

SEAFORD REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP

Minutes of Steering Group Meeting 3 held at the offices of Messrs Swindell & Gentry 9th January 2001

Present:

Cllr David Schueler	Cllr Laurie Holland	Cllr Jon Freeman
Mary Crutch	Joan Pearce	Roy Bellingham
Ted Cowdrey	Peter Sinclair	Christine Hart
Maggie Simons	Sue Moffatt	Colin Brown
Nigel Pargiter	Pauline Gower	Inspector Ron Preddy
Owen Clifford - Lewes District Council Community Planning Officer		

0. Introductions and Apologies

Apologies for absence received from Liz Riley

David Schueler advised that Jon Terry has had to stand down from the Steering Group due to pressure of work. He was thanked for his contribution to the discussions on the Cradle Hill Business Park and also for allowing the Partnership the use of Swindell & Gentry's offices as a meeting room.

Cllr Pauline Gower, who had attended the Community Futures Workshops, had expressed interest in the business development aspects of the Partnership's work and it was agreed that she should replace Jon Terry on the Steering Group.

Following the official request to the Council Chief Officers for representatives to be named from local councils, Cllr David Schueler had been nominated for Seaford Town Council and Cllr Duncan White from Lewes District Council. ESCC had not yet nominated their representative.

It was agreed that Laurie Holland should remain on the steering group as the representative from Seaford Churches Together.

Inspector Ron Preddy was welcomed from Seahaven Police.

1. Proposed Community Plan

Mr Owen Clifford, LDC Community Planning Officer explained that the Government wants Local Councils to put together Community Plans which will express the aspirations and ideas of local residents which they would like to see implemented over the next two years.

These should embrace the Agenda 21 interests covering social, economic and environmental areas.

The aim is to establish local strategic community partnerships both District and County wide. It has been decided by LDC that Seaford should be the focus of a pilot scheme for developing such a strategic partnership and the community plan since the new Seaford Regeneration Partnership is already starting to cover the type of activity envisaged by this exercise.

Owen Clifford outlined ideas for the development of the scheme and after some discussion it was agreed that the name of the town's partnership could be changed to Seaford Regeneration and Community Partnership to reflect its involvement in community plans.

It was clarified that no new capital would be available from LDC, ESCC or Government sources to cover any new ideas emerging from the community plans.

Mr Clifford said that the emergence of ideas from the partnership in the areas and themes already identified would be of considerable value to the LDC's project and he would be very interested to see how these are developed in detail.

2. Minutes of Meeting 2 - 28th November 2000

These were approved.

3. Reports from Thematic Task Groups

3.0.1 Education & Training

Chris Smith explained that she had a new role within the field of education and training. There is now great emphasis on upgrading skills training.

Funding of training has been with the TECS in part but this is now to be replaced by Leaving and Schools Councils covering 6th Form to Adult areas. There will be 47 of these in total.

Henry Ball has been appointed Head of the East & West Sussex (together with Brighton & Hove) LSC.

The East Sussex Learning Partnership and ESCC will have joint responsibility for further education and the Learning Plan will emphasise skilled training for work.

Chris Smith has been appointed as one of three coordinators for the county with responsibility for work based training and the development of education and training.

It will be necessary to bid for funding for setting up facilities for this and the Seaford Chamber of Commerce has been approached to look into the possibilities of local small businesses taking part.

It is proposed to set up a project in Seaford to identify (generic) skills needs.

Chris also advised that a conference on work based skills is to be held on 8th February at the Eastbourne International Lawn Tennis Centre and the C of C has been asked to nominate a representative to attend.

It was agreed that the development of skills for work is an essential part of the regeneration process, embracing basic crafts such as plumbing through to ITC and other modern technologies which might be required in the proposed new business park. It has already been proposed that the first stop shop should include facilities for introducing ITC to young people and also adults who face the need for retraining for alternative employment. The SR&CP should therefore support the initiatives being introduced by the new Learning and Skills Councils.

3.1 Seafront Improvement (Liz Riley)

A further meeting of the task group will be arranged shortly to carry forward the ideas described at the last steering group meeting.

3.2 Local Transport (Ted Cowdrey) See attached notes

This group has concentrated on cycling issues during the past month.

There is concern about safe cycling routes being established, particularly for schoolchildren.

Seaford Head and Anercey schools have expressed the view that the Steyne Road/Sutton Avenue road improvements must include safe cycling routes. The moves towards eco-schools will require safe travel to be ventilated.

It is important that round-the-table discussions should take place to enable all sections of the community to express their views on the various aspects of transport and travel within the town. This needs to include tourism requirements.

It was reported that Nick Brown - ESCC has looked at railway station site and approves the general principles put forward by the SRP for its development.

Questionnaires are due to be published in the local newspapers asking for the public's views and requirements for bus services.

3.3 Community Centre and First Stop Shop (Jon Freeman)

Next meeting to take place 10th January

3.4 Cradle Hill Business Park (Peter Sinclair) see attached notes.

Peter Sinclair reported that he had attended the last meeting of the Coastal Renaissance Partnership's Thematic Group 3 dealing with industrial site development (see notes).

It is clear that Greenfield site usage would involve review of the local Development Plan which could present problems.

Ted Cowdrey had called - called various units on the estate and found that their concerns included the speed of traffic on the estate and crime (which could be addressed by private CCTV cameras). If the estate entrance position could be altered via the sports field and facilitated by a roundabout this should enable traffic calming.

It is important that a partnership is established with the Cradle Hill businesses and an action committee set up to help with regeneration of the business estate.

3.5 Town Centre Regeneration (Mary Crutch)

The overview of possible properties for regeneration and new business use had continued.

- The Albert Institute is already being developed and would therefore not be available. Church Mews could be developed into small industrial or knowledge based businesses (costs required).
- Car Park sites might be considered for development (e.g. Sutton Road and corner of East Street) but the council representatives warned that loss of paying car parking would not be considered viable.
- Instead of looking for an existing building for the "first-stop shop", would it be possible for this to be purpose-built? This would require the services of a retired architect or town planner. It was pointed out that the Station redevelopment proposals would plan to include a permanent - first-stop shop and if the time-scale for this is likely to be long-term then temporary premises might need to be found.

It was stressed that the establishment of the "first-stop shop" is of great importance for the centralisation and provision of social and community information. It should also provide an important role in the first steps towards re-training for the unemployed - particularly in the fields

of information technology. It was also stressed that trained volunteers will be required to man the "first-stop" shop.

- Saxon Lane site is included in the District housing plans but it was felt that this would make an excellent site for farmers' market. There is still considerable concern about housing over-development in Seaford.

4. Priorities & Time-Table for Preparation of Proposals for Inputting to CRP

It was agreed that at the next meeting the steering group should review the projects explored so far and divide these into Short, Medium and Long Term Projects to help in deciding on suitable funding bids and decide on the format for submission to the CRP where appropriate.

5. Public Relations

David Schueler confirmed that a press release is in preparation detailing the themes, which are being investigated by the Partnership.

Dates for a public meeting of the Partnership will be discussed at the next steering group meeting

It was noted that invitations had been received by several members to a Town Centre Management Symposium on Monday 22nd January at Eastbourne Town Hall. This has been organised by the CRP Town Centre Thematic Group.

Laurie Holland suggested that it would be of value for the Seaford Regeneration Partnership to make a presentation to the Seaford Town Council Planning and Highways Committee on the various proposals being investigated under the five themes we have developed.

6. Partnership Constitution

It was agreed that in view of the progress being made by the Partnership and the possibility of bidding taking place fairly soon for short term projects, a working party should be set up to establish a suitable formal Constitution. David Schueler and Liz Riley undertook to make enquiries about this - the workshops held by SRCC in Uckfield last year had suggested several possibilities and Colin Brown also promised advice on this subject.

7. Any Other Business

David Schueler will provide forms to record the time spent by at the various meetings being held as this information is needed by the CRP as evidence of "in kind" match-funding

8. Date of Next Meeting

7th February 2001 at 5.00 pm at Seaford Volunteer's HQ - St James' Hall, Blatchington Road

-