

MINUTES.
St George Neighbourhood Partnership.
17th April 2008.

Present: Ron Stone (Councillor and Chair), Laura Protheroe (Labour Party Office), Fabian Breckles (Councillor), Casper Harvey (PCSO), Geoff Siddorn (PCSO), Richard Mathias (PCSO), Huw Williams (Beat manager), PC Peter Crawford (Beat officer), Abdulrazak Dahir (Community Development Worker), David Deakin (Beat manager), Psgt Darren Warr, Sheelagh James (Resident), Fran Stewart (Resident), Grenville Johnson (Kensington Rd Residents Association and Neighbourhood Watch), Ann Radnedge (Chair Meadow Vale CA), Susan Acton-Campbell (Friends of Troopers Hill), George Ramelkamp (Chair of Friends of St Georges Park), Angie Hoare (Minister Summer Hill Methodist Church), Judith Price (Councillor), Charlie Price (Councillor), John Deasy (Councillor).

1. Welcome and introduction.

Those present introduced themselves.

RS gave a brief explanation of Neighbourhood Partnerships.

Budget of £5,000 to facilitate, meetings, documentation etc. This will be at the discretion of the partnerships.

2. Minutes and matters arising.

Councillors at Labour Group meeting at time of last NP meeting.

2. Naggs Head Hill development, everyone happy with this.

3. Terms of Reference, fairly clear.

Actions for NP set out and reference can also be made to press coverage.

4. Section 106 monies, on agenda. Nothing more to report re Troopers Hill application. John Threadgold (Community Parks manager, South East) is aware money available. Has been suggested this could be used as match funding for grant obtained for fencing and new entrance.

5. Group structure, can also be discussed later as agenda item (Electing more officers).

Vote of thanks for AD for preparing minutes.

It was agreed the minutes were a true and accurate record of the meeting on 26th February 2008.

3. Finalise Terms of Reference.

AD advised amendments made, as agreed.

SA-C had some minor amendments required: -

“Develop and work to deliver...”, should read “5 year” not “5 years”.

Second line should read “which strengthens” not “strengths”.

Section re “5 year plan is refreshed”, “on an annual basis” not “on annual bases”.

Section re “support for Neighbourhood partnership”, change to “The Community Engagement Team” rather than “Community Engagement Team”.

AD pointed out there will be a change here in any event and this will read “BCC Community Engagement Team”.

Under “accountability” what does “detailed application” mean? AD advised this referred to the future spend of the NP, in particular around the £5,000 previously mentioned. Possibly, therefore, amend to “any procedures and decision making...” rather than “detailed application”.

GJ feels that under “membership” change “would” to “will”, as this seems more positive.

Also suggests “steering group could” be changed to “steering group will” as, again, this appears more positive.

AD congratulated for his efforts.

Although there is an overall 5 year plan there will, of course, be times when various procedures will require immediate attention.

RS agrees that whilst core priorities must be tackled there will be issues, which arise from time to time which will take precedence.

JP stressed the importance of partnership working. Pleased to see both the police and community well represented at meeting.

Need to identify and tackle priorities as set by community. Two-way communication very important in this respect. Statutory bodies need to listen and respond to community.

Community itself needs to be able to disseminate information. Community newsletters?

There was a general discussion and it was agreed that whilst St George could be described as an affluent area, there had been deterioration over the years. The area could not, however, attract the same funding as other, less affluent, areas and the NP might go some way to addressing the problem. Hopefully

by all parties working in partnership the St George NP could become a model of best practice.

RS suggested the TOR be adopted, subject to the agreed amendments, and this was accepted by the meeting. If other queries arose in the future, these could be tackled at that juncture.

4. Electing more officers.

NPs tend to be councillor lead.

It is important local residents have an equal role.

It was suggested and agreed that this item be held over to the next meeting. More time could be given to the subject to discuss how the group was to work, how it was to be structured and how to identify priorities.

What officers are required? What will be their role?

Ad was asked to ensure that, when sending out the minutes of this meeting, all persons on mailing list were made aware the next meeting would concentrate on the group's structure and operation.

Also possibly at that time ask for volunteers, suggestions, for the groups officers. RS would certainly like to see residents take up the offices of the group going forward. He believes residents should set the priorities and councillors are there to facilitate.

Elections for officers will be an important part of the NPs democratic procedures in the future. DW has some documentation, produced by the police, regarding processes of NPs and he will provide copies.

Group to consider roles and responsibilities of officers for next meeting.

5. Police: PACT.

DW was to give a presentation and handed out documentation supplied by police.

PACT is all about the development of neighbourhood policing. The government are committed to this idea.

It's about restoring public confidence.

Providing service which address', understands and tackles community priorities.

Community focused and lead. Need, therefore, to engage with community.

Should be fully operational by April 2008. Neighbourhood policing teams are in place within Avon & Somerset.

Neighbourhood policing objectives are:-

- Access; providing name and contact point for police service.
- Influence over policing policies within community.
- Action; to be taken by police and partnership agencies. Designed to build trust and confidence within community.
- Answers; sustainable solutions and feedback on results. Utilising all services provided by police.

PCSOs role:-

- Providing reassurance to public.
- Dealing with low-level crime and disorder.
- Build and maintain links with the community.

PCSOs powers:-

- Issue fixed penalty notices where appropriate.
- Demand details from any person acting in an anti-social manner.
- Confiscate alcohol being consumed in public places.
- Confiscate tobacco from young people.
- Remove abandoned vehicles and seize any vehicle potentially being used to harm people.

PACT is a process and does not attract additional funding although there is extra funding provided in relation to PCSOs.

The “special constabulary” are still an important resource and will play their part in PACT as appropriate. There is a review as to how “specials” are allocated.

Partners And Communities Together(PACT) is a community engagement model.

Aim is to help build communities where the public are actively involved in developing their communities and establishing priority issues.

Partners to work together to bring about change.

Enable the public to build skills, abilities and confidence so they can take leading role in developing their communities.

There are many definitions of a community, race, age, status, culture etc and there will be different ways of engaging with these communities. This is discussed in the booklet provided by DW.

All parties to enhance and maintain effective working relationships and identify and tackle priority issues.

Community engagement methods:-

- Open forum meetings; no requirement to be branded as PACT meeting. Aim to agree three main issues.
- Surgeries; access to beat managers and PCSOs. Other agencies also become involved. FB advised that in St George East police had joined with normal councillors surgery.
- Postcards; “how to” guide provided with each card. Left at strategic locations throughout community. Post-box at same location so that residents can make known any concerns about their community.
- Environmental visual audits; arrange for sectors of community to undertake “walk around” with partner agencies.
- Face to face surveys; undertaken by beat managers and PCSOs.
- Adopt a block; PCSO becoming contact for particular block of flats.
- Theme(pizza & cola) meetings; more informal “get together”.
- Street briefings; meetings in locality rather than the open forum meetings. GJ had experience of this type of meeting, which worked very well. GR thought it might be possible to arrange such meetings with NWS.

PACT meeting:-

- Take place in local community.
- Regularity; variable, dependent of needs of area. DM thought quarterly for this partnership area. The most important thing is that meetings have a positive outcomes.
- Providing opportunity for police, partners and the communities to meet and agree what local policing priorities will be.

- Three key issues:-
- Panel; representative from each partnership, chair to be independent.

One of the aims of NPs is to alleviate anti-social behaviour by statutory bodies and residents working in partnership.

The fear of crime is an issue for, particularly, older people. Possibly this is something NPs could look at too.

What is the purpose of PACT panel?:-

- Agree realistic course of action.
- Review issues, agree three priorities and the actions to be taken.

Beat surgeries:-

- To be advertised so local people know when and where they are held.
- Provides means of community engagement.
- Provides feedback on aspects of neighbourhood policing.
- Provides reassurance to local communities.

Postcards:-

- Provide anonymous feedback.
- Quick, simple and free.
- Effective for targeting particular people/groups.
- Easily accessible.

DW was thanked for his time.

GR asked whether there was any underlying strategy to tackle the causes of these crimes/anti-social behaviours? DW hoped that by bringing the PACT process to the NPs the appropriate statutory bodies could look at solving these underlying problems.

GJ hopes that, eventually, the NP will be the vehicle, which forms such links between the community and all statutory bodies.

Police already have meetings with Bristol City Council (BCC), Children Young People Services (CYPS), etc, to discuss where the problems with anti-social behaviour are and how these can be tackled.

There also needs to be some feedback to police authority. Funds could then, possibly, be targeted on some of the priorities raised through NPs.

DW suggests PACT meeting arranged to discuss priorities, including youth issues.

RS feels it would be worthwhile, eventually, organising an open meeting with appropriate officers from CYPS to discuss issue of anti-social behaviour and the solutions. It is essential, however, the young people themselves are involved and engaged with as part of this programme.

Also it is vital to know what provisions are in the area and what is required.

The group felt future meetings would have to be more structured to ensure all issues were given sufficient time.

AD to include, on next agenda: -

- Structure of group.
- Priorities from previous meeting.

6. Section 106.

As time was on the wane RS discussed funding.

St George East, £66,617.42 identified. Play equipment, recreational facilities, traffic management and changes to showcase bus-route.

St George West, £303,719.36 identified. Play facilities, recreational facilities, and improvements to bus service and traffic management.

Other moneys available: -

St George East, £63,888.87 targeted by BCC on specific issues.

St George West, £475,201.13. Again targeted funding.

St George West has attracted more funding because of the large amount of development in that ward.

A list of council officers who can be approached about this funding is available.

7. Any other business.

ITV Big Lottery Fund has five £50,000 grants available.

St Aden's Church hall, in St George East, is in need of considerable work. Deadline for bid is 15th May. Any support, which can be given to this project, would be greatly appreciated.

Meadow Vale CA is also applying.

RS thanked everyone for attending.

DW thanked AD for the invitation to meeting.

8. Date of next meeting.

Tuesday 3rd June 2008 7:00pm.

