

The Kensington and Chelsea Partnership

Minutes of the meeting of the Partnership Steering Group
held at the Isaac Newton Professional Development Centre, 108A Lancaster Road,
London W11 1QS at 6.00 p.m. on Wednesday 19th March 2003

PRESENT

Members of the Steering Group

Cllr. Merrick R. Cockell - Leader of the Council (RBK&C) (Chairman)
Zrinka Bralo - Representative for Education and Employment (VOF)
Cllr. Judith Blakeman – Minority Party (RBK&C)
Cllr. Timothy Coleridge - Cabinet Member for Housing (RBK&C)
Jed Davis - Forum of Faiths
Graham Downes - Kensington & Chelsea Social Council
Bridget Guilteneane-Sanderson - Kensington & Chelsea Residents Association
Paul Haigh – Kensington & Chelsea Primary Care Trust
Menghi Mulchandani – Action Disability Kensington & Chelsea
Dez O'Neill - Representative for Children and Young People (VOF)
Cllr. Nicholas Paget-Brown - Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Community Safety & External Relations (RBK&C)
Celia Rees-Jenkins - The Kensington and Chelsea Societies
Malcolm Spalding - Kensington & Chelsea Chamber of Commerce
Karin Woodley - Representative for Arts and Culture (VOF)

Others in attendance

Rick Algar - Metropolitan Police
Mark Beauchamp - Research & Consultation Manager (RBK&C)
Helen Kay - Policy Officer (RBK&C)
Dr. Abdulkarim Khalil – Director, Muslim Cultural & Heritage Centre
Ajmal Masroor - Egal Ltd. (Consultancy)
Derek Myers - Town Clerk & Chief Executive (RBK&C)
Nick Tittle - Metropolitan Police
Sophia Nasir - Governance Assistant (RBK&C)
Tony Redpath - Director of Strategy and Performance Improvement (RBK&C)
Colin Richardson - Head of Economic Devel. & Strategic Partnerships (RBK&C)
Robert Sheppard - Governance Co-Ordinator (RBK&C)
Father Marcus Winter - St. Pius X RC Church
Sister Monica Tywang - La Sagesse Convent

A G E N D A

1. NEW FORMAT FOR MEETINGS

The Steering Group endorsed the proposed format for the meeting and noted that representatives of the Faith communities and the Police were in attendance specifically for item 9.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Steve Crow, Moir Stewart and Similola Towry-Coker.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21ST JANUARY 2003 AND MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21st January were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the following:

- Clarification of the precise meaning of the paragraph at the top of page 3 in relation to Police resources in 2003/04.
- The Steering Group noting that Doris Besant would henceforth represent Kensington & Chelsea Residents Association.
- Confirmation of the Steering Group's wish for an additional 'cashpoint' machine located on Golborne Road with 24-hour access and any necessary CCTV/security arrangements.
- A request to the Agenda Sub-Group for a report to the next Steering Group meeting on Community Safety Officers (including numbers, pilot areas, recruitment and recent discussions on these matters at the Police & Community Consultative Group).

Action by: Helen Kay/Robert Sheppard

4. COMMUNICATION AND CONSULTATION IN 2003

The Next Steps

Menghi Mulchandani summarised the deliberations of the Sub-Group and the Steering Group endorsed the 'Next Steps' proposed by the Sub-Group. In particular, the Steering Group agreed that:

- There should be no formal Borough Conference in 2003;
- The regeneration insert to be included with the April issue of the Borough Newsletter should make reference to the K&C Partnership and, if possible, this issue should be included with the next issue of Tenants Link;
- Officers draw up a diary of events within the Borough during the next year, with six or so key events that one or more members might attend to speak, with a view to raising the profile of the Partnership; and
- Officers and the Communications Sub-Group to consider what training might be needed to assist members with the above and with a more overt 'branding' of the Partnership.

Action by: Mark Beauchamp

5. YEAR 1 REVIEW OF THE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL STRATEGY

Colin Richardson summarised the report, explaining that the 2003/04 programme was not absolutely fixed until September. There was some concern expressed about the transparency of the process and how projects

were included in the programme. Cllr. Judith Blakeman asked, more immediately, whether the Steering Group could make suggestions as to how the underspend might be applied. Colin Richardson indicated that a report on the NRF programme, including a full list of projects, would be made to the next meeting.

Malcolm Spalding asked for clarification about why a project proposed by the Chamber of Commerce had not progressed forward to inclusion. Cllr. Paget-Brown indicated that he was already aware of this issue and confirmed that he would discuss this further with Malcolm Spalding.

Derek Myers suggested that the role of the Steering Group was to approve the strategies and principles, not to manage the projects or the finances. Cllr. Paget-Brown and Dez O'Neill suggested the communications between the KCP Steering Group and Neighbourhood Renewal Steering Group could be improved.

Action by: Colin Richardson & Cllr. Paget-Brown

6. IMPLEMENTING THE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL STRATEGY

Several Steering Group members expressed concern about the workload involved in performing properly the role of cluster champion. It was noted that the Steering Group currently had no champion for Homes & Housing, but four candidates for Health & Well-Being. The relevant members agreed to discuss this amongst themselves.

*Action by: Cllr. Judith Blakeman, Paul Haigh,
Karin Woodley and Menghi Mulchandani*

7. THE LONDON DEVELOPMENT AGENCY'S LDA 2 PROGRAMME

Tony Redpath introduced a report responding to the LDA's launch of a funding programme to meet their economic development targets, in accordance with the objectives of the Mayor of London's Economic Development Strategy. As the LDA has a tight deadline for round one bids, the report had been prepared by the Council on behalf of the Partnership.

Some members of the Steering Group expressed concern that the dominant role of the Council might mean that the interests of other sectors had been undervalued. The process was explained, whereby a trawl of the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy had identified those local projects, approved by the Partnership, which seemed to fit the funding criteria of the LDA. Against each project the lead partner was shown, together with the suggested bidding round for submission.

All partners, including appropriate Council departments, would need to decide if they wished to work up bids, whether as identified or in addition to those listed, for subsequent rounds in June and December. A key condition of the LDA was that projects must be able to demonstrate that they had broad community support. One way of doing this was for the project to be in line with the Partnership's strategies.

Action by: Colin Richardson

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Nominations for New Chair of K&C Partnership

The Steering Group agreed that nominations should be made to Derek Myers by Friday 11th April, and that he circulate, during the next few weeks, details of what might be involved in the role of Chair. Derek Myers was also asked to consider what the appropriate arrangements might be for any ballot required.

Action by: Derek Myers/Helen Kay

Graham Downes indicated that he would like to nominate Malcolm Spalding for the next Chair. Malcolm Spalding suggested he might be prepared to stand for election, subject to clarification about what the role entailed.

Cllr. Judith Blakeman suggested that if the chair was to be a Council member, the Steering Group might wish also to have one or two vice-chairs, perhaps from the voluntary sector or residents associations etc.

Nominations for Steering Group Representative on Housing

The Steering Group agreed that officers seek nomination of a housing representative for the Steering Group from the Kensington & Chelsea Housing Associations Group. This person should be a housing professional on the 'provider' side, preferably at board level - as opposed to a 'user' - and, if at all possible, the person nominated should also be a local resident.

Action by: Helen Kay

9. SOCIAL COHESION - WHAT CAN THE PARTNERSHIP DO TO PROMOTE POSITIVE COMMUNITY RELATIONS IN GOOD TIMES AND BAD?

Jed Davis introduced colleagues from the Forum of Faiths, the Metropolitan Police and the Community Safety Unit, then opened discussion on the promotion of positive community relations in the Borough. He reminded the Steering Group that one of the main reasons why the Forum of Faiths was set up was to combat any outbreak of racial hatred and promote social cohesion following September 11th.

Ajmal Masroor explained some of the thinking behind the Pledge Card. The majority of the local faiths had signed the Pledge Card and it was important, he suggested, that the statutory agencies in the Partnership considered signing also.

PCs Nick Tittle and Rick Algar were invited to contribute to the discussion. They indicated that the Police considered community cohesion a long-term commitment and added that the Forum of Faith's aim to combat racial harassment was also at the top of the Police's priority list. Nick Tittle read out a statement, which he invited the Steering Group to adopt for immediate publication. The Steering Group endorsed the sentiment of the

statement but asked that they be given the opportunity during the next 24 hours, to look at the proposed text and comment as appropriate.

[The following statement was agreed, issued and published on 21st March 2003:

"Many words have been spoken about the war in Iraq. Our words are not about the rights or wrongs of the war.

"We, the members of the Kensington and Chelsea Partnership Steering Group say clearly and without exception, that the war gives no-one the excuse to abuse, threaten or attack another person in this Borough. We condemn those who justify such acts with political or religious beliefs, for the pain and suffering they cause the citizens of our Borough; the perpetrators will not be tolerated.

"We urge anyone who is abused, threatened or attacked to tell the Police, so that perpetrators can be brought to justice.

"We celebrate the diversity of people in our Borough and we will seek to protect our whole community from hatred and intolerance."]

Action by: Helen Kay

10. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Dates of future meetings were noted as follows:

Wednesday 14th May 2003
Wednesday 9th July 2003
Wednesday 17th September 2003
Wednesday 10th December 2003
Wednesday 18th February 2004

The meeting ended at 9.10 p.m.

Chairman