



# newhaven strategic network

**NSN Board Meeting**

**Minutes**

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2009**

**8.30 to 10.30**

**Newhaven Town Council, Fort Road**

- 1. Present:** Penny Shimmin (PS) (Chair); Gill Short (GS); Sherry Russell (SR); Claire Onslow (CO); Peter Aston (PA); Rod Main (RM); Ian Everest (IE); Vera Gajic (VG); David Rogers (DR); Owen Clifford (OC); Jean-Marcel Pietri (JMP) and Tracey Evans (TE)

**Apologies:** Gilly Bartrip (GB); Anna Brookes (AB); Paul Hoppen (PH); Hugh Burnett (HB) and Graham Amy (GA).

- 2. Minutes of the last meeting:** accepted as a true record.

- 3. Matters Arising:**

3.3 – no news on demolition of old Tideway B-block building. Adrian Money has resigned as head-teacher. Governors have appointed Rob Corbett to take over in September.

**Priority Action:** VG to check status of demolition and update board.

**Priority Action:** DR to invite Rob Corbett to an induction to NSN.

3.9 – done.

4 – done – note 4<sup>th</sup> annual report to be completed by the end of 2009.

5 – still ongoing – note only one health visitor so difficult to obtain data.

**Priority Action:** PA to check how this is being addressed and pass on the concerns of the board over the importance of support in a deprived area and update board.

7.1 – done.

8 – Bids coming in to the ESCC/SEEDA funded Recession Fund – one local one from NewCEP. NewCEP will have road-shows supporting events such as the Fish Festival.

**Priority Action:** VG to distribute unemployment figures when available via email via TE.

**Priority Action:** VG to update board at next meeting.

**Priority Action:** TE to put response to recession on September NSN board agenda.

- 4. Action Point Matrix (Appendix A):** A cumulative report with contributions from a side partnership. Tracking progress against action points and focussing attention. Steps are being made to contribute to the long-term regeneration. Generally reporting both positive and negative updates neutrally. In previous years, column 2 was a list of relevant action groups addressing these priorities, current matrix has column 2 as forward plan priorities for 2009.

**Priority Action:** TE to mail out to all contributors.

**Priority Action:** TE to use to compile report against Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) objectives within the Sustainable Community Strategy for June LSP meeting.

**5. Action Group Update (Appendix B):** A quarterly report to focus attention on key Newhaven issues. Not all groups meet quarterly. SDC propose to start a blog to keep the momentum going for the Skills action group, agreed by all a good decision.

**Priority Action:** TE to produce a mid-year report for the September board meeting to keep all partners updated.

**Priority Action:** TE & PS to produce an expanded report for future meetings.

**Priority Action:** TE to give permission to SDC for NSN to be involved in the blog.

## **6. Key Current Issues:**

**6.1 Pending Planning Applications (Circulated with Agenda):** Sainsbury's have withdrawn the application for an extension to their store. Likely to be part of a national expansion policy. Likely to have been withdrawn due to technical details of plans and likely to be resubmitted. Saxonholme planning application successful. Some social housing firms have been hit by the recession so PS has asked BBP (NSN's consultant's) to assist the developers Reese-Elliott with finding a partner to bring the project forward. Already in partnership with ESCC to establish a new library within the building for the town. Aldi application not called in.

**6.2 Open Spaces & Coastal Trail:** Open Spaces action group identified priorities for action including the coastal trail. Partnership work between Telscombe and Peacehaven, Newhaven and Seaford on this project. Another priority is riverside park Partnership work between LDC and ESCC. Other priorities are food growing projects and links between various open spaces. BBP have completed a high-level overview which maps amenities and summarises aspirations, which brings up-to-date the NSN Open Spaces Strategy.

**6.3 Transport Interchange (TI):** The TI is situated midpoint along the coastal trail. ESCC still driving this as a priority, and Aldi section 106 funding of £58,000 is secured towards this project. Following a visit to NPP, VG has safeguarded a 5 metre strip which has been boarded off. Mott MacDonald have completed a report showing a forecourt to the station. A new round of funding has become available for access improvements to stations. Bids of £250,000 invited before the end of September for improvements to stations with more than 300,000 passengers annually.

**Priority Action:** VG to meet with Network Rail.

**6.4 CABE – Seachange:** The deadline for entries of bids is the end of June. Other options are being taken forward separately, such as a bid by NCDA to Leader. Aim is to explore an arts project, such as the boundary wall of the TI. All three coastal town councils are working together to support the bid. The value of the land secured from NPP could possibly be used as required match. Complications with using ERF section 106 funding as match, as purely for landscaping. Once bid submitted, a 12 week decision process.

**Priority Action:** VG to meet with CABE.

**6.5 ESCC Section 106 Funding:** ERF funding for landscaping addressed by the open spaces action group, with an agreed list of priorities aiming to maximise match funding opportunities. Simon Hickmott is attending an upcoming town council meeting, after the BBP report to the infrastructure action group at the end of June. Town council were originally keen on improvements to Fort road being funded by this, but the bid was unsuccessful. They will now need to re-assess priorities for the town which are achievable, such as riverside park and the coastal trail, which fit within the constraints of

the funding. A local resident has complained about the state of the footpath on North Quay.

**Priority Action:** IE to ensure a list of the Open Spaces group priorities are available for the town councillors before SH's meeting attendance.

**Priority Action:** RM to support the resident to make a formal complaint about the footpath.

**6.6 Veolia:** A recent newsletter gives updates on the build. Veolia also claim "a boost to the local economy through the provision of products and services such as building materials, construction equipment, catering facilities and other support services from local businesses." TE has asked the Chamber of Commerce to query which local businesses have been used to support this claim of local benefit. IE and PS regularly attend the Construction Liaison Group meetings. There are three funding streams available through Veolia, all with relatively minor funding pots. HB and PS are in meetings with Veolia to explore negotiating a capital donation for local benefit in accordance with NSN priorities as established in the Masterplan. It currently appears the Veolia Trust accepts bids to a maximum of £100,000. In separate meetings with Veolia's PR manager Jeanette Buckle, GA and PS have secured some funding towards the community Fish Festival. Following ESCC elections, there will be a new lead member for Economic Development, who might be able to support NSN's applications for funding. Environment Agency monitoring pollution through an organisation called 3KQ (3 Key Questions) wanted to establish a local action group, but TE directed them to the already established and relevant Open Spaces action group.

**Priority Action:** DR to follow up on new cabinet member and effect an introduction.

**Priority Action:** VG to offer new cabinet member an induction to NSN.

**6.7 Newhaven Port:** A wind farm application is being considered by NPP. An adapting to change Interreg bid is being written in partnership with Ostend and ESCC have been invited to be a partner. ESCC could be funded by SEEDA to be a full partner as this will be essential partnership work with the port. A high level meeting was held between SEEDA chair Jim Brathwaite and Jean Pierre Lucas about issues needing unlocking for Newhaven. NPP do not feel the flood risk issues are highly significant as they are not looking at significant housing development, but to safeguard an industrial port. The Infrastructure action group is exploring a variety of future options for the port, including port operations condensed to the south, to free up land for housing if the flood risks can be overcome. The reports being completed by NPP's parent company will be available soon. The priority is still to maintain the ferry line. Ferry crossings currently twice daily. The Euro strength possibly affecting the number of British tourists crossing to France. Port considered as a possible venue for the proposed Zap arts project for 2011. Possible visit to Dieppe being undertaken by IE and Dave Reeves of Zap Art.

**Priority Action:** JMP to forward report (in French) when available.

**Priority Action:** JMP to support TE arranging a meeting with Dieppe's mayor.

**6.8 Physical Vision – BBP:** Next Infrastructure action group meeting on June 25<sup>th</sup> with a BBP presentation on work completed to date. The final work plan for 2009/2010 has been agreed with SEEDA. The traffic model is complete. A full high-level assessment of open spaces and leisure facilities has been completed, including identifying gaps and aspirations. Options for the town centre are almost complete. The SFRA is dependent upon LDC and the EA. A report will come to the next board meeting, with an invitation to be involved as stakeholders. Current economic climate is very different from when the project started. Electoral cycle might have an impact

too – but confident the vision will be deliverable. The future of NSN and the structure from March 2010 will reflect the findings of the report.

**6.9 Town Centre:** Two town centre trader meetings have been held by LDC to offer business support. Some clear action points have emerged which are also being driven through the Business Development Action group.

**6.10 Recession:** Oakdene assets are in the hands of the receivers. No sales have been completed to date.

**7. AOB:** Peter Aston has a new position, so Richard Watson will attend future meetings.

Gill Short is taking early retirement, so Sherry Russell will continue to attend future meetings

**8. Date of next meeting:  
29<sup>th</sup> September 2009  
Newhaven Town Council, Fort Road  
8.30 – 10.30**