

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of a Meeting of the East Devon Local Strategic Partnership held at the East Devon Business Centre, Honiton on Tuesday, 12 October 2004

Present:	Councillor Sara Randall Johnson	East Devon District Council
	Ali Round	East Devon Primary Care Trust
	Peter Jeffs	East Devon District Council
	Councillor Tony Wilkinson	East Devon District Council/PCT
	John Golding	East Devon District Council
	Claire Rodway	East Devon District Council
	Charlie Plowden	East Devon District Council
	Councillor Andrew Moulding	East Devon District Council
	Councillor Jill Elson	East Devon District Council
	Councillor Margaret Rogers	Devon County Council
	Lynda Price	East Devon Primary Care Trust
	Sgt Jez Capey	Devon & Cornwall Police Constabulary
	Bob Buskin	East Devon Chamber of Commerce
	Lisa Turner	Blackdown Hills Partnership
Apologies:	Councillor Kathleen Bamsey	Devon County Council
	Sue Craythorne	Devon County Council
	Alison Swain	Learning Disability Service
	Mark Williams	East Devon District Council
	Clare Brewster	East Devon District Council
	Nick Jarrold	Devon & Cornwall Police Constabulary
	Elli Pang	AGILE/Older People
	Trevor Day	Devon & Torbay Learning Partnership
	Medwyn Williams	Devon Partnership Trust

The meeting started at 3.36pm and ended at 5.13pm.

***13 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the East Devon Local Strategic Partnership held on 12 July 2004, were confirmed and signed as a true record. The Chairman welcomed Sgt Capey and Lisa Turner to the meeting and thanked them for attending. It was noted that there would be no Devon Strategic Partnership up-date or Community Plan up-date as Sue Craythorne was unable to attend the meeting.

***14 Parish and Town Plans**

Consideration was given to a report explaining the current position with regard to Community Planning Initiatives. The report set out a suggested route for the formal adoption of Parish Plans and Village Design Statements by East Devon District Council, and ways in which the Local Strategic Partnership could support their production and implementation. The Senior Planning Officer, EDDC, explained that there were a number of initiatives to encourage people to get involved in the local government planning process. Town and parish plans were one way of expressing local visions and aspirations. These were not an East Devon District Council initiative, but had been set up by the Countryside Agency. EDDC had no funds but offered technical advice. Parish plans took a holistic approach and although could not be adopted by the district council, they were endorsed. It was hoped that these plans would then help local parish councils to implement their aims and objectives. Some of the plans worked on a rolling programme with the action plans being updated at annual general meetings.

It was noted that the quality of the plans varied drastically and that some had more immediately realistic targets than others. If the LSP was given the opportunity to consider parish plans it was hoped that more realistic ambitions would be included to give more consistency between the plans. It was hoped that the LSP would become more involved in the consultation side of the parish plans as parishes often needed help consulting external bodies. At present there was a very ad hoc approach to consultation. If consultation was co-ordinated results could be shared and consultation fatigue reduced.

It was important that it was not just EDDC that saw the parish plans and endorsed them. Once the plans were endorsed EDDC would put them on their website and print out black and white copies and send them out free of charge. More and more parishes wanted to produce parish and town plans as they saw others becoming more effective.

Village design statements were very useful documents which were often an output of parish plans. It was reported that five village design statements had been completed and adopted as supplementary planning guidance and the process was explained. Every village design statement had to comply with local plan policy, but it was a community document.

Some of the benefits of including the LSP in parish planning were:

- ❑ Financial/technical assistance to parish plan groups - far wider knowledge base than EDDC/parish council's could access on their own;
- ❑ Multi-purpose questionnaires to avoid survey fatigue!
- ❑ The opportunity to comment at an early stage/avoid erroneous statements and actions that would not be implementable;
- ❑ Joint responsibility for implementing actions – there would be less reliance on Parish Councils and an increased likelihood of achieving complex actions;
- ❑ Accountability.

It was noted that there were 67 parishes in East Devon and that the parishes ought to be considering a clustered basis to the plans. Currently, funded by EDDC, the Community Council of Devon was looking into this approach. It was felt that a whole range of organisations should be involved with parish plans at a very early stage and that the LSP should be involved at the end of the process and be aware at a very early stage that a parish plan was being considered.

It was agreed that the way questions were posed was important when surveying. It was reported that the Countryside Agency used to put together a package of support, however that level of support no longer existed. The process needed to be formalised and all parishes advised.

*14 **Parish and Town Plans** (Cont'd)

On behalf of the LSP the Chairman thanked Claire Rodway for her presentation.

*15 **Blackdown Hills Presentation**

A presentation was received from Lisa Turner of the Blackdown Hills Rural Partnership on the combined AONB Management Strategy and Community Strategy. The reason behind the designation of the Blackdown Hills was the landscape, and that it was appreciated locally. The mission statement of the Blackdown Hills Rural Partnership was; "To safeguard the distinctive landscape, wildlife, historical and architectural character of the Blackdown Hills whilst fostering the social and economic well being of its people". It was therefore concerned with the community as well as the landscape. This resulted in a combined planning process, with environmental well being covered on a community planning agenda. There needed to be a balance between meeting community needs and protecting the high quality environment.

There was a steering group to manage the community process and a management group that oversaw the whole process. The plan had the landscape at its heart, which acted as a value and a constraint, and there had been a grass roots up approach.

It was agreed that the Blackdown Hills was a recognisable, identifiable area, with strength and character. The Management Plan had been unique in its approach and fitted in neatly with the parish planing process.

On behalf of the LSP the Chairman thanked Lisa Turner for her presentation.

*16 **Public Health Priorities and Tobacco Control 5 Year Plan**

Consideration was given a public health priorities report and the tobacco control 5 year plan. It was noted that the public health priorities report had been submitted in lieu of a subgroup report. The three readily identifiable priorities that had come out through public consultation, for the LSP to adopt were reduction in smoking, supporting people in their own home, and smoking. Mental health was also picked up as a priority. The Tobacco Control Plan was a five-year plan to work towards a smoke-free East Devon and it was hoped that the LSP would adopt this. It was noted that the PCT would fund a part time tobacco control officer if the LSP agreed to the plan.

It was agreed that the Tobacco Control 5 Year Plan was a theme on which the LSP could take a proactive stance. Every organisation could do something about and it was agreed that all members would take it back to their individual organisations to investigate how each could sign up to it. Once in post, the tobacco control officer could stimulate debate around smoking with all the organisations

RESOLVED That the Tobacco Control 5 Year Plan be adopted by the Local Strategic Partnership.

***17 Themes for future meetings**

It was noted that at present the LSP was not known for anything. There was a lot of talking, but not much decision making and action. There was a need for the LSP to be known for something that it could be effective with. It was felt that if it could make a success of something such as the Tobacco Control Plan, which would save people's lives, it could also be a good result for the LSP. Examples of themes that could be brought forward for discussion and formal decision making at future meetings were transport, alcohol abuse, green travel plan, equalities work, and better use of websites. It was noted that there was a huge cross cutting issue with young people. It was suggested that Sulina Mullins, Funding Co-ordinator at East Devon District Council, could be involved in research into how a community approach could access funds.

***18 Subgroup updates**

It was reported that the Housing subgroup was due to meet the following week. There was a packed agenda and a Government officer, and another officer from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister would be attending. This would be reported back to the next meeting of the LSP.

A request was made for a presentation to be made to the next LSP meeting from Lisa Rutter on young people's services.

The transport task and finish forum and subgroup had met the previous evening and a report would be brought back to next LSP meeting. Currently awaited was the result of a large-scale consultation. The group wanted to come up with small ideas that would make big differences.

Concern was expressed that the scope of the environment sub group was huge and that the group was diverse, therefore it was hard to achieve clarity of purpose and a sense of direction. It was felt that some focus/steer from the LSP was required, as the remit of the group at present was too broad. It was agreed that the LSP would consider the remit of the environment subgroup and give it some direction at the next meeting.

***19 A Compact for Devon**

A Compact for Devon document was circulated at the meeting. This was a two-way framework, such as a local service agreement. The intention was that the LSP adopted the compact, or something similar, and it was noted that it would be considered further by the LSP. The Corporate Director – Communities, East Devon District Council requested any comments be directed back to him.

***20 Date and Venue of Next Meeting**

A request was made for Medwyn Williams, Director of Public Health, Devon Partnership Trust to be invited to the next meeting of the LSP, and for time to be allocated to each item on the agenda.

It was noted that the next meeting of the East Devon Local Strategic Partnership would be held at 3.30pm on Wednesday, 19 January 2005, at the East Devon Business Centre, Honiton.

Chairman Date.....