



**Worthing Together Transport & Environment Partnership
Friday 14th March 2008, 2.30pm
East Worthing Community Centre**

Notes of meeting

Attendees:

Roger Foregard, Federation of Small Businesses (chair)
Julian Carrington, Worthing Borough Council
Ian Richardson, Worthing Council of Community Associations
Andy Warton, Passenger Transport Planner, WSCC
Cllr Bob Smytherman, WBC (from 3.30pm)
Keith Chamberlain, WBC
Hille Cook, Resident
Cllr Hazel Thorpe, WBC

For this meeting only in relation to item 4:

Ann Griffiths, WSCC
Terena Plowright, Greening Campaign
Richard Weavis, Greening Campaign

1. Apologies

Carina Strutt, Environment Agency
Victoria Brown, WSCC
Nicky Bleakley, WSCC
Paul Willis, WBC
Ken Costello, Worthing Borough Council
Darryl Hemmings, Transport Planner, WSCC
John Griffiths, Resident
Mike Tyler, Worthing Churches

2. Notes of Last Meeting held on 18th January 2008

Agreed as accurate.

3. Matters Arising

(i) Interim Worthing Sustainable Community Strategy

This would be going to the LSP Steering Group for signing off on 26 March hence the need to confirm the T&E group's immediate priority at this meeting.

4. West Sussex Greening Campaign

Terena Plowright and Richard Weavis from the Greening Campaign gave a Powerpoint presentation about the campaign based on the outline distributed before the meeting (attached again for convenience).

Background

- Everyone wants to do something about climate change but no-one knows how!
- Government looking for ways to measure what's going on
- Greening Campaign meets several of the new National Indicators, eg promoting bio-diversity, tackling fuel poverty, increasing volunteering and community cohesion
- Lots of information about the effects of climate change but some mixed messages about whether we really do need to change our lifestyles!
- However we seek to engage local people, it should be simple, inexpensive, and something people can do together

Greening Campaign

- Aimed at small communities, eg village, parish (600 plus households)
- Started in Petersfield, Hampshire and caught on (shops also)
- 8 relatively simple challenges people must pledge to completing
- Each supporter puts up a campaign card in their window
- Possible to calculate how much energy saved by people sticking to the challenges
- Greening Campaign attracting a lot of attention, eg South East Climate Partnership helping Terena and Richard to understand new issues as they emerge

Levels/Phases

- Phase 1: Individual pledges co-ordinated by local committee
- Phase 2: Addressing sustainable living as a community through community projects
- Phase 3: Making adaptations to people's behaviour/living patterns
- Phase 4: New start – where do we want to be in 5 years (action plan)

West Sussex Campaign

- Funded in part by SEEDA to give stability to the campaign across South East
- WSCC supporting and setting good example to rest of county
- Arun and Chichester DCs signed up
- 5 wards or parishes in each district to be targeted (Chichester ran a competition to come up with 5 areas: in 200 words why do you want to join the campaign? Those areas not engaged to be picked up later.)

There were a number of questions following the presentation:

Q. How important is the local Committee?

- A. Very important. Each area needs a local champion to start one up if there is no committee already. The committees are all different, eg Harting (Hants) committee has a chair, treasurer and 4 sub-groups including 'schools' and 'households'. Regular publicity and signing up sessions are vital.
- Q. How much support does the Campaign Team provide?
- A. Committees are independent. Team offers a structure and initial impetus (presentation, introductory talk, attendance at 2 committee meetings, attendance at public meeting and launch event).
- Q. Take up seems to be in mainly rural areas – is it more difficult to run a campaign in a large urban area such as Worthing?
- A. Ideally suited to parish councils rather than wards. But can be done in urban areas. Winchester has broken the campaign down into wards. The secret is to keep it small!
- Q. How much support is needed from local authority or other partners?
- A. Existing support structures, eg Community Development teams, will help to establish a local committee or group

Terena, Richard and Ann were thanked for their presentation.

Next steps

- To propose to the LSP Steering Group, which is producing the Interim Sustainable Community Strategy, that the Greening Campaign becomes the immediate priority under A Clean Green Town theme
- Subject to all necessary approvals, and to availability of support staff, to hold a meeting of residents groups to present the campaign and perhaps run a competition after Chichester example

5. Partners' Updates

(i) A27

The Chairman gave a brief update as to the proposed Transport Model for Worthing

An initial test of the Town Centre model would be carried out shortly. A larger scoping exercise was likely to commence during April 2008, subject to the Highways Agency securing additional funding from the Department of Transport.

The Group noted the recent press coverage following the high level meeting between Col Tex Pemberton, Nick Herbert MP, the Highways Agency, and the Roads Minister.

Keith reported that following tests of air quality at Grove Lodge roundabouts a report was to be prepared setting out how WBC would work with the Highways Agency in formulating an action plan for improving air quality at this junction. The report would be based upon 3 'challenges' from the original Worthing Community Strategy: finding solutions to the long-standing concerns over the A27 and East Worthing Access Road, and promotion of alternative travel modes.

(ii) Community Transport

The Chairman together with Carol Gareze (PCT), Bill Leath (WSCC), Ken Costello (WBC), and Geoff Davis (Worthing Dial A Ride) had addressed a meeting hosted by Worthing CVS looking at various transport issues.

(iii) Worthing Coastal Rail Services

Ian reported that the Electro Star trains that work on the Sussex Coastway have the technology to measure the number of passengers riding on each journey and determine the weight carried at each station called.

Stopping trains between West Worthing and Brighton have been reduced from three to just two an hour. Three-car Electro Stars are now deployed instead of four-car. This has significantly reduced the number of cars to six an hour rather than twelve. Other areas such as Chichester and Horsham have had their services greatly increased to ease passenger congestion. Message seems to be 'use the trains or loose them'.

However there are no spare trains available on Southern making it necessary to use the Electro Stars where the largest passenger demand exists.

(iv) School Travel

Julian tabled the following report from Victoria Brown:

In line with the Government target that all schools should have a Travel Plan by 2010, the Worthing district is doing very well. I have worked hard with the nine schools that, to date, have not submitted a Travel Plan - but by 31st March 2008, eight of these schools will have a Travel Plan in place having reached the desired criteria of Travel Mark Level 1. Therefore, Worthing is well on track with the government target - beginning the new financial year with all but one local authority schools with Travel Plans.

Through these plans we are seeking to promote sustainable travel such as walking and cycling, to the children and parents and seek to reduce car use throughout the county. Various initiatives, such as 'Walking Buses', 'park and walk schemes, 'Walk on Wednesday' (WOW) and car sharing schemes have been undertaken by various schools in Worthing to achieve the health and environmental objectives of the School Travel Plans.

For example:

When Elm Grove first submitted their Travel Plan in 2005, they had 96 (41.92%) pupils travelling to school by car. At the last survey in November 2007, they had 52 (22.22%) pupils travelling by car.

When Downsbrook submitted their Travel Plan in 2004, they had 268 (61.75%) pupils travelling to school by car. At the last survey in November 2007, they had 68 (16%) pupils travelling by car.

I will continue to work with the one remaining school to ensure a Travel Plan is

submitted by them next year, and throughout the coming year, will be working with the 20 local authority schools, already at Travel Mark Level 1, to encourage them to continue the good work of their Travel Plans and achieve Travel Mark Level Two status. One school is already working towards the final stage of Travel Mark Level 3.

I am currently working with the Independent schools in Worthing and am confident that they will come to submit Travel Plans in due course.

Walk to School Week is taking place between 19 - 23rd May this year and I am looking for maximum participation from as many Worthing schools as possible and will strive to make this a much publicised event.

I hope this has been helpful as a quick update on the Worthing area schools. If you require any further information, please don not hesitate to contact me.

The Chairman thanked Victoria for her report.

(v) Cycle routes

The group were encouraged by the news that WBC, for a 6 month trial period, would be permitting cycling along the promenade from Splash Point to Crescent Road using shared space.

6. Information items

Andy reported that the concessionary fares scheme would soon be going national.

Bob had attended a meeting of the Quality Bus Partnership recently. Both Stagecoach and Compass had asked to be involved asap in agreeing bus routes and parking on the seafront. Both had offered to attend meetings of this group if desirable.

Action: Julian to invite relevant officers

7. AOB

Keith pointed out that the use of initial capitals for people's names in the minutes could be confusing if two or more people have the same initials! Better to use first names or even full names.

8. Dates of future meetings

Friday 23 May at 2.30pm, EWCC
Friday 12 September at 2.30pm, EWCC

JC/31March08