers and 5 volunteers. The project is running for 8–13 year olds. In addition to Kelly, the project has two play rangers and 5 volunteers. The project is running in 14 play parks across the Borough.

As of September, Kelly will begin to map all the play parks and play areas in Test Valley – this will be carried out in partnership with Test Valley Borough Council's Leisure Service. Kelly is also hoping to map what play activities are provided throughout the Borough, so she can identify any gaps and also be able to signpost people to current provision.

5. Extended Services in Romsey

Jan Lefley explained that there is an action plan for the Romsey area – the group implementing this is called 'Romsey Contact'. A coordinator has now been appointed (Donna Smith). Jan gave the group some examples of what has already been achieved, and some planned actions for the future:

- 700 children involved in making an arch for the education garden at Hillers. This was opened on 11th July.

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- In conjunction with the Three Rivers Partnership, school which will go upon the approach to the Romsey Train Station
- An art project linked to the carnival planned for next year – working with schools and children are designing a board
- Will be focusing on how many targeted (priority) families are accessing services
- Developing a 'Transition Project' – all primary schools to be part of the same transition project – school children producing a CD which will be part of the transition pack
- Developing a training programme for foster carers and people working in children's homes – looking at giving children support with their schoolwork
- Mobile Children's Centre – using the bus previously purchased using Community Safety Partnership funds. Bus is owned by Hampshire Youth Service and Jan has agreed to co-ordinate the use of the bus for all of Test Valley. Aim is to have a one-stop Children's Centre with lots of information and used by lots of different agencies. Will be particularly beneficial for rural areas. 'Train to Gain' funds have been used and so the bus can also be used to work with local businesses. Jan confirmed that there will be an advertising programme to make the public and agencies aware of the bus.

The group was impressed to hear all that was going on with Children's Centres. Ensuring members of the public know about this is important as the group felt that there was some confusion and lack of understanding at present.

6. Promoting volunteering in Test Valley

Viv Parsons introduced her role as manager of the Test Valley Volunteer Centre. There are centres in Romsey and Andover (Dawn Elson at TVCS is the contact for the Andover Centre). The Volunteer Centres provide support at a local level for individual volunteers and organisations that use volunteers.

Viv explained that there are six core functions of a Volunteer Centre;

- Brokerage
 - Marketing
 - Good Practice development
 - Develop Volunteering opportunities
 - Policy response and campaigning
 - Strategic development
- (see attached handout for more details)

Viv works with volunteers and organisations and gives impartial advice. She builds relationships with the volunteers to ensure sustainable volunteer placements. Currently looking to develop the website as a lot of enquiries already come via the website and this is set to increase.

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There is an event on 30th October in Andover aimed at promoting volunteering. Previous events have proved successful with a number of people going on to become volunteers.

Training is offered for organisations – focused on attracting and keeping volunteers. Information sessions are also held in libraries.

Sandra queried the use of the Volunteer Centre by companies who are looking to link with an organisation that need volunteers – Viv explained that she has some involvement in this and is an area that could develop as lots of companies seem to be interested in this. Sandra also asked how the Volunteer Centre could help organisations who are looking for volunteers just for a one-off event, like a day trip. Viv explained that this is something she would be happy to help with, but would need to be contacted at an early stage. Linking with similar organisations is one way of 'borrowing' volunteer staff for a one-off event.

Viv only works 2 days a week and funding is an issue. The group agreed that the value of volunteering should not be underestimated and that volunteering should be promoted and supported.

For more information about the Volunteer Centre and Viv's work, email volunteers@tvcs.org.uk or visit www.do-it.org to have a look at the range of volunteering opportunities available.

7. Project updates/information exchange

Andrew Ashdown – Chris Davies, the new Community Development Worker, has made an excellent start and will be coming along to the next CDAG meeting. The consultation with regards the Church Centre at Smannell has been taking place. Now coming to the next stage and Andrew wants to progress plans in the Autumn. Wants to make sure he talks to the right people – such as TVBC Planners – about their ideas. **AM to contact Andrew**

Andover Baptist Church – currently consulting on the use of their Church building

Community Life Shop (North Baddesley) – officially opened on 15th July. Children's Centre is based there. Run predominantly by volunteers from the Church. Hopefully have a further update for CDAG's next meeting. Janet asked what people thought about holding a networking lunch in North Baddesley – similar to the one held in Andover for TAP. Not sure of interest, so look in to this further. Martin Jeffrey confirmed that there are no longer any 'hotspots' in North Baddesley. However, PRIME still running.

Turn Around Project/Askalot – advert for new post to be based at the shop will go out this week (employed by TVCS). Lots of interest already so hopefully has someone in place in a month or so.

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David Shields – Grateley Parish Council has a new Chair parking scheme at the Station has started.

man – Tony Seddon. Additional

Dawn Elson – has some training running:

- September – developing assertiveness skills
- November – dealing with difficult circumstances and Trust

ee training

Martin Jeffery – CREW taking place in Andover town centre (11th – 18th August), Shipton Bellinger (one day end of August), and Woodley (February)

e (11th – 18th August), Shipton

Karen Trimmer – Enham's contract to provide floating support to people with learning difficulties starts in September. Will be located in Winchalling. Summer Ball at Enham on 13th August. In a recent expedition to Kilimanjaro, three disabled residents reached the top of the summit.

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Peter Boulton – stressed the need for services and information to reach the rural areas, and that more good news stories should appear in the press.

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Monica Lanigan – Dance Project will be taking place every

ry month in Woodley Hall.

Andrew Ashdown – Trench Farrow have a display this Saturday (26th July) at the Church Centre in Smannell – about the East Anton development.

ay (26th July) at the Church

8. Dates of future meetings in 2008

22nd September, 10-12, Conf Rm 2, Beech Hurst, Andover

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

Any agenda items to Alison (01264368622/

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