



# newhaven strategic network

## NSN Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2008 8.00 – 10.30 am  
Newhaven Town Council, Fort Road

**1 – Present:** Vera Gajic (VG); Ian Everest (IE); David Rogers (DR); Judith Ost (JO); Gill Short (GS); Owen Clifford (OC); Hugh Burnett (HB); Penny Shimmin (PS) and Tracey Evans (TE).

**Visitor:** Simon Hickmott (SH).

**Apologies:** (Anna Brookes (AB); Jean-Marcel Pietri (JMP); Jon Greetham (JG); Rod Main (RM); Kirsti Godson (KG); Marek Lorys (ML); Gilly Bartripp (GB); Simon Kirby (SK) and Peter Aston (PA).

**2 - Minutes of Last Meeting:** accepted as a true record.

### 3 - Matters Arising:

**3.1 – CAFE:** DR held initial discussion and seems unlikely that ESCC Libraries will support a bid in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of bids, even though the deadline has been extended to Jan 5<sup>th</sup> 2009. CAFE is resort focussed and aims to support regeneration through arts and culture and requires 100% match funding.

**Priority Action:** DR to pursue for round three for library or possible public realm project.

**Priority Action:** TE to organise a meeting for VG; PH and PS to explore project opportunities.

**3.2 – Future funding of Development Manager post:** partners are following due process to explore the possibility of funding for 2009/2010 with result not due until February 2009.

**3.3 – Tideway Land:** ESCC have declared the land surplus to requirements and have appointed consultants to explore options for maximising return. VG has expressed the request to hold the land until the BBP work is complete. The land is not currently for sale. NTC have expressed need for play provision.

**Priority Action:** VG to keep abreast of developments.

**3.4 – Data:** TE and VG gathering latest data on Health and Education to include in 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Report.

**3.5 – Section 106 Funding from ERF:** SH tabled a report updating ESCC position on the £900,000 funding and the constraints on the section 106 agreement. (See appendix A). This was an addition to the agenda and discussed under matters arising.

SH explained that the paper was also going to the town council. He explained the purpose of the section 106 legal agreement and the desire to interpret and deliver in such a way that it attracts external match funding to help the wider agenda for Newhaven. The funding must be spent

according to the precise purpose of the agreement. The paper tabled was to outline the process at the beginning of an 8 year process, to be inclusive of the needs of the people of Newhaven.

PS explained that through the BBP work, the Open Spaces strategy was being regularly discussed and a meeting was planned for next Friday which SH would be attending.

HB explained that as well as the section 106 agreement, it was likely that Veolia would fund something in Newhaven with a significant grant, such as a replacement for Shakespeare Hall at Fort Road rec.

DR sought clarification that the interest accrued on the funding from November 5<sup>th</sup> 2008, would be added to the capital and this was confirmed by SH.

DR queried point 3.1 of the paper regarding the current siting of the Household Waste site on Lewes Road. While not ideal it is a core responsibility of ESCC to address. It was confirmed by SH that a repositioning would be welcomed but that no core funding was available to address the issue.

DR queried point 3.2 of the paper regarding mitigation of climate change is a direct contradiction with the truck movements the operation of the ERF will include, travelling via a level crossing rather than directly into the site from the A26.

PS raised the concerns of the implications of more traffic to local businesses.

PS assured the board that the proposals would be considered as part of the wider visioning being undertaken through the work of the Infrastructure Action group.

OC clarified that some land at Riverside Park was in the ownership of ESCC and some was in the ownership of LDC which will possibly incur maintenance liabilities.

**Priority Action:** SH to forward highways mitigation details of planning application to TE.

**Priority Action:** DR to send link to online documentation regarding planning appeal to TE.

**Priority Action:** PS to draft a response from NSN to go with paper to NTC.

**Priority Action:** TE to distribute to board members not in attendance to gain further comments to be included in PS's response.

**Priority Action:** PS to establish a small multi-agency working group asap with representation from NSN; ESCC; LDC and NTC.

**4 – Action Point Update Matrix** – Distributed with the agenda was the full report for 2008.

<http://www.newhaven-regeneration.org/documents/NSNMatrix2008.pdf>

This report includes contributions from wider stakeholders, many involved in the NSN action groups. This report used to pull together progress to include in the annual report. Added to this, statistics on Education and Health are being collected. Collating this information quarterly ensures an accurate report comes to the board mapping progress against the priority action points in the Masterplan.

**5 - Action Groups Report** – Distributed with the agenda was the latest update on the various groups meeting quarterly. (See appendix B). Key priorities have been supporting the Infrastructure Action group and the development of the Business and the Skills Action groups.

GS reported that a Task & Finish rapid response action group has been established to support businesses affected by the recession and facing making redundancies. This has been established through the county Adult Learning & Skills group chaired by Katy Thomas.

**Priority Action:** GS to forward minutes when distributed to TE.

**6 - Local Strategic Partnership Report** – Distributed with the agenda was the latest update on Lewes District LSP. (See appendix C).

TE reported that she would be stepping down as Chair at the December meeting. The steering committee have requested that TE establishes and chairs a district wide thematic partnership group - a Business Development Action Group. There is a group meeting at county level – The Business Board – but there is the need for a district thematic group to drive the Sustainable Community Strategy. The LSP will be hosting a Business Conference early in 2009.

**Priority Action:** TE to calculate time commitment to allow board to establish if this is viable within work-schedule.

## **7 – Key Current Issues:**

**7.1 – CABE:** see 3.1 above.

**7.2 – Current Planning Applications:** Aldi application is to be decided before the end of December. Augustfields likely to be resubmitted shortly to ensure withdrawn application can be considered without incurring further submission fees.

**Priority Action:** OC to request Paul Hoppen produce a list of key current applications for each board meeting to go out with agenda.

### **7.3 – Infrastructure Action Group work with BBP:**

**7.3.1 – The Port:** A variety of meeting have been set up with French partners.

**Priority Action:** TE to liaise with all parties meeting with French to ensure consistent message of desire to safeguard Newhaven - Dieppe crossing.

**7.3.2 – The Transport Interchange (TI):** ESCC working with Mott McDonald to explore interim solution for transport improvements at Newhaven Station.

**7.3.3 - The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA):** LDC working with Faber Maunsell to complete the work – now 18 months behind schedule.

**7.3.4 – The Traffic Modelling:** BBP commissioned additional studies for data now Beddingham works are complete, within appropriate window, to complete process of calibrating model.

**7.3.5 - The Interim Planning Guidance (IPG):** This is now built into the work BBP are completing for NSN.

**7.4 – Newhaven Enterprise Centre – AIF Funding:** Paul Hoppen is completing a report and a meeting is planned with PS, VG and PH to identify priorities for AIF under-spend, now the deadline has been extended.

**7.5 – Energy Recovery Facility (ERF):** A further public consultation is currently being held by the EA before they decide on whether to re-issue a Permit to Pollute following their withdrawal of the Permit previously issued. Also see 3.5 above.

**7.6 – Lewes District Council Section 106 money:** OC reported on the planned proposals for Newhaven.

**Priority Action:** OC to send link to board members for access to the full report on the LDC website.

**7.7 – Denton Island Skills Centre:** Due to open January 2009. Further work is planned under SDC Capital Strategy bid to LSC, including a training kitchen and a hair & beauty salon.

**7.8 – Tideway Rebuild:** Due to open February 2009.

**8 – Development Manager Post** – Board agreed priorities for work programme for TE should be: gathering/analysing statistics and producing the third annual report; supporting the key action groups and keeping communication clearly flowing.

**9 – AOB** – Board was asked their opinion on what should be kept of the NEP archives. Both HB and IE offered to store it if required.

**Priority Action:** TE to check with John Crawford at LDC as they dissolved the company in 2003.

Dates for your diary next year: 2009 dates – meetings held at Newhaven Town Council, Fort Road

<u>2009</u>	Exec	10.30-12noon	Tuesday	24 <sup>th</sup> February 2009	10.30 to 12 noon
	<b>Board</b>	<b>8-10.30am</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup> March 2009</b>	<b>8.30 – 10.30 am</b>
	<b>17<sup>th</sup> March meeting to be held at Sussex Downs College with tour of new Skills Centre at 8.15 am</b>				
	Exec	10.30-12noon	Tuesday	19 <sup>th</sup> May 2009	10.30 to 12 noon
	Board	8-10.30am	Tuesday	9 <sup>th</sup> June 2009	8.30 – 10.30 am
	Exec	10.30-12noon	Tuesday	8 <sup>th</sup> September 2009	10.30 to 12 noon
	Board	8-10.30am	Tuesday	29 <sup>th</sup> September 2009	8.30 – 10.30 am
	Exec	10.30-12noon	Tuesday	17 <sup>th</sup> November 2009	10.30 to 12 noon
	Board	8-10.30am	Tuesday	1 <sup>st</sup> December 2009	8.30 – 10.30 am

[www.newhaven-regeneration.org](http://www.newhaven-regeneration.org)

Appendix A:

**Report to:**

**Newhaven Strategic Network, 2 December, 2008  
Newhaven Town Council, 16 December, 2008**

**Report from:**

**East Sussex County Council**

**Title of Report:**

**Energy Recovery Facility, Section 106 Update**

**Purpose of the report:**

**To advise Members of the NSN and Newhaven Town Council of the purposes and details of the ERF Section 106 agreement and to seek views on its best use.**

**It is recommended that the NSN and Newhaven Town Council:**

- i) Note the purposes of the Section 106 agreement (section 2 below);
- ii) Note the further environmental challenges and opportunities (section 3);
- iii) In the light of i) and ii), advise East Sussex County Council of their views as to how best to enable the ERF Section 106 agreement monies to attract external funding and thereby make a contribution to wider agendas.

## **1.0 Context – Progress on Masterplan and Physical Vision**

1.1 In the Newhaven Strategic Network (NSN) Masterplan, the “Sustainable Environment” section aims to “maintain an attractive and well used environment” and, in particular, seeks a Newhaven Town Station Transport Interchange. Plans to develop the site next to the Town Station as an interchange paused as Newhaven Port and Properties (NPP) was offered for sale. Since the sale process was suspended, the County Council has been trying to re-start this interchange project. The County Council has commissioned consultants Mott McDonald to produce options for an interim interchange based on County Council current land holdings, as the adjacent site has been let for 8 years to the ferry operator. These first stage options will be available in late January 2009. There are no funds currently available to the County Council to progress this project further.

1.2 In December 2007, NSN appointed BBP Consulting to produce a Physical Vision for Newhaven in light of the many issues facing the area, especially flood risk, the port sale and the preparation of a Local Development Framework

for Lewes District. A first stage report was produced in May this year. Much more work is to be done; in particular, Interim Planning Guidance will be produced. The final report is due in mid 2009, and will include the public realm, open space and landscaping plans and recommendations. Some of these will be stand alone projects which will require funding. The vision will be subject to consultation towards the end of the process.

## **2.0 Energy Recovery Facility Section 106 Agreement**

2.1 East Sussex County Council received £900,000 from the developers of the Energy Recovery Facility (ERF), on 5 November 2008, to secure the landscape mitigation works necessary in planning terms to enable the development to go ahead (the “Contribution for Compensatory Environmental Resource”). A further £90,000 payment has been agreed to address site monitoring during the construction phase (from the commencement of development until 1 year after the date of completion).

2.2 The £900,000 part of the Section 106 agreement for the ERF is for the “*provision of a compensatory environmental resource to be made for the landscape impact of the Development by a financial contribution to off-site strategic tree planting and associated landscape works within the urban fringe and public open spaces within Newhaven*”. The ERF had been assessed as having an adverse visual impact on the setting of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the adjoining townscape that could be addressed by high quality design, bunding and landscape works; in detail the County Council’s planning staff advised that: “the developer was requested to provide some compensating environmental resource for the impacts of the development, secured through a substantial payment as part of a legal agreement for environmental work on the edge of Newhaven, including the Riverside Park. The environmental benefits to be achieved should enable the provision of a landscape buffer and other urban fringe landscaping on both sides of the River Ouse, including the removal of existing eyesores. This will, in part, meet the need for strategic planting in the urban fringe, identified in the South Downs Conservation Board Urban fringe landscape study for this area. Within the town of Newhaven, and adjacent public elevated areas the developer should finance landscape works within recreation areas and public spaces, where there will be an impact on the wide vistas towards the Ouse valley. This will help to address the wider impact of the proposal within the town. The provision of a compensatory environmental resource, with off site landscape works in the vicinity of the site, will help mitigate the impact of the development and satisfy Structure Plan Policies...” (paragraph 8.90 of the 7 November 2007, Regulatory Planning Committee, East Sussex County Council).

2.3 The term “urban fringe” is usually interpreted by the County Council as meaning the area on the edge of a town, usually within 2km, where urban and rural developments and uses meet (the definition in the Structure Plan glossary).

2.4 The works envisaged for the £900,000 are a major contribution to the start of Riverside Park, and various urban fringe, valley and downland landscape work.

2.5 There is a time limit for the use of the Section 106 agreement monies: East Sussex County Council is “...to repay to the Developer and South Downs (i.e. South Downs Waste Services Ltd) such part of the Contribution for Compensatory Environmental Resource that... (is) not allocated 8 years from the date of payment of to the County Council...” (clause 4.3).

## **3.0 Further Environmental Challenges and Funding Opportunities**

3.1 Newhaven faces a wide range of environmental challenges. Members of the NSN and Newhaven Town Council will have their own views as to the key environmental issues; from the County Council’s perspective they include immediate needs to:

- maintain the former landfill site and create Riverside Park;
- maintain the Ouse Estuary Nature Reserve; and
- improve the existing Household Waste Recycling Site and replace it within 2 years (or provide a substitute service).

More widely, the County Council aims to support the implementation of the Newhaven Masterplan, the Physical Vision (when produced), and the Open Spaces Strategy for Newhaven.

3.2 Within the period for the expenditure for the Section 106 monies, Newhaven also faces the challenge of responding to climate change – both through adaptation and mitigation (the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions). This could perhaps be a major theme for a town-wide scheme, with the possibility of waste heat from the ERF and possible offshore wind turbines as a result of the Government’s current round of licenses. There will also be the opportunity of the creation of the new National Park – perhaps the closest National Park to an international ferry port in the whole of Europe?

3.3 There are also a wide range of funding opportunities presented by other sources, such as other contributions from developers building in Newhaven, the Lottery in its various forms, the EU INTERREG IVa fund, the Sports Council and the CABE Sea Change programme for public realm art and cultural projects in seaside towns (final round June 2009). These opportunities require various proportions of local funding towards the total expenditure (i.e. some 'matched funding').

3.4 The ERF Section 106 monies are a relatively rare opportunity for major funds for environmental improvements in Newhaven and should be used to attract further monies from external sources, to deliver both the works required by the agreement and further works of benefit to the community. Although there is a time limit to spend the Section 106 monies and a need to make progress with the work, there is time enough to use the monies in a creative way, attracting external funding. It may be possible to help to deliver aspects of the Masterplan and Physical Vision through such additional funds.

For further information contact:

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## Appendix B:

### **NSN Board Meeting Report**

#### **Action Group Update - December 2008**

- Business Development – Chaired by Newhaven Chamber of Commerce  
Currently drafting Business Development Plan.
- Skills, Education and Training – Chaired by Sussex Downs College  
Currently being planned with date to be scheduled for early 2009.
- Local Partnerships for Children (LPC) – Chaired by NSN.  
Tracey Evans elected as Chair in November.  
Restorative Justice training delivered to all Teaching Assistants and Support Workers.  
Statistical analysis being undertaken.
- Infrastructure – Chaired by Enterprise Works.  
BBP work continues in partnership with SEEDA, ESCC and LDC.  
Funding for 2009/10 to be decided at meeting in early December.
- Open Spaces – Chaired by Open Spaces Development Worker.  
Funding bids being written. Consultation events held regularly.
- Crime Reduction – Chaired by CRP Partnership Coordinator.  
Local Action Plan updated regularly.  
Visioning day scheduled for early December.
- Tourism & Culture – Chaired by Newhaven Town Council.  
Mapping of Sculpture Trail expected to be completed shortly.  
Possibility of bid for third round of CABE funding being explored.
- Health – Chaired by PCT Partnership Coordinator.  
4 Thematic groups held at district level.
- Youth – Chaired by Newhaven Community Development Association.  
Statistic being updated to feed into Youth Strategy.
- Physical Activity – Chaired by Newhaven Community Development Association.  
Wave Leisure is currently writing and consulting on a 5 year business plan.
- Older People – Meridian Mature Citizen's Forum.  
Meeting regularly and holding events in both Newhaven and Peacehaven.

## Appendix C:

### **NSN Board Meeting Report**

**Local Strategic Partnership - December 2008**

- Case study of partnership working – with NSN objectives being integrated into the district and county Sustainable Community Strategies and therefore being relevant to the LAA priorities selected for East Sussex. This was well received at two regional meetings held by RAISE – the AGM and the Regional Cross Sector Partnership.
- Draft Protocol written for Area Partnerships.
- Practitioner Associate from Progress through Partnership writing Induction Pack/Toolkit for Lewes LSP.
- East Sussex Compact won national award for excellence and is developing toolkits to allow partnerships to self-assess against the Compact principles.
- Comprehensive Area Assessment event held for East Sussex to explain new Auditing process with amalgamation of 7 Inspectorates with guidelines due early in 2009.