

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 Wednesday 14th May 2003

Members of the Steering Group Present

Cllr. Merrick Cockell (Chairman) - Leader of the Council (The Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea (RBK&C))
Doris Besant, M.B.E. - Kensington & Chelsea Residents Association
Cllr. Judith Blakeman - Leader of the Minority Party (RBK&C)
Zrinka Bralo - Representative for Education & Employment (Voluntary Organisations Forum (VOF))
Cllr. Timothy Coleridge - Cabinet Member for Housing (RBK&C)
Jed Davis – Forum of Faiths
Graham Downes - Kensington & Chelsea Social Council
Menghi Mulchandani - Action Disability Kensington & Chelsea
Dez O' Neill - Representative for Children and Young People (VOF)
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
Moir Stewart – Borough Commander, Metropolitan Police

Others in attendance

Vera Gajic – Economic Initiatives Co-Ordinator (RBK&C)
Helen Kay – Policy Officer (RBK&C)
Derek Myers - Town Clerk & Chief Executive (RBK&C)
Asi Panditharatna – Regeneration Officer (RBK&C)
Colin Richardson - Head of Economic Development & Strategic Partnerships (RBK&C)
Robert Sheppard - Governance Services (RBK&C)
Graham Taylor – Head of Policy & Partnerships (RBK&C)
Similola Towry-Coker (Kensington & Chelsea Social Council)

A G E N D A

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER

Apologies were received from Steve Crow (Learning & Skills Council), Paul Haigh (K&C PCT) and Karin Woodley (VOF).

Cllr. Cockell welcomed Doris Besant to her first meeting of the Steering Group.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19TH MARCH 2003 AND MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19th March 2003 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Item 9 – Social Cohesion

Jed Davis welcomed the overwhelmingly positive feedback received following publication of the statement.

Item 7 – London Development Agency (LDA) Year 2 Programme

In response to a query from Cllr. Blakeman, Colin Richardson confirmed that whilst the LDA Programme had indeed been launched in February, details had not become available until well into March, which had limited the opportunity for Steering Group involvement in this bidding round.

Derek Myers indicated that the Portobello Business Centre had been successful in attracting £354,000 (over three years) in this first bidding round. The North Kensington Opportunity Centre (NKOC) bid had been unsuccessful on this occasion, although the LDA had signalled an interest in NKOC resubmitting its bid. The next round of bids would be launched on 12th May with a deadline of 20th June.

3. CHAIRMANSHIP

Derek Myers reminded the Steering Group that, following discussion about chairing arrangements at its last meeting, nominations from interested parties were sought by 11th April. By that date, two nominations had been received, but subsequently one party indicated that he did not wish his name to go forward. Councillor Merrick Cockell was therefore elected unopposed as Chairman.

In accepting his appointment, Councillor Cockell indicated he was pleased to continue as Chairman, but added that the Steering Group might benefit from having a Vice-Chairman also. He proposed therefore, and the Steering Group confirmed, the appointment of Malcolm Spalding to this role.

In accepting his appointment, Mr. Spalding indicated that he would be directing his principal efforts towards the Work & Business Cluster and making a wider contribution, as Vice-Chairman, as appropriate.

4. NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL FUND

Membership of the Strategies Implementation Group

In response to a question from Cllr. Blakeman, Colin Richardson confirmed the composition of the Strategies Implementation Group (formerly the Neighbourhood Renewal Steering Group) as follows:

- Cluster co-ordinators
- Representation from Golborne United, Dalgarno SRB and the Sure Start programmes
- Voluntary Organisations Forum (VOF) representation
- Colin Richardson (as Chairman)
- Helen Kay (as Secretary)
- Christine Jenkins (NRF Finance)

Colin Richardson undertook to send Cllr. Blakeman a list of the names of the current membership.

Action by: Colin Richardson/Helen Kay

Barandon Road Business Units

In response to a question from Cllr. Blakeman about the allocation criteria being applied, Vera Gajic confirmed that the criteria were not “stringent” and that, ideally, the units would be let to local people. Leases were currently being drawn-up, with rents affordable but not subsidised. The units were not, as yet, oversubscribed. Advertising would be targeted primarily locally (e.g. using a local estate agent, a site notice and the Borough Valuer’s mailing list) but active marketing had not yet started. Businesses would have to demonstrate viability and applications would be vetted by the Portobello Business Centre.

Vera Gajic offered to arrange a visit for Steering Group members, and it was suggested that the site might provide a suitable location for a future Steering Group meeting.

Year 3 NRF programme

Cllr. Paget-Brown reported that the projected underspend for Year 3 was £8,100, and invited discussion of the proposals outlined in the report.

Menghi Mulchandani asked, in the light of 2003 being European Year of Disabled People, for the inclusion of a programme of access audits.

Cllr. Blakeman sought inclusion of the Golborne Road bridge, but officers confirmed that this remained the responsibility of Network Rail. Upon request, Cllr. Paget-Brown expressed a willingness to look also at the St. Marks’ Road bridge, but stressed that funds were limited.

Malcolm Spalding provided more details about the proposal mentioned at paragraph 5.2. It involved employing someone for one/two days per week to contact businesses in the NRF wards and to try to ‘twin’ these businesses with others in the south of the Borough; to run business development events; and to explore work placements and job creation opportunities. This would probably start off as a one year contract, with the possibility of renewal.

Zrinka Bralo commented that she would have found it helpful to have seen the report in draft form: this would have helped clarify that there were still opportunities for members to submit proposals for use of the underspend. She offered to comment on draft agenda papers in future to help make them more 'user-friendly'.

Year 4 and 5 NRF Programme

All Steering Group members were asked to consider, prior to the next meeting, what mechanisms/processes were most suitable for developing proposals and allocating funding. It was suggested that officers on the SIG liaise with Karin Woodley and other interested members of the Steering Group about how best to develop and build on the lessons of the Year 3 programme with a view to submitting proposals to the next, July, meeting.

RESOLVED –

- (i) That items one and two (in table 3) be approved as Year 3 initiatives – but **not** item three - and that, in addition, up to £12,000 be allocated to the Chamber of Commerce and up to £20,000 to Action Disability K&C proposals, subject to a full assessment of the feasibility of these two proposals (which should both be submitted in writing); and
- (ii) That the Agenda Planning Sub-Group consider a different format for the July meeting to look at proposals for the process of allocating funds for Years 4 and 5.

Action by: Colin Richardson/Karin Woodley

5. COMMUNITY FUNDS

Two further papers were circulated – *Community Empowerment Fund (CEF) 2001-2004* and *Community Empowerment Fund Expenditure to Voluntary and Community Organisations 2001-2003*.

Similola Towry-Coker introduced her report. She commented that, with many more funding proposals this year, she was confident that the allocation would be fully spent. She referred also to new Government guidance which suggested that Community Empowerment Networks (CENs) could operate independently from local Council's for Voluntary Service (CVS).

Zrinka Bralo highlighted a problem in the voluntary sector around maintenance of PCs and floated the idea of some sort of joint arrangement. Malcolm Spalding indicated that he might be able to help by putting the voluntary sector in touch with local IT businesses and/or with local electronics colleges who, he suggested, were keen to find student placements.

Similola Towry-Coker invited Steering Group members to the next CEN meeting on 10th June (10.a.m to 1.00 p.m.), CR1 at the Town Hall: the theme was to be Partnerships and Regeneration.

Action by: Similola Towry-Coker/Malcolm Spalding

6. CLUSTER REVIEWS

Graham Downes introduced this item, referring to the seven clusters. 'Cluster champions' had been invited to self-nominate for these areas based on their knowledge of, or empathy with, the subject; each had been working with the relevant cluster co-ordinator(s). It was intended that the small cluster teams could operate practically and provide a bridge between the strategic level of the Steering Group and achieve some level of impact on the ground: the Partnership with its joined-up overview could "lubricate and unblock", but the cluster teams would implement.

Graham Downes accepted that as all this was still fairly new, more work still needed to be done to fix more precisely the aims and objectives for the teams. He commented that, if the cluster teams are the public face of the Partnership, it was important to ensure standards of professionalism and consistency.

The Community Development Cluster

In relation to the Community Development cluster, Graham Downes apologised to Zrinka Bralo for not involving her more in this presentation, then thanked officers for their support. He regretted that he was unable to show any video to evidence how ordinary local people felt their neighbourhood had been renewed. Having said that, the document that had been produced was a very good one. The language was clear, although it didn't quite have the resonance of 'community development' within it. In the 'tracker', the cluster team had set its agenda and modus operandi but, if it was not careful, might be accused of "marking its own work".

Graham Downes went on to make some more general points:

- The Partnership had improved and the Steering Group looked 'in shape' to go forward and do some work;
- The underspend of £8,100, less than 1% of the budget, was a fantastic achievement which demonstrated excellent management with carefully orchestrated contingency plans to ward off underspend. However, if the Partnership made the allocation to the voluntary sector larger, could they deliver? Were they felt to be too high risk against the Partnership's excellent targets?
- It had sometimes felt like the voluntary sector was playing 'catch up'. Now, however, the voluntary sector knew in good time about the £2.16 million over the next two years. If the Partnership was minded to include the voluntary sector as a more equal partner, there was scope for them to become usefully involved.
- That, if more time had been available, he would have liked to have presented, with Karin Woodley, an item about participatory arts as an aid to consultation and regeneration.

Graham Downes reported that the Social Council would tomorrow be interviewing for his successor. This was, therefore, probably his last meeting. He thanked the Steering Group for its patience and support. He had come to

the Social Council to preside over a transitional period: the trajectory of the post was therefore complete.

The Work and Business Cluster

Malcolm Spalding outlined the work of this cluster, making particular reference to the Barandon business units ('Baseline Business Studios'), which would provide something like 28-39 units.

In addition to the 'Issues' mentioned in the summary, he added that lack of business involvement in the NRS as a hindrance to furthering the work of this cluster. The new post of LDA2 Co-ordinator was seen as further 'Opportunity'.

Cllr. Paget-Brown added that the development of a major site at Bard Road held some hope of new employment opportunities. Regarding 'Priorities', he mentioned that funding for the North Kensington Opportunities Centre ran out in March 2004 and it was important that the Partnership helped NKOC secure alternative funding to get the Centre onto a firmer footing: it was noted, in this context, that the LDA had indicated that they would welcome a round two bid (see Minute 2, item 7, above).

RESOLVED –

That the remaining five cluster reviews be available for the Steering Group's July meeting.

Action by: Helen Kay

7. COMMUNITY SAFETY OFFICERS

Graham Taylor introduced his report, after which there was some general discussion. It was noted in particular that the PCSOs were doing slightly different things in each of the pilot wards, dependent on local priorities and problems, e.g. pavement cycling was an issue in Earl's Court.

In response to a question, Moir Stewart confirmed that around 30% of recruits were from BME communities and more than 30% were women. He added that PCSOs were being encouraged to attend Sector Working Groups. Any thoughts from Steering Group members about deployment of PCSOs would be welcomed.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Celia Rees-Jenkins commended the ALG report *LSPs and Neighbourhood Renewal in London*, circulated by officers at the meeting.

Menghi Mulchandani asked for the Partnership's commitment to the European Year of Disabled People and invited all present to ADK&C's Summer Festival in Holland Park on 6th July. Menghi was invited to bring some proposals for further action to the Steering Group's September meeting.

Action by: Menghi Mulchandani

Moir Stewart indicated that HM Police Inspectorate would be visiting Kensington Police Station between 14th-18th July and might well ask to speak with some members of the Steering Group.

Cllr. Blakeman asked that the Steering Group be sent the dates of Regeneration Exchange meetings. Vera Gajic commented that the next meeting scheduled for the 13th June has been postponed. It is now likely to be in July (date to be confirmed) and the theme will be Community Safety.

Action by: *Colin Richardson/Vera Gajic*

The Steering Group thanked Graham Downes for his contribution to the Partnership's work, and Mark Beauchamp and Colin Richardson, whose supreme professionalism would be sorely missed. The Steering Group wished all three well for the future.

9. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

RESOLVED –

That future meetings be held at 6.00 p.m. on:

9th July 2003
17th September 2003
19th November 2003 (*changed from 10th December*)
28th January 2004 (*changed from 18th February*)
17th March 2004
12th May 2004
7th July 2004
15th September 2004
17th November 2004

Action by: *Robert Sheppard*

The meeting ended at 8.25 p.m.

Chairman