

Community Development **MINUTES**



Website www.yourtestvalley.com

Minutes of a meeting of the Community Development Action Group of the Test Valley Partnership held on Friday 9th February 2007 in the Council Chambers, Romsey.

Present:

Janet Blann (TVCS, Chair)
Verna Brown (TVBC)
Brian Cowcher (TVBC)
Cllr Mrs Sandra Hawke (TVBC)
David Shields (Grateley PC)
Jane Purdue (Enham)
Cllr Brian Page (TVBC)

Marion Woods (Test Valley Partnership)
Alison Murley (TVBC)
Anne Meader (Carers together)
Marianne Piggitt (TVBC)
Greg Alexander (TVCS)
Cllr Mrs Marion Kerley (TVBC)
Giv Thornton (CAH)

1. Apologies

Louise Gordon (Enham)
David Judkins (Andover Baptist Church)
Alison Angell (HCC)

Sal Wright (TVBC)
Jan Lefley (Romsey Community School)
Sarah Smith (Testway)

2. Matters Arising from previous meeting (13th December 2006)

- Rural Community Development – Rural Conference taking place on 28th March. Invitations had gone to all Parish Councils and members of CDAG, as well as a wide range of other individuals / organisations with an interest in rural issues. Response has been very positive so far. Programme for the event to be sent shortly.
- The majority of December's meeting was dedicated to the review of CDAG's chapter in the Community Plan – with the continuation of this an agenda item.

3. St Michael's Church / Hall

Giv Thornton gave the group an update on the work going on, and planned for, the area around St Michael's Church in Andover

The Church wants to carry out a Participatory Needs Assessment (PNA), looking at the community's needs in their area. This had previously been discussed at CDAG, when Chris Rankin (the Vicar) attended a meeting. At that time, Verna made contact but was unable to

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help due to TVBC's commitment (following a PNA) to the TurnAround Project, and focus on this priority area.

Giv explained that she initially met with the Church about three months ago – during which Giv explained that any PNA would have to look at the needs of the community as a whole, not the needs of the Church. The Church wants to take this approach, and confirmed this at a recent second meeting. The focus of this piece of research is to look at the needs of the area and how the existing Church Hall (or a redeveloped Church Hall) can meet these needs.

Community Action Hampshire (a Rural Council) has resources to take on this work. Giv explained that Rural Councils are looking to expand their 'community planning' work into urban areas, and that St Michael's will be used as a pilot.

The area of research has yet to be decided – Giv advised that she wants the area to be the Ward of Millway, rather than using the Church Parish.

Some concerns were raised by the group with regards lack of information and ability to deliver on identified needs and raised expectations. Cllr Sandra Hawke (Ward member for Millway) has not been involved and asked to be invited to the next St Michael's meeting. Millway is not a priority area, and resources are committed to other areas / projects such as the TurnAround Project. Giv believes that the Church have the resources to deliver on the identified needs.

The group was keen to stress their support and encouragement, and Giv agreed to keep CDAG informed and involved.

Action: Giv to ensure Cllr Hawke (Millway Ward Member) is kept informed and invited to the next St Michael's meeting

Action: St Michael's to be an agenda item for May's meeting (AM)

4. North Baddesley

Greg and Marianne updated the group about community activity in North Baddesley.

Rock Solid – a Children's Fun funded initiative, using a bus 2 hrs twice a week as a mobile youth facility – somewhere for young people to go, provide information etc. Well used with approx. 20 young people using the bus.

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The North Baddesley Community Association was become more proactive recently. 'Silver Surfers' (IT for the over 60s), an Older People's Club are up and running, and a Youth Club is in the process of being set up – with a number of agencies, lead by the Police, working together.

The Head teacher at North Baddesley School has expressed a need for a 'tea pot' type group.

Giv may be able to become involved and carry out a 'mini-assessment' looking at what is already going on in North Baddesley and identifying any gaps.

Janet explained that North Baddesley does not show as a priority area in the indices of deprivation – but the group recognise that North Baddesley has certain issues that need addressing – and as a group CDAG can choose to focus their efforts on this area.

Again, the group expressed the need to keep CDAG informed – and link these recent developments in with PRIME (Problem Resolution in a Multi-Agency Environment) events and RCIPs (Romsey Community Improvement Partnership).

Action: Marianne to discuss the possibility of a 'tea pot' with the Community Association

Action: Verna to find out details for North Baddesley School (free meals etc)

5. Review of the Community Plan – Community Development

Marion summaries what the groups had discussed and agreed a December's meeting...

As a group, we agreed CDAG's overall as:

'A place with strong local communities'.

As a group, we agreed our priorities as:

- **People have access to amenities and services that they need, wherever they live**
- **People feel that they live in a strong, safe and supportive community**
- **Local people influence what goes on in their community, and people are involved in community activity**
- **People are tolerant and trusting in their community and communicate effectively with one another**

Each priority was broken down in to possible actions that could help achieve them.

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People have access to amenities and services that they need, wherever they live

- Joined-up working – sharing information
- Better communication channels – mail/web/face-to-face/local newsletter
- Identify gaps in provision
- Involve Parish Councils / community leaders
- Community Planning – planning and mapping and identifying priorities, avoiding duplication, forming new partnerships (agencies/residents), communicating and sharing information, encourage volunteers – strengthen independence
- Full representation – to ensure we do what people want and not what we think they want – ‘people centred’
- Transport / languages / accessibility / equality of opportunity
- Generic outreach services – delivered in a co-ordinated and flexible way – social enterprise – ‘street doctors’ – mobile rural post offices

People feel that they live in a strong, safe and supportive community

- Need to identify why people feel they don't live in a safe community – ask local residents
- If the priority above is achieved, this one will follow
- Celebrate good news – press/media/community events/local community bulletins
- Focus on positive – Test Valley News, Testway News, ‘Positive page’ in Advertisers
- LSP AGM theme – ‘lets celebrate’ – launch community page
- Linking Neighbourhood Wardens, PCSOs, Police, Neighbourhood watch – people like ‘high visibility’
- Intergenerational work – community projects
- Expand scope of Neighbourhood Watch and increase support
- More community involvement from Police and Wardens
- Need a village focal point where people can meet – Church / village hall
- Community training - churches and mobile service operators, such as libraries
- Community action is key
- Need for some dedicated resources
- Identify the political capital

Local people influence what goes on in their community, and people are involved in community activity

- Parish Plan development – mapping what is going on – community health check – identify needs and gaps – vision of the future
- Identifying issues that affect the majority – may link to other action groups such as Health and Wellbeing, Transport, Community safety etc

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- Identify channels of communication for locality – local newsletter / website
- Identify the 'hard to reach' – involve them
- Produce and implement outcomes
- Harness energy from existing groups and co-ordinate
- Improve access to elected representatives – approachable, non-threatening
- Facilitating consultation – existing mechanisms are inadequate
- Promote and encourage neighbourliness
- Issue based
- Organise community events / celebrations / BBQs etc
- Involve schools
- Improve quality of life and aspirations

People are tolerant and trusting in their community and communicate effectively with one another

- Education and understanding – intergenerational, cultural
- Learning how to communicate between generations
- PHSE, Youth Clubs, Older persons Clubs
- Challenge negative perception – identify clearly what the fears and issues are
- Create opportunities for interaction – community events
- Promoting volunteering among young people, and recognition of volunteers
- Linking between groups and interested parties – communication
- Ensure initiatives happen and continue – are sustained
- Quick wins and incentives
- Small grant schemes

What happens next? Janet and Alison (Chair and Co-ordinator) will go through all the above actions and priorities, and look at how we will measure the difference we make! To be reported back at the next meeting.

6. Information exchange

Parish Plan newsletter – Give writes and distributes a newsletter to Parish Councils (and others). The next edition has an environmental focus – and she is happy to hear suggestions for future issues. Perhaps an article on how to involve schools in community planning? If you have any contributions / ideas, or if you would like to be added to Giv's mailing list, please email Give at giv.thornton@action.hants.org.uk

Positive work in schools – Cllr Kerley drew attention to the positive work that takes place in schools, such as the healthy eating/dinner table initiative in North Baddesley School. It was suggested that details of best practice should be available to all schools.

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Action: Suggestion to be forwarded to Louisa Rise, Environment and Health promotions Officer at TVBC (AM)

Volunteers Awards – joint event with TVBC and TVCS. To take place at Crossfield Hall on 4th June. Through the Andover Vision, the ‘Pride of Andover’ awards are to be launched. Not a replacement for TVBC/TVCS event, but will be working closely together. Provisional date for this event is 18th October. Anne informed the group that Hampshire CC also have an awards event for ‘Good Neighbours’ – see www.hants.gov.uk/bettertime for more info

Community Cultural Day – two events planned (Andover then Romsey) focusing on the new migrant worker populations, particularly from Portugal and Poland. As well as providing information on services, and creating an opportunity for links to be made, there will be a focus on fun – different foods, music etc. Early planning meeting has taken place and was very positive. **Marianne to keep CDAG informed.**

TurnAround Project – draft designs for the possible expansion of King Arthur’s Hall have been well received. The one-stop-shop at Atholl Court is moving forward. There is a meeting on 6th March to gauge community interest / support for the Hall Management Committee to become a Community Association.

Greg Alexander informed the group that he is leaving TVCS end of March – and starting his new job as Chief Executive of Rushmore CVS. The group congratulated Greg on his new job and wished him good luck – although very sorry to see him go!

7. Future meetings

15th May, 10am – 12 – Con Room 5, Beech Hurst, Beech Hurst

18th July, 10am – 12 – Crossfield Hall, Romsey

21st September, 10am – 12 – Andover (room to be confirmed)

23rd November, 10am – 12 – Romsey (room to be confirmed)

Any agenda items to Alison ASAP (amurley@testvalley.gov.uk)