

**KENT THAMESIDE LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP
MINUTES -12 DECEMBER 2002
AT MANOR GATEHOUSE**

Present

Cllr Rosemary Leadley (Chair)	Gravesham Borough Council
David Anstey	Groundwork Kent Thameside
Jim Baker	North West Kent CVS
Vivienne Foulds	Learning and Skills Council –Kent and Medway
Cty Cllr Frank Gibson	Kent County Council
Cllr. John Muckle	Dartford Borough Council
Meradin Peachey	Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley Primary Care Trust
Supt David Pryer	Kent Police - North Kent
Dev Sharma	North West Kent Racial Equality Council
Chris Waite	Kent Thameside Association
Jean Morgan	Sevenoaks District Council (Observer)
Graham Harris	Dartford Borough Council
Susan Free	Dartford Borough Council
Kenneth Lawrie	Dartford Borough Council
Ian Lindsay	Kent Thameside Implementation Team
Christopher Woodley	Gravesham Borough Council

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr J Muckle expected to be late.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (16 September 2002)

The Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as an accurate record.

3. Community Assembly and Consultation

Cllr Leadley reported that the Community Assembly meeting had proved to be very successful. She had participated in three of the working groups and had been impressed by the lively debate and the consideration that was being applied to issues. She placed on record the Partnership's thanks to the organisers of the event.

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Cllr. Leadley invited Partnership Members to comment on their experiences. Members welcomed the good practice which was provided by the London Borough of Newham Borough Council. They felt that there had been an opportunity to discuss many of the issues from a wider perspective. In each of the working groups, a number of important contributions had been made under the following three headings:

- Are the action points in the Strategy right?
- How would they be implemented?
- How can the community and voluntary sector contribute to the strategy and its implementation?

The input from the various groups would be summarised and considered as part of the process of finalising the Community Strategy document. Members were advised of the process by which additional comments could be integrated in to the Community Strategy. It was proposed that comments will be listed in an appendix to the Strategy and that the impact made on the strategy by each comment will be indicated. It was proposed that a summary of the comments and actions arising from the consultation process would be distributed to all contributors.

It was suggested that the Community discussions on a compact with the voluntary sector which needed to take place in 2003 might be considered by the Partnership next year.

Mr Lawrie pointed to the considerable amount of editorial work which would be required in a concentrated period leading up to the final version of the Strategy on 13 January 2003. The following Members offered to join an 'editorial board'

David Anstey
Jim Baker
Meradin Peachey

4. Proposed Next Steps – Performance Indicators, Surveys, Action Planning

Kenneth Lawrie, who introduced the report, explained that having discussed performance indicators as part of the consultation process it was necessary to consider how indicators will be measured in order to report results. The appendix to the report set out the targets included in the draft Community Strategy, together with Neighbourhood Renewal Fund Indicators and Audit Commission Quality of Life Indicators. He noted that there were overlaps between these various indicators and further work would be required to

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identify which were the most appropriate and practical in terms of measurement.

In terms of Quality of Life type indicators, it was noted that many of these might best be measured by surveys and that there was virtue, not least in avoiding consultation fatigue, in undertaking joint surveys amongst members of the LSP, for example on a bi-annual basis. He suggested that the final Strategy document might set out some outline arrangements.

Kenneth Lawrie proposed that following the Community Strategy 'launch', the Partnership embarks on a process of action planning.

Members were anxious to explore the possibility of local communities themselves participating in conducting local surveys and identifying local needs. It was suggested that this initiative would attract funding.

Sue Free outlined the potential for the Thames Gateway Strategic Executive to fund a Neighbourhood Renewal Action Plan in the area as a pilot exercise.

Members discussed the opportunities for the Partnership to develop communities to enable them to organise and undertake local surveys. Members confirmed that SureStart had set aside funding for evaluation. It was also suggested that funding may be available to undertake training within local communities.

The report was
RECEIVED

5. Timetable to Launch

Kenneth Lawrie noted that the period for consultation expired on 13 December and that comments on the final draft which would be circulated to LSP Members by 18 December needed to be received by 6 January 2003. The revised strategy would be re-circulated to LSP Members on 8 January 2003 for final clearance with a response deadline of 13 January 2003. He explained that this timetable allowed for the local authorities to report the strategy to their Members. Members discussed the arrangements for any comments made by the Councils to be integrated into the Strategy.

The Community Strategy would provisionally be launched in the week commencing 17 or 24 February 2003. Councillor Leadley invited Members to propose how the Launch might be marked – a balloon release was suggested.

Members' attention was drawn to the point that the launch was very much the beginning of the process of taking forward the Community Strategy.

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RESOLVED

That the timetable be approved.

6. Date and Venue of Next meeting

The next meeting would dovetail with the launch of the Community Strategy in the middle/end of February 2003.

7. Any Other Business

Meradin Peachey offered to facilitate a half-day training towards the end of February 2003 on Health Impact Assessment. It was suggested that planners should be involved.