

# EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

## Report of a Meeting of the East Devon Local Strategic Partnership held in the Members Area, East Devon District Council on Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> October 2007

<b>Present:</b>	Councillor Sara Randall Johnson (Chairman)	East Devon District Council
	Councillor Jill Elson (Communities Portfolio holder)	East Devon District Council
	Councillor Chris Tratt	East Devon District Council
	Councillor Stuart Hughes	Devon County Council
	Councillor Mrs. Margaret Rogers	Devon County Council
	Peter Jeffs (Culture)	East Devon District Council
	John Golding (Housing)	East Devon District Council
	Sonia Burgess (speaker)	Devon County Council
	Matt Dickins (Planning)	East Devon District Council
	Charlie Plowden	East Devon District Council
	Andrew Ennis (speaker)	East Devon District Council
	Debbie Fletcher (speaker)	East Devon District Council
	Becky Carmichael (PCT)	Devon PCT
	Inspector James Gale	Devon & Cornwall Constabulary
	Paul Walker, East Devon Commander	Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue Service
	Eli Pang (Older people)	AGILE and Ottery St. Mary and District Later Life Forum
<b>Apologies:</b>	Liz Wood	Learning Disabilities Service
	Councillor Barry Nicholson	Devon County Council
	Chief Inspector Jim Nye	Devon & Cornwall Constabulary
	Roger Grainger	DCC
	Marilyn Fearon	East Devon CVS
	Emily Farrell	South West Regional Development Agency
	Robin Kanarek	Faith
	Malcolm Sherry (Business Sector)	East Devon Chamber of Commerce

The meeting started at 9.30 a.m. and ended at 11.30 a.m.

The Chairman welcomed all present and then asked for introductions.

### \*113 **Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting of the East Devon Local Strategic Partnership held on the 18<sup>th</sup> July 2007 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

### \*114 **“Neighbourhood Assessments” – Presentation by Andrew Ennis and Debbie Fletcher of the Environmental Health Service**

Andrew Ennis, Environmental Health Manager, stated that the process started in 2006 when the Service was applying for Chartermark Award and following a couple of focus group sessions the picture seemed to emerge that “people” did not know anything about the services the Council provided and did not see the Council as ‘good value for money. Thus a new approach to consultation and engagement was necessary – Neighbourhood Assessments.

Andrew then introduced Debbie Fletcher (Technical Officer) from the Environmental Health Service. Debbie is seconded to co-ordinate and run the new joint initiative with the Police which began in May 2007 in Axminster. She said that neighbourhood assessments have since been carried out in Seaton, Honiton and Sidmouth, with Budleigh Salterton beginning this month followed by Ottery St. Mary in November and Exmouth in December.

Debbie said that the process begins with an initial inspection to identify areas of concern, followed then by a meeting with the relevant Town Council to discuss any streets/areas they felt were potential areas of concern or where there were existing problems.

Several Environmental Health staff and Police (or PCSOs) then carry out door to door surveys of around 300 to 400 properties in each town. The surveys take place at different times of the day including early evening. Packs of information leaflets giving guidance on everything from home security to how to complain about noise are then left at each property together with a calling card (where there was no reply) asking for feedback. Many of the cards that had been returned contained several pages of complaints.

The occupiers were asked whether they liked living in their town and whether they had any complaints about the Council's services or any other concerns about their street or the town in general. Occupiers were asked to complete a short survey about environmental health and police issues, which included noise complaints, crime, housing problems, energy efficiency, pests, dogs, traffic etc. Numerous other complaints were also received which concerned other services and or authorities. These were forwarded on to the relevant Authority.

Debbie said that the surveys were followed by a "drop in" surgery in the local town halls which were open to all residents to attend to discuss their problems, get advice, make complaints. With increased press coverage these proved very popular with the public and Members. At Honiton, which was very well attended, people were queuing, Police and PCSOs called in several times during the day to help and Councillors were also on hand.

Once all of the information had been received, it was collated, issues relating to environmental health were logged to the appropriate officer to investigate or use as evidence. All other information was passed to the other relevant authorities asking for their action.

Debbie said she then produced a Community newsletter for each town which included the issues identified, the action taken already, any future action planned, and who to contact to bring any other matter to the Council's attention. She said that these newsletters have been extremely well received and have made the headlines of local press.

Debbie said that Street Scene have suggested that future assessments always coincide with their "Councillor Grumble" walks and the Police contact want to discuss possible further joint ventures, one of which concerns licensed premises.

Debbie concluded by saying that this new initiative is a fresh approach to consulting with the public reaching many people who do not normally contact us, and has been very well received by our partners and officers, but more importantly with our residents. She said they had received numerous columns of free publicity in the local press which has helped to raise the profile of Environmental Health, the Council, and the services we can offer the people of East Devon. It also has provided us with a balanced picture of how people feel about living in our towns, and has highlighted "hot spots" of local concern where we can target future attention.

The Chairman thanked Andrew and Debbie for their informative and interesting talk and in particular praised the work they had done on this. The Chairman said this was an excellent presentation and asked for comments – comments included:

- Youth facilities needed in Seaton
- Provide welcome pack for all new residents coming in the area
- Steer people to the Council's website for up to date information
- Similar project taking place in Ottery St. Mary (Debbie said they had links to that project)
- Housing Service keen to work with Environmental Health on assessments to cover Council properties
- Internal communication needed together with data to improve the quality of life for the people of East Devon
- Noisy pubs/clubs - since smoking ban people now coming outside onto the roads for a cigarette - are pubs, clubs in right location in relation to residents
- Need for multi-agency meeting with publicans as wide range of implications concerning drinking outside and noise near residents. Need to notify Licensing Officer of LSP's concerns
- Fire Service keen to be involved

The Chairman said this had been a good debate and that we need to find better ways of working together and being proactive. She requested that the Licensing Officer (EDDC) be notified of the LSP's concerns, and the need for a multi-agency meeting with publicans.

**\*115 Seaton Youth Project - Fun in the Sun**

Peter said that Members will recall at their July meeting (Min 110) viewing the Seaton Project Business Plan which was funded and instigated by the LSP. The event which focussed on youth activity was spread over 2 days and an interim report from Penny Fildew (Devon Youth Service) is attached as Appendix A.

Peter said the event was a huge success with different agencies joining in and supporting the project. He felt this made a lot of difference to Seaton over the 2 days.

Peter said that the young people were preparing their own report on the event highlighting what they have learned and he would like to invite them to a future meeting of the LSP to discuss how we can help them take this forward.

Councillor Mrs. Rogers praised the event and in particular Devon Youth Service and the youngsters themselves.

The Chairman thanked the Officer Group for the part they played in ensuring this project took place and wanted to invite the young people to a future meeting of the LSP to present their report.

**\*116 School numbers in East Devon**

The Chairman introduced and thanked Sonia Burgess (Community Strategy, Devon County Council) who was representing Roger Grainger for being able to attend, and respond to the LSP's concerns over the availability of school places and finding suitable sites for temporary classrooms, at The Kings School, Ottery St. Mary.

Sonia reported that at primary school level there had been a slight decrease in the school population over the last 5 years. This has to be looked at alongside the birth rate which has risen slightly. The overall trend for East Devon is a slight decline in primary school numbers. She said that Devon County Council were aware that there are a number of hotspots in East Devon where there is an increased demand at upper primary level. Of particular note there is need for expanding provision and increasing capacity at Ottery St. Mary Primary School and Newton Poppleford School.

Sonia said at secondary school level, school population is rising slightly (7594 pupils in 2002 and 8152 pupils in 2007). The trend indicates that this is likely to increase further with the extra pupils at upper primary level and continuing inward migration and housing development. Devon County Council is fairly confident that it is, along with support from local partners, taking appropriate steps to deal with this trend. She said that with particular note is the support of East Devon District Council with respect to section 106 agreements relating to Cranbrook, where enhanced primary and secondary provision has been paid for largely by developer contributions.

Sonia said that it is precisely this sort of close partnership working that is crucial to primary and secondary provision in the future, and in order to plan strategically there needs to be a robust identification of need; the identification of appropriate sites for development via the Local Development Framework and continued commitment to securing developer contributions towards the development of infrastructure, such as schools, to support such development. With such commitments and continued partnership working, East Devon, along with the rest of Devon, Devon County Council will be very well placed to seize the opportunities presented by the Government's national programme to enhance school buildings.

She said that concerning the issue raised by Faith Jarrett, she was able to confirm that there has been a temporary solution to the issue of space at the Kings School and there are now temporary classrooms on site. However, in the longer term the County Council would like to see this issue dealt with from a whole town point of view via a whole town community planning exercise.

The Chairman then asked for comments/questions from the floor which impact on the issue:

- Huge issue – all secondary schools are full – need more land allocation – unable to transport to Exeter – Exmouth looking at splitting school
- Need strategic views early to enable Devon County Council to see what schools want and how community want to see schools develop
- Kings School, no fire assembly point – school allegedly not up to Health and Safety standard – portacabins are interim only
- Devon & Somerset Fire Service will visit the school
- Countryside education ranger works with rural schools – schools feel under pressure – imbalance of children at rural schools
- Clyst Vale Community College experiencing financial difficulties?
- Gypsy sites need identifying – looking at 18 pitches in East Devon to provide for gypsies
- Links to LDF process

The Chairman thanked Sonia for attending and for giving the LSP a clear update. She asked Sonia if she would relay the LSP's comments and concerns to Devon County Council.

\*117 **Review of LSP and Community Plan**

Peter said that it had been some time since there had been a review of the work of the LSP and its role, in that what is it that we are doing and delivering. He said that the current Community Plan was reproduced in 2006 and needed updating. He said that at its last meeting (24 September 2007) discussions were held with the Officer Group and his tabled paper was produced.

Peter said his paper highlighted some issues which have evolved as a mark of the changing environment and it has been 2 years since the Community Plan was last reviewed. Many of these new approaches relate to working at a community level larger or smaller than the district of East Devon.

Issues raised:

- Continued changes to different organisations e.g. Devon & Somerset Fire Service now bridges 2 counties, changes in the County Council PCT, and some other Devon agencies.
- The LAAS/LPSA (Local Area Agreement/Local Public Service Agreement) process and strategic funding is very much aimed at the County level and despite some local lobbying the District LSPs have no significantly greater strategic role in these matters than they did. The Government is clear that they see the local LSPs as a delivery arm of the LAAs ... a very different role to why LSPs were established.
- New emphasis on 'place shaping'; which is largely at a community level lower than that of District LSPs. The County Council has expressed an intent to review service and facilities at a 'market town and surrounds level.
- The Community Plan was set up around themes but our projects have cut across the themes e.g. Honiton St. Paul's project, 'Fun in the Sun'. Is a thematic approach still a valid approach?
- Some of the priorities in the Community Plan are not a priority in practice when it comes to allocating significant funding. Without the funding the likelihood of delivering anything meaningful is reduced. As such some of the Community Plan themes are relegated to being in the 'second rank'.
- When the LSP was first set up, each of the themes had groups. Not many of them exist now, but new ones e.g. Childrens Trust, Local Forum do.
- The way the LSP works in terms of its funding and running
- The Local Development Framework is a new method of working for planning, tending to focus down to community level. One way in which to create some resources is through the planning system.
- East Devon does not do well in terms of deprivation in rural areas being recognised by pan-Devon and regional organisations.
- Issue of unitary Exeter debate – may cause structural review in some Devon -wide organisations.
- When talking to local businesses they can struggle to see East Devon as a whole economic entity
- The Government's push to try and handback control to local community groups of community facilities focuses down to a local community level.

Peter concluded by saying that it is clear we see that the current structure of the LSP, its plans, and its approaches may already be becoming out of synchrony with the developing situation. The question is how best to change to meet the challenge.

The Chairman thanked Peter for his detailed and informative paper on the 'Future of East Devon LSP' and following a useful debate felt that one of the key points was the Local Development Framework and how the LSP can work more effectively through this mechanism with the Council e.g. looking at the hospital and doctor provisions with increasing number of houses.

She said that one point of issue was a new Bill going through Parliament concerning "roof tax". This will effectively mean that the Government would take 100% and hand back to East Devon 75% to spend in what way it chooses to support community priorities and facilities. The more ideas we have the better so when the money comes in projects can be delivered.

The Chairman said that she wanted all Members of the LSP to bring ideas for future thinking of the LSP to its next meeting in January 2008.

**\*118 Any other business**

- i) Ethnic Minorities – Becky said that she recently attended a County led group meeting on Ethnic Minorities and during the meeting it was very noticeable that there was no initiatives put forward from East and Mid Devon and any work that promotes reducing hate crime. Peter said that Gerry Moore (Community Safety Officer) helped run a 'diversity group' looking at hate crime. Becky said if anyone knows of any initiatives that are taking place on tackling hate crime and are in need of support, please notify Becky or Gerry Moore.
- ii) Devon & Somerset Fire Service - Paul Walker wanted to remind members of the LSP of the usefulness/capabilities of the Devon & Somerset Fire Service in being able to assist with neighbourhood assessments, mapping services, hold surgeries, helping vulnerable groups, Fire Officers visiting licensed premises for smoking/drinking areas, attend with Licensing Officers/Police on visit and want to be part of this. Peter suggested Paul contact Andrew Ennis /Debbie Fletcher to see how he can be of assistance and took the opportunity to thank him for his kind offer.
- iii) Devon Towns Forum  
Peter said that he had been approached by a Member of the Council who was a representative of the Devon Town Forums and who wanted to get involved and create possible links with the LSP.  
The Chairman agreed that the Member be invited to a future meeting of the LSP to talk about the Devon Towns Forum and how they may assist.

**\*119 Date and venue of next meeting**

It was noted that the next meeting of the East Devon Local Strategic Partnership would be held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2008, 9.15 a.m.- 9.30 a.m. in the Committee Room, Knowle, Sidmouth.

Signed .....

Date .....

Chairman LSP – Councillor Miss Sara Randall Johnson

# The Seaton Youth Council Presents..... 'Fun in the Sun' 21 – 22 August 2007 Report



The 'fun in the sun' festival has now taken place, this was an amazing success not only for those young people who were responsible for the event but also for the community as a whole. The feedback received on the evening of the beach bash was 100% positive, as was the reporting in the 3 local papers that covered the festival. (The View from Seaton had 6 pages given over to the event). They have also had a number of letters written to the local papers from people congratulating them on their efforts with calls over and over again of 'do it again next year'.

So did the Seaton Town Youth Council achieve the aims and objectives set out in the project proposal? I believe they did and more.

## Primary Objectives:-

- ◇ To create positive self image & confidence:
- ◇ Framework of achievements and transferable skills:
- ◇ Better socialisation between young people and generations:
- ◇ Experience of investing in the future:
- ◇ Combat negative image of youth locally:

This has been an incredible journey for some of these 12 young people, the growth of their **belief and self worth** cannot be over estimated. They have stood before the local town council to present their plans and ideas. They have chaired an open meeting for local residents, been interviewed by the local press. For some this was natural and easy, for others taking support and encouragement from their peers enabled them to participate.

The **skills and experience** the group have learnt and will be able to take with them include: Everyone has valid ideas and opinions, that some people say one thing then do another! That not all adults will take the word of a young person, and how to plan realistically. That a budget is not open ended, that time doesn't stand still and that working as a team achieves more.

It was clear from the beginning that they wanted the whole community to be involved and that this was important if it was going to be a success. This evolved by inviting local groups to take part or volunteer. This ranged from the W.I. providing a tea tent during the afternoon, the guides running the tuck bar during the music gig, a local church group taking the 'kids club' in the gardens. The Gateway Town group cooking well over 500 burgers and sausages. The Lions club providing a generator for the disco. 8

Local councillors being on patrol for the fireworks and being there at the end of the evening to help clear up. Police being in attendance over the 2 days, local fire crew bringing the engine onto the promenade for people to climb on and look over. St John's being on duty for the 2 days.

Of the 103 completed feedbacks we took on the night of the beach bash more than 60% were from the 'older generation' with comments such as "Fantastic event, do it again" " Great fun, kids had a great time" " Fantastic day, well done to all" "What a fabulous two days, brilliant, you have worked really hard, well done, next year?" "excellent idea about time for Seaton" "Very good, long may it last"

There was not one single negative comment. All of this is a clear indication that '**better socialisation**' did occur.

The very fact that these young people were responsible for this festival and with the calls for it to be reproduced, even if this doesn't happen the youth council members will always be known as that group. It is hoped that this event will increase not only the membership but also raise the profile of the youth council within the community. They do feel that they are '**investing in the future**' of their town.

It is without doubt that the youth council have played a part to '**combat the negative image of youth locally**'. The letters in the local papers congratulating them, the fact that the police have stated that there wasn't one complaint or any trouble from young people over the two days have to be celebrated.

### **Did they achieve the Aims:- ?**

#### ◇ **To engage and involve 70% of Young people in Seaton.**

It is difficult to know if this aim was achieved, but for example at the music gig on the Tuesday night, the procedure was (so that we wouldn't go over the 499 limit for the town hall!!) when someone came into the gig they were given a ticket. (over 240 entry tickets were given out this does include a small amount of adults who attended as well). For the activities on the Wednesday during the day and evening, again very difficult to calculate but it was felt by many who were involved that at least several hundred people either participated in an activity or watched. The estimated population figure for 2006 for 0 – 19yrs is 1088 for Seaton, so if we estimate a total attendance figure of 740 then they would almost achieve that aim.

#### ◇ **To achieve a target of 50% who have engaged with the project to achieve accreditation.**

This will be achieved totally, all those young people who are on the youth council will be receiving a Devon Award Certificate.

#### ◇ **To achieve a measurable increase in the Social Capital of young people in Seaton.**

The contacts, reputations and relationships with the adult population of Seaton for many young people involved in the project have increased greatly, and this will have enabled them to grow and flourish.

#### ◇ To achieve the 5 outcomes within 'Every Child Matters'

1. **Being Healthy** – There were a number of activities provided that would be considered to fit this: The laser bug – running around inside an inflatable tent shooting people! Taking a canoe out on the water. Dancing to the disco and the fun run, and of course all the running around trying to ensure that everything ran smoothly!
2. **Staying safe** – Safety was a huge aspect to the planning and implementation, from providing first aid cover to having a lost & found space albeit without the gazebo because the wind being so strong it couldn't be put up! To provide insurance cover and take on the mammoth task of a risk assessment. It is also important to state that the Police have said that there were no complaints or issues around young people and any substance misuse over the two days.
3. **Economic Well-being** - The transferable skills learnt by these young people will take them forward in their working lives. Having an understanding about how budgets work – or don't, or how expensive some things were, but if you asked nicely you could get them at reduced or even free was a learning curve for them.

4. **Enjoying & Achieving** - I think on their reflection and evaluation that although they have agreed it was much harder than they anticipated at the beginning they have enjoyed the experience and do feel they have achieved something that some people thought they wouldn't. Even if it meant getting covered (and I mean covered) in white paint when they painted the look out point.
5. **Making a Positive Contribution** - This being the most important outcome for them, they have without a doubt made a positive contribution, not only for Seaton but also for the youth council as a group.



#### Plans for the future are:-

- ◇ To meet and evaluate the project
- ◇ To write to the local papers to say thank you to the residents of Seaton.
- ◇ For them to write their own report which is it hoped will go to:-
  - The LSP
  - Seaton Town Council
  - Young People Now (A national magazine)
  - The Media Newsletter (Part of Think Tank)
- ◇ To purchase a plaque for the dinosaur sculpture
- ◇ To make some small donations with the money they made from Laser/Tea Tent/BBQ. To local groups and organisations (such as Majorettes/W.I./Help the Aged/Canoe Club/Scouts/Guides)
- ◇ To have a day out to celebrate what they have achieved.
- ◇ Continue to be a voice for the young people of Seaton and look at issues relevant to them.
- ◇ To take an active role in the EDDC think tank.
- ◇

On a personal note, I would like to say that it has been a real privilege to work with these young people, the commitment, enthusiasm, team work and support they have shown not only individually but as a group cannot be stated highly enough. The pride and excitement on their faces on the Wednesday night when they gave their final speech as a whole group just shows that a belief and trust in young people can achieve many great things. I too believe I have learnt many things from this project and from these young people, and I look forward to continuing my role to support the Seaton Youth Council.

Penny Fildew  
Area Youth Worker  
East Devon Team – Axe Valley

