

SEAFORD REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP

Minutes of Steering Group Meeting 9 held at St James' Club (Seaford Volunteers) 1st August 2001

Present:

Cllr David Schueler	Cllr Laurie Holland	Cllr John Freeman
Mary Crutch	Nigel Pargiter	Colin Brown
Maggie Simons	Peter Sinclair	Joan Pearce
Inspector Ron Preddy	Ted Cowdrey	

Guest Speaker - Peter Crowley - Head of Community Leisure - Lewes District Council

1. Introductions and Apologies

Apologies from Sue Moffatt and Sean Cavanagh

2. Talk by Peter Crowley - Head of Community Leisure

Peter Crowley is responsible for managing Lewes District Council's leisure business which has 80 employees.

The leisure facilities are on a 5 year fixed contract basis and are the subject of detailed specifications for the work and services covered on the principle of Best Value and Community Planning. The service also conforms with ISO Standard 9002, Charter Mark, Investors in People and EMAS (Eco-Management Auditing Scheme). The Strategic Management of leisure centres involves meeting financial and corporate targets.

Local activities includes Seaford Family fun Day (in conjunction with Seaford Town Council), Active Age events, Older Person's Health Referral Scheme (in conjunction with the Old School and Seaford Health Centres), Healthy Walks, Post/Anti- Natal Activities, Extending Outreach Exercise Classes.

Existing Partners include the Health and Primary Care Group and joint use and management of the Seaford Health Pool.

Planned future developments include Student Leisure exchange, Water Safety (Life Saving), a 12+ Leisure Forum, Leisure Centre Duke of Edinburgh Awards scheme and Leisure Centre Community Cyber Internet Cafes (with 4 stations planned for Dec 2001).

Some refurbishing of the Seaford Head Pool is also planned. It is hoped that Seaford Town Council could contribute financially towards this to help extend its life. Staffing and energy costs are a major factor.

Subsequent discussion points included:

Possibilities of a Climbing Wall at the Downs Leisure Centre

Cinema Facilities at the Downs for children (Peacehaven Meridian Centre provides this on Saturday mornings). Apparently this does cause some transport problems as there can be up to 400 children involved in drop-off/pick-up.

Youth Audit - already carried out and Jon Freeman will obtain a copy. The County is also now carrying out a Strategic Study.

Possibilities of a new swimming pool at Seaford

It is hoped that

Band Stand at the Salts - Better that this should be portable

At a Partnership stall at the Fun Day considerable interest was shown safe-cycling in Seaford

Seaford is a popular outside location site for major film companies but unfortunately do not use the town's accommodation and catering facilities. These should be mentioned in negotiations with the film companies.

5. Minutes of Meeting 4th July

Agreed

6. Reports from the Thematic Task Groups

4.1 Seafront Improvement and Tourism (David Schueler)

A pro-forma was tabled showing proposed projects for the Salts Recreation Ground including refurbishment/reconstruction of the café, a multi-use bandstand, improvement of play and recreational facilities for young people including the development of the skate-park

A second pro-forma covered the improvement of sailing club launching facilities to help disabled training, a slipway at Splash Point for the deep sea anglers, a new headquarters for the Life Guards, more adjacent to the beach with better vision of the seafront and storage facilities for boats and equipment, and changing facilities for the sub-aqua club. Tourism was also covered by "To the Town/Shop" signs, and Heritage Trail Maps. In addition Improved Seafront shelters and catering were envisaged.

These improvements were expected to help promote Seaford as a venue for Marine Sports for residents and visitors and could also result in the setting up of Marine Sports Festivals in conjunction with similar British or French towns.

It was agreed that separate pro-formas should be produced to work up these ideas as individual items. With regard to the band-stand, a portable unit would be more flexible and durable. This could be used to promote arts/musical festivals at the Salts in addition to using other venues (e.g Martello fields) Jane Spencer should be consulted about the requirements and preferences of young people. The possibilities of a concert this year to be explored.

4.2 Local Transport (Ted Cowdrey) -

It was agreed that a pro-forma should be produced for the Station Project and a meeting set up via LDC and ESCC officers with GOVIA to discuss the possibilities of this.

Forms are going out again to the press and other distribution sources asking for public preferences for bus routes.

4.3 Community Centre and First Stop Shop (Jon Freeman/Mary Crutch)

The Friends of Seaford Library have expressed interest in the Station Plan as a permanent site for a new building. Plans have been produced accommodating three times the present library's floor area.

The attached notes show proposals for the Community Centre with a short term premises solution based on using the Old Town Hall, South Street.

The Seaford Volunteers have had two 5-year leases and have found that the visitors are often seeking information of the sort envisaged for a 'first stop' shop. It would be possible for the information drop-in aspect to be covered at one end and the volunteers would continue with the café facilities at the other.

Seaford Town Council are taking over these premises from LDC and close consultation would be necessary.

4.4 Cradle Hill Industrial Estate and Business Park (Peter Sinclair)

A proforma was tabled giving details of the proposals for an Enterprise Centre, infrastructure improvements, landscaping and cost effective security measures , encouraging local businesses to carry out environmental audits and waste minimisation, reduction of traffic impact and improvements to household recycling rates.

Following up the meeting held on 20th June (see attached notes) it was considered important to set up a partnership for the proposed Enterprise Centre. Training must be linked into this. It was important to understand that the Seaford Community Partnership's role does not include provisions better made by private enterprise.

Ongoing discussions are taking place with the businesses at Cradle Hill and a meeting is being set up with the Chief Executive of LDC.

The Partnership's main role with the traders has been an 'enabling' one which has brokered collaboration between the business representatives and led to discussions with LDC and ESCC on the problems on the estate.

4.5 Town Centre Regeneration

A new group is still required to develop ideas for this and particularly Farmers Markets..

5. Seahaven Healthy Living Centre Bid.

Colin Brown explained the basis of the bid which is being prepared for a submission date in August. This covers a number of community based elements including information, counselling and support services for young people, Social inclusion activities for older people including support, advice and social activities, Support for children and families under stress and employment links for people with mental health difficulties.

The project will include two community cafés in Seaford and Peacehaven/Telscombe, the Seaford one being based on St. James Club.

The project is based on a four/five year cycle and the main costs are salaries and overheads, although there is some provision for capital costs. It is intended to serve those sections of the community which are most vulnerable to health and well being problems due to various forms of social deprivation.

6. Coastal Renaissance Partnership (CRP) Strategy Document

This has not yet been finalised between the consultants and the CRP.

7. Partnership Constitution

It is proposed that a meeting of all representatives of the partnership should be held in September to review the work carried out so far and agree the basis of a constitution. Application will then be made for the registration of the constitution and it is expected that this would be completed by October, thus facilitating official applications and bids for funding for projects.

This will be organised by ESCC and SDCVS.

8. South Downs CVS proposals for a Seminar on Funding

Details are awaited for the proposed seminar and workshop for funding.

9. Public Relations

No action to report

10. AOB

Seaford Town Council have approved a grant of £200 to cover incidental expenses of the Partnership. Payment will be deferred until a bank account is opened, presumably after a constitution is registered.

Date of Next Meeting Wednesday 5th September 2001 at 5.00pm at St James' Hall, Blatchington Road.

DS/3/9/2001

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