

Community Development **MINUTES**



Website www.yourtestvalley.com

Minutes of a meeting of the Community Development Action Group of the Test Valley Partnership held on Monday 21st January 2008, Beech Hurst, Andover.

Present:

Alison Murley (TVBC)
David Bidwell (TVAPC)
Chris Rankin (St Michaels Church)
Brian Cowcher (TVBC)
David Shields (Grateley Parish Council)
Cllr Mrs Sandra Hawke (TVBC)
Graham Smith (IDeA)
Verna Brown (TVB)

Chris Lawton (Family Support)
Marianne Piggin (TVBC)
Kelly Edmead (Testway)
Alison Angel (HCC)
Brian Page (Age Concern)
Susie Thornley (Age Concern)
Molly Antrobus (Andover Mencap)

1. Apologies

Martin Jeffery (Hants Constabulary)
Janet Blann (TVCS, Chair)
Lousie Gordon (Enham)
Kelly Smith (TVBC Play worker)

David Judkins (Andover Baptist Church)
Lynn Bird (Rock Solid)
Cllr Janet Whitely (TVBC)

Cllr Sandra Hawke introduced Graham Smith from the Improvement & Development Agency. The IDeA works for local government improvement so councils can serve people and places better, and Graham is currently spending some time with Sandra.

2. Matters Arising from previous meeting (23rd November 2007)

- Minutes agreed
- Houghton & Bossington's Parish Plan is to be launched on 11th February.
- AM is meeting with Community Action Hampshire to discuss the promotion of Parish Plans in Test Valley, and also discuss Giv Thornton's replacements.

3. CALOR Village of the Year competition

David Bidwell introduced the CALOR Village of the Year award, a national, County and District competition. Last years winner of the Test Valley award was Kings

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Somborne. Only villages are able to apply, those with populations of no greater than 5,000. CALOR are looking for a well balanced, caring, proactive community. Those communities enhancing quality of life for all inhabitants. The focus is on 'community' and therefore fits very well with the work of this group. The closing date for applications is 28th April 2008. The application and further information can be downloaded from www.hampshirealc.org or contact Alison Murley (01264 368622 / amurley@testvalley.gov.uk).

4. Future housing developments

Brian Cowcher raised the issue of the proposed housing developments for Test Valley, by 2026 there are to be 8910 new homes built within the borough. This includes two Major Development Areas (MDAs) in the north, significant development in the South, and smaller developments throughout the rural areas.

Historically, this action group covered both Housing and Community Development. However the 'Housing' aspect has since been dropped. In light of the proposed housing and the impact this is going to have on new and existing communities it was agreed by the group to re-address the future of the group and look to reinstate the housing element of the group, re-assess membership etc. As it stands Housing does not sit with any of the Partnership action groups.

After discussion, It was decided that members would like more information on the proposed new housing developments, and time to reflect and then the discussion be facilitated at the next meeting. A Planning Officer will be invited. The impact of the new developments is huge; the social impact, infrastructure, integration of new communities, etc. It was pointed out that the CDAG Action Plan includes this area of work.

Actions: Who to facilitate?

Develop Work Programme for Group

Examples of good practice – Valley Park, Burghclere

Alison, Janet and Brian to get together a plan for the next meeting's workshop, and circulate to group members.

5. Information exchange

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Chris Lawton - Chris is Andover Churches Family Support Worker. He has been in post for six months. With the help of volunteers he manages three sessions at Askalot, Chris is currently in the process of setting up a 'Swap Shop' at Askalot, he is also under going training to enable him to give Debt Advice, which is a much needed resource and would complement the Citizen's Advice Bureau as this is one of their most common enquiries at the moment.

Chris has also been working to establish Home-start Andover & District, which will hopefully be up and running shortly. Home-start is a national charity that assists parents and families in need of support. Families must have a child under the age of 5yrs. Chris is currently seeking funding for the organisation.

Kelly Edmead – Testway 7s have been supporting activity packs supplied by Childrens Safety Education Foundation (CSEF). The packs link in with curricular subjects related to PSHE for key stage to pupils in year 6. Every year 6 pupil at 6 schools in Test Valley will receive work/activity books and teachers will work from a teachers pack with games etc. Subjects covered are Drugs, Smoking, Alcohol, Bullying, Body and life choices. Schools with packs; Knights Enham Juniors, Roman Way, Vigo Juniors, Bawksbury Juniors, Cupernham Juniors and North Baddesley Juniors.

Testway working in conjunction with Karen Thorburn, Housing, TVBC have also been working with year 10 and 11 at Harroway and Winton Schools to provide pre-tenancy advice and information. They cover topics including tenancy agreements, cost of running a home, procedure of applying for housing etc.

Twice as Nice is doing extremely well, looking to extend their products to include white goods and possibly move to a larger warehouse.

Verna Brown - After the initial Children and Young People's planning event a steering group has now been formed, which will be taking the work forward.

Verna has been approached by Alex Byrne of Hampshire County Council (HCC) reference Older People's Hampshire Well-being Strategy and how Test Valley will need to link in with this.

Verna has also been approached by HCC re: whether Test Valley would be interested in a BME mental health worker. Led to believe that the funding is coming from mental health but the work carried out is around inclusion and well-being. Verna is meeting with the contact on Friday and will feedback at a later stage.

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Susie Thornley – introduced herself as new Chief Executive of Age Concern. Very keen to promote partnerships. In the process of starting a community lunch with Enham. Will also be looking to develop links with the rural villages.

Brian Page – Referred to existing clubs that Age Concern support and has links with. Barclays have a pot of funding available for kitchen equipment and other items for older people's clubs. Currently discussing providing an outreach service at Askalot.

Chris Rankin – Hope 08 – national initiative all churches are involved in. Within Andover, they have numerous events planned at the Bridge including Stress Management Course, Homelessness Conference, fun day being held at Vigo Park on 13th August, starting a befriender scheme. Many events and course etc planned for 2008.

St Michaels Church conducted Participatory Needs Assessment (PNA) of the Millway and Harroway Wards. The PNA was funded by the Local Network Fund. From the events held, feedback was that young people would like a skate park and that playgrounds were limited. A report has been produced. They will be consulting further shortly.

Alison Angell – the Alamein Community Association have now registered with the Charities Commission. They have recently appointed a youth worker for the younger aged youth club, post is for six months and funded by the Local Network Fund. Still waiting to hear re a replacement Neighbourhood Activity Co-ordinator for the Turnaround Project.

Test Valley Community Association Network are meeting on 29th January, this is an information sharing and advice network, primarily for Community Associations across the borough but will be opening membership up to village halls in due course.

Marianne Piggitt – Together with TVCS, holding a Funding Fair on 10th March at Longstock Village Hall 3.30-7pm. For all community & voluntary groups to come and seek potential funders. Workshops will also be held on completing a successful bid etc.

Holding a community event at Askalot on 19th April to raise the profile of the shop to all the community.

Mollie Antrobus – Investigating the possibility of starting a Scrap Store in Andover. Have looked at neighbouring stores in Southampton and Portsmouth – a fantastic resource.

Expanding an existing recycling pilot to include working with TVBC officers.

Andover Food Bank are working with Twice as Nice to produce a welcome pack for young people going into accommodation, providing duvets, pans, towels etc.

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Alison Murley – TVBC recently appointed a play worker, Kelly Smith, who is managed by TVCS. The role is funded by the Lottery as part of the Children’s Play Strategy for Test Valley. Her role is to engage young people and families and encourage them to play in local areas and raise awareness of them.

No news from the Community Life Centre in North Baddesley, but understand things are moving forward.

Marianne, together with Testway, has been working with the Polish community to support social and information events. Unfortunately, the community group have chosen the name ‘The Iron Curtain Association’, and TVBC feel unable to support a group with this name. However, TVBC hope to be able to resolve this and come to a compromise and therefore continue to support this good work.

6. Future meetings

2008

- 1st April, 2-4, Crosfield Hall, Romsey
- 20th May, 10-12, Con Rm 5, Beech Hurst, Andover
- 24th July, 10-12, Crosfield Hall, Romsey
- 22nd September, 10-12, Conf Rm 2, Beech Hurst, Andover
- 24th November, 10-12, Council Chamber, Duttons Road, Romsey

Any agenda items to Alison (01264 368622 / amurley@testvalley.gov.uk)