Tonbridge & Malling Local Strategic Partnership

Wednesday 15 October 2008

Present: Angela Newey, Angela Painter, Chris Hare, Charles Wilsher, Cllr Valerie Dagger, David Hughes, John Handley, John Rutland, Julia Ross, Keith Andrews, Margaret Howard, Cllr Mark Worrall, Andy Merriman, Cllr Nicolas Heslop, Paul Hannan, Tony Thomas, Cllr Mike Dobson, Gill Fox, Emma Leatherbarrow, Richard Beasley, Mark Raymond.

Apologies: Bill Fearon, Bernadette Gillow, Father Brendan Grady, Bishop Brian Castle, Cllr Thornewell, Judy Edwards, Cllr Graham Gibbons, Linda Walker, Keith Austin.

1.	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION	ACTION BY
	Cllr Mark Worrall welcomed all to the first partnership meeting.	
2.	ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE MUNICIPAL YEAR	
	Cllr Mark Worrall was elected as Chairman	
3.	THE LSP, WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?	
	Four presentations covering: government expectations of an LSP, the Kent Agreement, the Community Strategy and key facts about the Borough were presented to the group (all four presentations are included with these minutes). Partnership members received information packs with additional information on these topics. M.Raymond requested comments back on the Local Action Plan for the Kent Agreement, to be sent back before the next meeting.	All: send any comments to G.Fox
	A question and answer session followed the presentations highlighting the following key points:	
	T&M (along with Sevenoaks) receives the lowest revenue support grant per capita in the county, due to the perception of an affluent borough. Difficult to get funding. West Kent often neglected and therefore need to ensure that this area doesn't deteriorate. High standards must be maintained.	
	Although affluent a huge amount of SMEs fail after start up. Educational achievement is also varied in the borough – above average in the Tonbridge area, but way below average in Malling. A perception of affluence detracts from areas of need and deprivation.	
	It was commented that T&M also has a high anticipated incidence of dementia – higher than elsewhere in Kent.	
	It was agreed that R.Beasley would make contact with LSP partners to share data and to complement information in the Borough Profile.	RB to collect / share data.

4.	KEY PRIORITIES – VOTING EXERCISE	
	Partnership members chose their top three priorities for improvement that they felt the LSP should focus on, with the following results: Affordable decent housing - 9 points, Care for Older People -8 points, Education Provision – 5 points, Anti-social behaviour – 5 points, Public Transport – 4 points, Clean streets – 3 points, Support for Parents – 3 points, Low Level of Crime – 2 points, Activities for teenagers – 2 points, Facilities for Young Children – 2 points, Low level of traffic congestion – 2 points, Disabled People – 2 points, Shopping facilities -1 point, Climate Change – 1 point. Other - comments added: Debt & suicide, social isolation for vulnerable and increasing ageing population.	
5.	FEEDBACK FROM VOTING EXERCISE	
	It was decided that reports would be brought to the next meeting on affordable decent housing and care for older people. The meeting after next (April 09) would look at anti-social behaviour and education provision.	MR to coordinate reports for future meetings.
	J.Rutland requested that climate change be included as this will affect everyone – flooding, coastal erosion, effects on small businesses etc. The Borough Council is preparing an Adaptation Plan, focussing on how we will adapt to climate change – a draft on this will also be brought to the April meeting of the LSP for partners to comment on.	
6.	HOT TOPICS	
	It was decided that members could use the LSP meetings to discuss any issues that they felt were particularly relevant or important. For future meetings if members have any "hot topics" they should email the details to G.Fox one week before the meeting.	ALL – send items to G.Fox
	The effects of the credit crunch were discussed as the hot topic for the first meeting, with the following key points: D.Hughes gave a summary of financial problems faced by the Borough Council, members of the group then covered some of the effects in their particular sector: effects are not fully being felt yet, families will be effected, lifestyle changes – health implications, domestic violence likely to increase, job losses inevitable, homelessness may increase, implications for housing developments – no private buyers, developers encouraging housing associations to purchase entire plots. Crime implications – increase in burglary, alcoholism, rise in vehicle, petrol and metal theft.	
7.	DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS 21 January 2009 22 April 2009 15 July 2009	
lt wa	15 July 2009 Is decided by the group that a 10am start was more convenient –	
	e meetings will begin at 10am and finish at lunchtime.	

Tonbridge & Malling Local Strategic Partnership

Organisation	Representative	Designation
Age Concern Malling	Keith Austin	Chief Officer
Bridge Trust	John Handley	General Manager
Church of England	Bishop Brian Castle	Bishop of Tonbridge
The Friars, Aylesford	Father Brendan Grady	Prior
Federation of Small	John Rutland	West Kent Chairman
Businesses		
Fidelity Investments	Linda Walker	Associate Director,
International		Corporate Citizenship
Hadlow College	Paul Hannan	Principal
Ightham Mote	Bernadette Gillow	Property Manager
Kent Association of Local Councils	Charles Willsher	Chairman of T&M KALC Area Committee
Kont County Council	Cllr Graham Gibbens	
Kent County Council		County Council Cabinet Member
	Cllr Valerie Dagger	Local County Council Member (Malling West)
	Judy Edwards	Director of Policy and Resources, Communities Directorate
	Margaret Howard	Director, Commissioning and Provision (West), Adult Social Services
	Joanna Wainwright	Director of Specialist Services, Children, Families and Education
Kent Fire & Rescue	Andy Merriman	Area Commander
Kent Police	Tony Thomas	Chief Inspector
Kenward Trust	Angela Painter	Chief Executive
Russet Homes	Keith Andrews	Chief Executive
Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council	Cllr Mark Worrall	Leader
	Cllr Nicolas Heslop	Cabinet Member
	Cllr David Thornewell	Leader of the Opposition
	David Hughes	Chief Executive
Tonbridge CAB	Angela Newey	Manager
West Kent College	Bill Fearon	Principal
West Kent PCT	Julia Ross	Director of Civic Engagement