

**Minutes of *Worthing Together* Meeting
held 24 February 2005 in the Gordon Room, Worthing Town Hall**

CHAIR	✓	John Robinson
SECTORAL GROUPS		
Voluntary Sector Forum	A	Julia Carrette
Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership	✓	Roy Barraclough
Worthing First	✓	Roger Foregard
Local Planning Group for Community Health and Social Care		Vacant
Housing	✓	Moira James
Worthing Learning Network	A	Trish Tame
Culture and Leisure	✓	Jo Hutchinson
Transport	✓	Ken Costello
INVESTORS IN WORTHING		
Worthing Community Partnership	✓	Jane Claxton
Area Investment Framework		Paula Welland
YOUTH ORGANISATION		
WSCC Youth Service		Rick Matthews
ENVIRONMENTAL CHAMPION		
Environment Agency		Katrina Rankin
FAITH GROUPS		
Churches Together in Worthing	✓	Mike Tyler
MAIN POLITICAL PARTIES		
WBC Conservatives	A	Ann Barlow
WBC Liberal Democrats	✓	Bob Smytherman
WSCC		Nick Rogers
NEIGHBOURHOOD CHAMPION		
Worthing Council of Community Assns	✓	Ian Richardson
MAJOR SINGLE ORGANISATIONS		
AAW Primary Care Trust		Catherine Scott
Sussex Police	✓	Inspector Steve Eldridge
Sussex Police	✓	Sergeant Ian Kerr

GOSE	A	John Crow
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Mike Kendall	A	WSCC
Haydn Smith	✓	WBC
Nikkie Enticknap	✓	WSCC
Tina Favier	✓	WBC
Dale Thomson	✓	WBC
Anne Jones	✓	WBC
Julian Carrington	✓	WBC

1. Welcome and Introductions

John welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially those who were attending for the first time.

2. Minutes of last Meeting

With the addition of Paula Welland to the attendance list, the Minutes of the Meeting held on 7 December 2004 were agreed as an accurate record.

3. Matters Arising

- a. Haydn Smith reported that he is seeking to strengthen and amalgamate the Environment and Transport sectoral groups whilst being careful not to duplicate the work of the Worthing First Transport and Infrastructure business working group.
- b. Anne reported that the newsletter has not yet been published. It was agreed that the Communications Sub Group (Ian Richardson, Jane Claxton, Roger Foregard, Nikkie Enticknap, Dale Thomson, Julia Carrette, Trish Tame, Anne Jones) should meet and draw up a clear and deliverable remit for *Worthing Together* communications in the light of the time and resource constraints on everyone. An early task would be to consider whether a newsletter should be published. If, as previously suggested, it was aimed at partners rather than the general public would circulation of the Minutes suffice?

4. *The Town We Want* Progress Reports

Partners had been asked to report briefly on the best achievement in each goal and actions that need more input from partners to enable them to happen (these are written in bold)

a. **A Town with an Active Involved Community**

In Julia's absence, Julian reported that the best achievement in his view was the continuing progress in involving residents with agencies to work in the areas of better provision for older and younger people and improved community safety in East Worthing.

Mike Tyler asked that it be minuted that he is seeking to organise a meeting (by end March 2005) to gauge interest for something similar to happen in Durrington. It was suggested that Mike contact John Haigh at West Durrington Community Project.

Julia will be writing to major fundholding partners seeking financial or in kind contributions to enable **an Audit of the Voluntary Sector** to take place.

b. **A Safe Town**

Tina reported that there has been particular progress in the area of tackling antisocial behaviour including the appointment of an Antisocial Behaviour Co-ordinator. There is now a local reporting line and email address for victims and members of the community and co-operation with the youth service on diversionary activities for young people.

Help is needed in the area of increasing **reporting of racist incidents and multi-agency promotion of community cohesion**. During later discussion around this area the following further points were raised: Racist incidents are high on the national agenda but low on local organisation's agendas. The existing reporting procedure needs to be better publicised to increase usage. A lot of incidents are

seasonal relating to the presence of overseas students in the town. WBC needs to set a good example. It was also pointed out that there is no BME representation on the steering group.

Tina left the meeting at this point.

c. **A Prosperous Town**

Dale reported that the demolition of Teville Gate will happen very soon although it is not yet known what will replace it.

Worthing First now has 74 members and 7 working groups. Dale reminded the meeting of the invitation to *Worthing Together* partners to attend the Launch of the Town Centre and Seafront Masterplanning Exercise at the Berkeley Hotel from 1 pm on Friday, 4 March (buffet lunch included). There will be an item on the next *Worthing Together* agenda on how *Worthing Together* will be involved in this process.

Jane Claxton reported that Worthing Community Partnership has money to investigate the need for a Credit Union in Worthing, Littlehampton and Bognor. A credit union would provide loans to pay off debts at favourable rates of interest.

The achievement of the government's **reduction and recycling of waste targets** are a challenge and there was some discussion about how *Worthing Together* could help.

Inspector Steve Eldridge left the meeting at this point.

d. **A Town with Fewer Inequalities**

Moira reported that most of the housing actions in the above goal are on target. The draft Housing Strategy 2005-2010 is on the www.worthing.gov.uk website (A-Z list under Housing Services) or contact Pat Taylor 221131 and is worth reading and commenting on.

However, the proposed **Recovery Project** for homeless people with substance misuse problems needs financial help. The lack of this provision has an impact on various public sector organisations and Tony Chasteauneuf has been seeking help from various agencies to quantify this. Moira distributed some written information on the project – let Anne know if you would like a copy. There are various bids in the pipeline but the lack of local finance has been commented on. Tony has also not found it easy to get access to the right people in organisations so he would also appreciate help in this area.

Haydn reported that most of the health actions in the above goal are on target. However, he requested help in promoting the excellent **Public Health Toolkit** in organisations. Discussions regarding one point of access for voluntary sector funding from health and social and caring services are still ongoing.

e. **A Town with Something for Everyone**

Haydn referred again to the Masterplanning Exercise to be undertaken with regard to the potential for a conference facility and/or multiplex cinema to be attracted to Worthing. There is also a perceived need by businesses for a 5* hotel in the town.

Despite ongoing work with the Environment Agency and Southern Water, Blue Flag status is unlikely to be achieved as it is not in Southern Water's investment plan. However, it is possible to 'nibble away' at individual sources of water contamination.

f. **A Learning Town**

In the absence of a representative for A Learning Town, Anne reported that she understood that South Lodge Children's Centre in Crescent Road was on target and currently recruiting staff. This will provide a neighbourhood nursery for 0-5 year olds and links to family services such as healthcare, job seeking and training.

g. **A Town You Can Get Around**

Ken Costello reported that The Safe Routes to School initiative has been successful and there will soon be a cycle route through Homefield Park and an off road route to Northbrook College. The proposed traffic lights at the Grove Lodge Roundabout should increase the capacity of the junction. The Highways Agency is looking at options for improving A27 traffic flow. Public consultations are published at www.worthing.gov.uk. The Quality Bus Partnership is leading to Stagecoach and Compass Travel using new buses on primary routes which are wired up to signal their approach to red traffic lights. There are also proposals for real time information at bus stops.

Phase 1 of the **cycle route** from Brooklands to Splash Point is now in place but the achievement of **Phase 2 from Splash Point to George V Avenue** is in doubt. The report to Worthing Borough Council Cabinet on 9 March asks for a decision on the position of the cycle route – on the promenade (deliverable) or on the road (too expensive within existing resources) or neither. It was agreed by a show of hands that the preferred option from those present would be on the promenade. This was also the outcome of the extensive public consultation undertaken. John Robinson will write to the Leader of the Council on behalf of *Worthing Together*.

It was agreed that progress reports would be a standing agenda item so that each partner can gain an overview of achievements towards *The Town We Want*.

5. **Worthing Together Management Issues**

a. **Chairing after 31 March 2005**

Julian reported that *Worthing Together* needs a new Chair from 1 April 2005. He expressed *Worthing Together's* thanks to WSCC and Worthing Homes Ltd for their financial contributions towards retaining the services of John Robinson.

At the Steering Group meeting on 7 December 2004 partners asked Officers to investigate possible sources of funds for a paid chair recruited from outside *Worthing Together* to ensure his or her neutrality from any partner organisation. However, Officers have received no commitments of funds towards a paid chair beyond 31 March 2005. It will therefore be necessary to have an election within the Steering Group for a Chair and a Vice Chair (to share the load). The CP Team will email partners with forms to nominate, second and vote, together with the agreed job description. It was emphasised that the substitute for the organisation or sectoral group currently represented by the successful candidate would be asked to attend

the steering group meetings to ensure the Chair's neutrality from any individual organisation's agenda.

b. Independent Secretariat

John reported on a GOSE Conference he (and Anne and Mike Tyler) had attended entitled 'Maintaining the Momentum'. There had been discussion on building the capacity of LSPs to deliver improvements in their community, especially in terms of establishing an independent secretariat.

c. Using *Worthing Together* as a Consultation Mechanism

Julian outlined the documents which *Worthing Together* has been asked its opinion on in the past couple of months. These include the South East Plan, Public Service Agreement 2, WBC Corporate Plan, Health White Paper – 'Choosing Health – Making Healthier Choices Easier' and WBC Procurement Strategy.

The CP Team has been wary of bombarding partners with such items but would like to know if, how much and how partners would like to be consulted. It was felt that in an ideal world an A4 resume of documents would be circulated but there are capacity issues in producing these.

Nikkie asked partners how they would like to contribute to the second generation Public Service Agreement (LPSA2) for West Sussex. These differ from the first PSAs in that there is no requirement this time to select from a list of national targets and the focus is on priorities for improvement locally (ie county-wide). The County Council is keen to meet with *Worthing Together* to take this forward and the CP Team will report back on this.

It was also felt that a list of LSP acronyms and jargon and how things fit together eg SE Plan, Local Development Framework, Area Investment Framework would be useful. (Articles on AIF and LDF are attached for those who would find them of interest)

It was agreed that a small group comprising Ian Richardson, Jane Claxton, Nikkie Enticknap, Roy Barraclough, John Robinson and Julian Carrington would meet at Portland House from 9 till 11 on Wednesday, 14 March to consider the idea of an independent secretariat and the form that consultation with partners on external matters should take.

Anne will also be emailing a **Resources Audit** form to partners to inform the discussion. This will also ask partners for their details and the details of their nominated substitute so that the *Worthing Together* Members' Directory can be updated.

Dale left the meeting at this point.

6. Adding Value to the work of *Worthing Together* through a Partnership Focus

a. Proactive Partnership Focus

John referred partners to the paper distributed prior to the meeting with the above title, which was based on the outcomes of the February 4 workshop. On a show of hands it was agreed to take forward **Actively promote volunteering opportunities to staff** as the first **proactive** partnership focus for *Worthing Together*

It was felt that this action could demonstrate working as a partnership by seeking to influence organisational objectives rather than sectoral group objectives. It was also felt that this particular action could potentially contribute to all seven goals in the Community Strategy and involve all partners. The CP Team will work with Julia Carrette on ways in which partners can be involved in taking this forward and bring this to the next steering group meeting.

b. Reactive Partnership Focus

The following potential reactive partnership foci came out of the progress reporting section of the meeting:

Goal in *The Town We Want*

- 1 Voluntary Sector Audit
- 2 Enhanced reporting of Racist Incidents/Greater Community Cohesion
- 3 Achieving waste recycling targets
- 4 Recovery Project
- 4 Develop actions to encourage use of public health toolkit
- 7 Support promenade route for cycle path

It was agreed that the Community Planning Team would circulate an action plan to those putting forward the various suggestions asking for more information on how other partners could contribute to making them happen. These would then be taken forward at the next steering group meeting.

7. Date of Next Meeting

9.30 am on Wednesday, 20 April 2005 in the Gordon Room, Stoke Abbott Road, Worthing

Please note change of day and time (ie NOT Thursday, 21 April at 2 pm)