

The Kensington and Chelsea Partnership

Minutes of the meeting of the Partnership Steering Group
held at Kensington Town Hall, Hornton Street, London W8 7NX
at 6.00 p.m. on Tuesday 3rd December 2002

PRESENT

Members of the Steering Group

Councillor Merrick R. Cockell - Leader of the Council (RBK&C) (in the Chair)
Zrinka Bralo - Representative for Education and Employment (VOF)
Councillor Timothy Coleridge - Cabinet Member for Housing (RBK&C)
Councillor Keith Cunningham - Leader of the Minority Party (RBK&C)
Graham Downes - Kensington & Chelsea Social Council
Jed Davies - Forum of Faiths
Paul Haigh – Kensington & Chelsea Primary Care Trust
Mehghi Mulchandani – Action Disability Kensington & Chelsea
Dez O' Neill - Representative for Children and Young People (VOF)
Celia Rees-Jenkins - The Kensington and Chelsea Societies
Malcolm Spalding - Kensington & Chelsea Chamber of Commerce
Ch. Supt. Moir Stewart – Borough Commander, Metropolitan Police
Karin Woodley - Representative for Arts and Culture (VOF)

Others in attendance

Mark Beauchamp - Research & Consultation Manager (RBK&C)
Danny Chesterman - Winchurch & Chesterman (Consultants)
Louise Matlock - Government Office for London
Derek Myers - Town Clerk & Chief Executive (RBK&C)
Sophia Nasir - Governance Services (RBK&C)
Robert Sheppard - Governance Services (RBK&C)
Similola Towry-Coker - Notting Hill Social Council
Shirley Wechsler - Policy Officer (RBK&C)
David Winchurch - Winchurch & Chesterman (Consultants)

A G E N D A

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Steve Crow and Councillor Paget-Brown.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24TH SEPTEMBER 2002

Jed Davies asked that his apologies, which had been sent, be recorded.

Action by: Robert Sheppard

3. THE 2002 BOROUGH CONFERENCE

Members of the Steering Group made the following comments:

- The event was rather expensive, given the modest public turnout;
- The event was definitely “buzzy”, but had the feel more of a trade fair than an arena for debate about issues of local concern;
- The event appeared to focus much more on the Borough rather than on the work of the Partnership itself, something that was not helped by the venue being the Town Hall, a rather formal environment, or by the name ‘Borough Conference’, which suggested a Council event;
- The Conference ‘brief’ was perhaps too wide and emphasis might instead have been placed on just a few areas of Partnership activity, showing how the Partnership was seeking to make a real impact on people’s lives;
- The event presented valuable opportunities for personal interaction between members of the public and partner groups, and for useful networking opportunities; and
- It might have been useful to provide for a feedback session at the end of the event through which the public could feed back their views or impressions to the Partnership.

RESOLVED-

That a Sub-Group (with a membership of Mark Beauchamp, Councillor Coleridge, Graham Downes, Paul Haigh and Menghi Mulchandani or Karin Woodley) be established to consider the various comments made and report back to a future meeting. Suggestions for consideration by the Sub-Group included:

- Collecting potential agenda/debate items throughout the year;
- ‘Taking the event to the people’, e.g. to Portobello Road, to foster better ‘engagement’;
- Perhaps holding one event in the south and another in the north;
- Consciously seeking an input from children and young people and other ‘hard to reach’ groups;
- Using new and original ways to publicise future such events, e.g. through school newsletters to parents; and
- Holding the event at a different time of year – perhaps in the Summer – with more of a ‘festival’ feel.

[It was agreed later in the meeting that this Sub-Group should meet once the Action Plan for next year had been finalised, so that it could be taken into account.]

Action by: Mark Beauchamp

4. ACTION PLANNING FOR THE PARTNERSHIP

Achievements

This item was facilitated by Danny Chesterman and David Winchurch, who invited members to consider first what the Partnership had so far achieved. Comments made included the following:

- That the establishment of a strategic body like this, including all the 'key players' had never been done before;
- That members had got to know each other and the Partnership was now poised to get working 'for real';
- That better relationships and more trust had developed between members and partner organisations; and
- The 500 or so people who attended the Borough Conference now have a better idea what the Partnership is.

The Way Ahead

In terms of the period ahead, members made the following comments:

- that the possible redevelopment of Wornington Green Estate might be something in which the Partnership could usefully get involved;
- that the Steering Group lacked a strategic housing provider amongst its membership;
- that it might help if some meetings were held away from the Town Hall; and
- that the Partnership had to bring together three strands – (i) Government requirements, such as NRS; (ii) the Partnership's own priorities for making an impact; and (iii) the voice of the community itself.

Accreditation and the Government Office for London Perspective

Louise Matlock, from the Government Office for London (GOL), was invited to the table to explain the 2002/03 accreditation process and to give her assessment of how the Partnership was performing. She indicated that she now had more direct personal responsibility for this LSP. The 2002/03 accreditation process was more about 'distance travelled' and what the Partnership was planning into the future: this would hopefully fit in more closely than the previous accreditation exercise had with what the Partnership was already doing.

Louise Matlock itemised what, for her, were some of the Partnership's key successes and challenges:

- maintaining senior level representation at Steering Group meetings;
- a more inclusive Steering Group now that the voluntary sector were 'on board';
- less tendency now for members to look solely at their own functional areas;
- good support from the Royal Borough (but note that LSPs can use Neighbourhood Renewal Funding (NRF) to support development and monitoring of the NRS);
- the 'area profiles' were a useful piece of work;
- more yet to be done in pursuit of the equalities agenda; and
- many boroughs had not done anything as elaborate as the Borough Conference, but perhaps the Partnership might wish to think of other approaches, e.g. how better to involve residents and, in particular, 'hard to reach' groups.

Although it was noted that the K&C Partnership was perhaps making good progress in comparison to others, Steering Group members were keen to influence things that mattered 'on the ground' (although it was generally accepted that the Partnership would need to balance making a quick, noticeable impact with the need to plan ahead carefully on some bigger issues). Louise Matlock confirmed that GOL would be expecting to see evidence of some specific delivery objectives for 2002/03.

Karin Woodley expressed frustration at the accreditation process, suggesting that GOL requirements were to some extent at odds with what the Partnership was doing. Louise Matlock repeated her hope that GOL's requirements would dovetail with the work the Partnership was already undertaking.

In response to a question, Louise Matlock confirmed that, as a region (**not** for each LSP), 15% of unspent funding could be 'rolled-forward' to 2002/03.

Compilation of Future Actions

The Steering Group considered the list set out at paragraph 6.1 of the report and selected from this its priorities as follows:

1. To identify projects where the Steering Group might make a difference (such as crime prevention);
2. To develop an effective means for the Steering Group to identify and address race equality issues (e.g. an equalities audit); and
3. To set-up a small multi-sector task group to prepare a draft plan of action for the Partnership and get involved in agenda planning (including satisfying GOL's 2002/03 accreditation requirements).

The Steering Group considered again the partnership 'clusters' sheet. It was noted that these clusters were not distinct and there would be some overlap in the issues they had to address. Karin Woodley asked that 'arts' not be forgotten as part of 'Learning and Leisure'. It was noted that 'Community Development' was not one of the original six clusters

Zrinka Bralo expressed concern that voluntary groups would not have the resources to participate in yet another networking forum. Karin Woodley explained that this was more about getting existing groups/forums together and networking 'smarter'.

The clusters were felt to be satisfactory for the immediate future, although the Steering Group was at pains to stress the importance of everyone thinking 'outside the box'. In the meantime it might be helpful to map all the various meeting and forums going on within each cluster before reassessing how the Partnership might add something to what was already going on and act as a 'steer'. The Partnership as a whole was probably better placed than the Council alone to get a grasp of the overall picture of what is going on 'out in the community'.

In relation to priority 1 above, the Steering Group moved on to consider what projects it might get involved in. Some members felt that the Partnership should be involved in the potential redevelopment of the Wornington Green Estate, or perhaps in tackling the problems of the adjacent Golborne Road area (although it was acknowledged that both these would present huge challenges). Moir Stewart commented that crime prevention was always high on his list. Graham Downes commented on the need for an early 'win' to demonstrate that the Partnership could deliver.

In relation to priority 2, Similola Towry-Coker highlighted the need to follow-up on the consultations undertaken as part of the Community Strategy process: the Partnership has not yet reached out to all groups.

RESOLVED-

- (i) That the Steering Group's priorities 1-3 above be confirmed;
- (ii) That a Task Group (comprising those who had volunteered for the Conference Sub-Group) be established pursuant to priority 3 above;
- (iii) That all Steering Group members submit to this Task Group (to Derek Myers, by 16th December) a sheet of proposals on what the Partnership's future actions ought to be, based on both a 'quick win' and longer term objective basis (i.e. a range of quantitatively and qualitatively different potential actions);

[Councillor Paget-Brown has subsequently asked to be involved in the work of this Task Group.]

- (iv) That the clusters be confirmed as a basis for moving forward; and
- (v) That an Agenda Planning Sub-Group comprising Jed Davies, Derek Myers and Graham Downes be established and that this Sub-Group

should meet once the Action plan for next year had been finalised, so that it could be taken into account by the Sub-Group.

Action by: All/Derek Myers

5. FINANCIAL PROSPECTS FOR PUBLIC SERVICES NEXT YEAR

Councillor Cox agreed to defer his presentation until the January meeting of the Steering Group, by which time the full implications of the Local Government Financial Settlement 2003/04 would be known.

6. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The Steering Group confirmed the following meeting dates through 2003/04:

Tuesday 21st January 2003
Wednesday 19th March 2003
Wednesday 14th May 2003
Wednesday 9th July 2003
Wednesday 17th September 2003
Wednesday 10th December 2003
Wednesday 18th February 2004

Action by: All to note

7. OTHER BUSINESS

Membership of the Steering Group

Cllr. Keith Cunningham indicated that he planned to stand down from Steering Group membership and asked for the Group's agreement to Cllr. Judith Blakeman replacing him as representative of the Minority Labour Group on the Council. Derek Myers indicated that this might require a formal Council appointment.

The Steering Group raised no objections to this change.

The meeting ended at 8.20 p.m.

Chairman