

SEAFORD REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP

Minutes of Steering Group Meeting 13 held at St James' Club (Seaford Volunteers) 5th December 2001

Present:

Cllr David Schueler
Mary Crutch
Maggie Simons

Cllr Michael Murphy
Tony Rowswell
Ted Cowdrey

Cllr Jon Freeman
Cllr Laurie Holland
Joan Pearce

1. Introductions and Apologies

Apologies received from Colin Brown, Duncan White, Paul Rideout, Pauline Gower, Sue Moffatt, Christine and Peter Sinclair.

2. Minutes of Meeting No.12 - 7th November 2001

Agreed

3. Reports from the Thematic Task Groups

3.1 Farmers Market

Paul Rideout and Christine Sinclair are continuing research on the various aspects of setting up a farmers market. Paul is preparing a bid for start up cost funding. Sue Moffatt has established that the simpler 'low cost' procedures for road closures can be applied to the requirements for the farmers market. A full presentation will be made at the January meeting.

3.2 First Stop Shop and Seaford Forum (Jon Freeman and Mary Crutch)

Results of the bid for £5000 to cover computer and other equipment for the initial First Stop Shop in the Old Town Hall is still awaited. Leasing arrangements will be discussed with Seaford Town Council in due course.

Discussions had been held with ESCC Library Department and it appears that the present premises are unlikely to be extended to cater for the enlarged library plus a First Stop Shop now required. The Friends of Seaford Library have prepared a specification for modern library requirements for the town.

The station re - development project would appear to offer the best possibility of premises of a suitable size and it was agreed that a joint discussion involving ESCC, LDCC, SCP and Friends of the Library should be held with GOVIA and Railtrack as soon as practicable - bearing in mind the latest situation of Railtrack being taken into receivership.

3.3 Cradle Hill Industrial Estate Improvements

Nothing further to report on traders reactions to the LDC Draft Service Agreement.

3.4 Transport and Safe Routes to School (Ted Cowdrey)

Ted reported that weekly meetings are continuing to be held to analyse the information gleaned by the surveys of parents, children and other residents. The LDC Transport officer has reconsidered the Steyne Road and Sutton Avenue Traffic Calming Project details in the light of the ideas coming from the surveys and discussions and put forward a paper to the LDC Cabinet.

Arrangements have been made for Ted Cowdrey to make a presentation on the proposals to the Seaford Town Council Planning Committee at their meeting on December 6th - but it was recognised that the first stage of the Steyne Road and Sutton Avenue project is due to start early in 2002 and any changes must be deferred until a second stage.

3.5 Seafront Improvements, Tourism and Culture (David Schueler)

A meeting of interested parties is being arranged for 15th January, with participation from new interested parties including a landscape student whose current university project is a redesign of the seafront and Salts, similar to the SCP ideas. Jackie Ellis, LDC Tourism and Arts manager will be attending and she has produced some ballpark costs for the various schemes which have been discussed previously.

3.5 Cinema Club

Discussion on this is deferred until the next meeting

4 Joint INTERREGIII bid

A meeting has been arranged by SDCVS at Lewes on Monday 17th December at 10.30 am for a discussion with other town partnership representatives to consider suitable common themes for a joint bid. It was agreed that David Schueler, Peter Sinclair and Ted Cowdrey would be the Seaford representatives.

It was noted that SDCVS recommendation was for a bid to be prepared under Guidelines Priority 1 (emphasis on Community Regeneration), Measure 3- Develop Safe, Healthy and Inclusive Communities. Veronique Poutrel, ESCC INTERREG officer, will give a presentation on the bidding procedures and will help with finding French partners.

It is understood that funding applications can include money for running Community Partnerships. 50% match funding is required, but this can be partly in kind by assessing partnership time for running projects.

5 Partnership Constitution

Following the discussion at the constitution workshop, comments had been passed to SDCVS asking whether Directors should be appointed to represent all significant groups named in the terms of reference or whether there should be a Board plus a management committee including directors plus other representatives.

The time scale for Martin Redmond to make his comments on the proposals, preparing and signing the papers and lodging them, consideration and approval by the Charity Commission and registration of the company at Companies House is likely to be about three months.

6 Seminar and Presentation to Seaford Town Council

This has been arranged for Tuesday 8th January at the Baptist Church, Belgrave Road, Seaford at 6.30pm.

7 Skills Demand and Supply

No further news of the proposed business breakfasts

8 LSP Meeting 27th November

Further discussions had taken place on the membership and terms of reference for the LSP and the next meeting is arranged for Tuesday 29th January 2002.

9 Any Other Business

David Schueler had attended the final meeting of the Coastal Renaissance Partnership on the morning of 5th December, at which the agreed version of the CRP Strategy report was tabled. Although SEEDA may not be inviting general bids for funding, based on the strategy proposals, from the next batch of money (son of SRB6) - if or when it becomes available - the strategy is a valuable textbook on the economic and community requirements along the East Sussex coastline and the basis for preparing bids from other funding sources.

Discussions are taking place between ESCC, East Sussex Economic Partnership and SEEDA on future funding availability

A presentation was given by the CRP chairman and vice-chairman on the future strategic requirements for realising the SEEDA aim of building a world class economy in the region.

These involve better infrastructure including transport, ICT, Education (particularly technological through a new University Technological Institution located between Eastbourne and Hastings.

A vision for transport improvement includes a High Speed Metro connecting Brighton, Eastbourne, Hastings and Ashford.

Improved local amenities are required with more focussed delivery of business and community services.

The work of the CRP will be carried forward by the East Sussex Economic Partnership and also the Local Strategic Partnerships (of which the SCP will be a member). An important contribution to the strategy will be through the Area Investment Framework - funded under the CRP £250k award (£200k for the production of the CRP strategy report and £50k for the AIF work). AIFs have been set up to examine the investment being planned and programmed over a five to ten year period in a particular locality (in our case the East Sussex Coastal communities). The AIF is designed to embrace the totality of investment from the public, private and voluntary sectors bringing together short and medium term funding proposals within a medium and longer term framework.

The consultants employed for the development of the AIF have produced a summary and a computer model showing their findings and suggested improvements required - a copy on CD ROM has been requested.

An interesting statistic from this shows that income per population head in the Coastal strip in 2000 was £6900 compared with UK average of £8900 and SE average of £9600.

Since funding from SEEDA for strategic objectives will not be available for some time (Hastings and St Leonards will be concentrated on in the shorter term), therefore Area partnerships, such as SCP will have to find funding on their own or jointly with other local organisations and partnerships.

However there are a number of different bodies which offer funding for a range of purposes and we need to tap into these when details of the partnership's projects are finalised.

Date of next meeting - Wednesday 9th January 2002 at St James' Club at 5pm

DS/7/01/2002

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