

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, 17th September 2003

PRESENT

Members of the Steering Group

Cllr. Merrick Cockell - Leader of the Council (RBK&C) (Chairman)
Doris Besant – Kensington and Chelsea Residents' Association
Cllr. Judith Blakeman - Minority Party (RBK&C)
Cllr. Timothy Coleridge - Cabinet Member for Housing (RBK&C)
Steve Crow - London Central Learning & Skills Council
Jed Davis - Forum of Faiths
Menghi Mulchandani - Action Disability Kensington & Chelsea
Augustine Omara - Director Kensington & Chelsea Social Council
Dez O'Neill - Representative for Children and Young People (VOF)
Cllr. Nicholas Paget-Brown - Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Community Safety & External Relations (RBK&C)
Malcolm Spalding – Kensington and Chelsea Chamber of Commerce
Moir Stewart – Borough Commander, Metropolitan Police
Celia Rees-Jenkins - The Kensington and Chelsea Societies
Karin Woodley - Representative for Arts and Culture (VOF)

Others in attendance

Mark Bennett – Community Environment Officer (RBK&C)
Neil Herbert – Head of Strategy and Service Development (RBK&C)
Helen Kay - Policy Officer (RBK&C)
Christine Lawrence - Head of Regeneration and Partnerships (RBK&C)
Steve Modric – Principal Governance Manager (RBK&C)
Derek Myers - Town Clerk & Chief Executive (RBK&C)
Sally Penessa and Julie Ford – officers of the Barking and Dagenham Partnership
Mr Selim – 'Response' community newspaper
Annette Spence – local resident
Ainsley Walcroft – Governance Administrator (RBK&C)

A G E N D A

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Zrinka Bralo and Paul Haigh.
Apologies for lateness were received from Jed Davies

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9TH JULY 2003 AND MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes of the previous meeting of the Steering Group held on 9th July were confirmed as a correct record.

Matters Arising

Cllr Coleridge referred to the request for an audit of the supply of, and demand for, housing suitable for disabled people raised at the last meeting. He reported that the audit was now under way and would hopefully be completed by the next meeting on 19th November. He added that the audit was difficult to undertake, since numerous Registered Social Landlords, not just the TMO, provided most of the supply.

3. FORWARD PLAN FOR THE PARTNERSHIP

The Steering Group considered its action plan for the remainder of the 2003/04 financial year, focusing on actions that had been suggested by the Government Office for London (GOL) and by the Steering Group itself. It was recognised that it might not be possible to complete all the suggested actions in the time available. Helen Kay reported that a Performance Management Framework might replace the GOL accreditation scheme in the near future.

The following action points were addressed:

- (i) *Use risk assessment methodology for Champions to identify a set of key NRS projects they will champion in 2003/04*

RESOLVED –

That Cluster Co-ordinators contact Cluster Champions to agree key projects to drive forward in the current year.

Action by: Helen Kay

Karin Woodley felt this exercise would be worthwhile as a means of setting the future business of the Steering Group.

- (ii) *In future at least 50% of meetings to be located away from the Town Hall*

RESOLVED –

That every other meeting be held away from Kensington Town Hall, provided the venues were easily accessible by public transport.

Action by: Helen Kay/Ainsley Walcroft

- (iii) *External learning: K&CP Steering Group (or a sub-group) to organise at least one visit to another LSP and report back to the rest of the Steering Group*

Helen Kay reported that LSP organisers in Barking and Dagenham had offered to host members of our Steering Group. There were other LSP meetings nearby that members may wish to attend. Cllr Paget-Brown and Moir Stewart volunteered to visit another LSP. Karin Woodley suggested that KCP Members also visit an LSP with completely different operating arrangements, which might be more useful for both parties. She also volunteered to visit her home LSP in Haringey, if this were possible. Augustine Omara suggested he might visit the LSP in Waltham Forest.

RESOLVED -

- (1) That Cllr Paget Brown and Moir Stewart undertake to visit other LSPs.
- (2) That Helen Kay contact Haringey's LSP and other Partnerships with different operating arrangements and circulate a list of possible meetings to visit by email.
- (3) That members report back their observations at the January meeting

Action by: Helen Kay

- (iv) *Equalities: Social Council to lead on a project to identify equalities issues arising from the work of the KCP SG and make recommendations back to the Group*

Helen Kay reported that Similola Towry-Coker had offered Social Council resources in the past but that it may now be appropriate for the Race Equality Partnership to address some of these issues. Karin Woodley undertook to convene a meeting of the Race Equality Partnership at the Tabernacle to take things forward. Cllr Blakeman added that some members of the minority ethnic community had issues with the Social Council itself and she hoped these issues could be addressed as part of the project.

RESOLVED -

- (3) That the Race Equality Partnership address equalities issues as part of their work and report back to the Steering Group.

Action by: Karin Woodley

- (v) *Develop a protocol between LSP and Community Empowerment Network on how we work together.*

Cllr Cockell felt that a short statement would demonstrate the maturity of the Steering Group and its ability to resolve issues. Karin Woodley agreed that we should build on existing compacts and volunteered to draft a short document.

RESOLVED –

- (4) That existing compacts be used as a simple protocol.

Action by: Karin Woodley and Helen Kay

- (vi) *Communications and Consultation Programme*

RESOLVED –

- (5) That the various action points highlighted for this subject area be addressed by Communications Sub-Group.

Action by: Helen Kay and Communications Sub-group

4. NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL FUND

(A) NRF YEAR 3 UNDERSPEND

Christine Lawrence thanked Members of the Sub-Group for their time and effort in allocating the Year 3 underspend. Details of the allocations given by the Sub-Group and the eligibility criteria were noted. The Steering Group were informed that those Sub-Group members with a direct interest in individual applications left the room during that part of the discussion. Overall £119,160 of the estimated £156,000 underspend for Year 3 had now been allocated, with the additional money to be carried forward into Year 4

Karin Woodley hoped that worthy applicants who had been unsuccessful with their bids for this limited allocation could be referred to future rounds or offered general advice on securing finance.

(B) NRF YEARS 4 AND 5

The Steering Group considered the process it would adopt for the allocation of NRF funds in Years 4 and 5. Consideration was given to a draft prospectus that would set out the Partnership's priorities and assist prospective applicants. The prospectus was amended as follows.

PREAMBLE

[Fourth Paragraph] 'If the partnership is interested in your proposal...' replaced by '**depending on the case you have made**'

[Fourth Paragraph] ‘...how you intend to involve users’ replaced by ‘**to what extent you intend to involve users**’

ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT

- Promote the “Cleaner Greener” scheme, **to encourage land-holders to clean and maintain their land and property in the borough**

HOMES AND HOUSING

[Priorities re-ordered]

LEARNING, **ARTS** AND LEISURE

- Improve **participation** in arts and sports by hard to reach groups in accordance with the Royal Borough’s strategies for these services.
- **Improve the extent and variety of formal and informal learning opportunities which engage young people aged 16 – 25, promoting achievement and progression onto further learning and employment.**

SAFE COMMUNITIES

- measures to reduce street crime, burglary and motor vehicle crime, **including “designing out crime” initiatives**

WORK AND BUSINESS

- Support for local businesses, **including start-ups**, and encouragement for them to get involved in the local community

Christine Lawrence explained how the application process would work and outlined a draft timetable that set out the various stages, from publishing the prospectus and inviting expressions of interest to the Partnership finally approving the full programme of activities in January 2004. She also outlined a proposal to continue funding for two posts that would support the work of the Partnership.

RESOLVED-

- (6) That the process and documentation proposed by the Sub-Group for the allocation of NRF funding for Years 4 and 5 be agreed as amended above;
- (7) That the allocation of £80,000 from the NRF in each of Years 4 and 5 be agreed in order to continue to fund the Regeneration Officer post at RBK&C and the Neighbourhood Renewal Officer post at the Kensington and Chelsea Social Council.

Action by: Christine Lawrence/Helen Kay

5. WORKING TOGETHER TO IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT

The Steering Group welcomed Gerard Couper of CAG Consultants who gave a presentation on sustainability and how to take forward the environmental aims set out in the Community Strategy. Gerard defined true sustainable development as development with environmental, economic and social benefits. He pointed out that the Council was leading on most of the environmental objectives in the Community Strategy but that other partners could contribute to 'add value'. The Steering Group then split into three separate groups to explore some of these issues and discuss what action individual partners could undertake to achieve the environmental aims of the Strategy. (*The attached sheets summarise the contributions and suggest ways forward*) The Steering Group then reconvened and made the following suggestions:

- If it is proposed to extend congestion charging to the Royal Borough, to write to the Mayor of London to request that the whole of the Royal Borough be included in any proposed extension of the zone.
- To support the (*feasibility study*) on introduction of a school bus service and the education of children on how they travel to school.
- To support other forms of public transport and lobby for the construction of a Chelsea-Hackney line and additional stations on the West London Line, particularly in North Kensington.
- To encourage recycling and support charities by linking the two together, with any recycling receipts being donated to good causes.
- To encourage partners to club together for 'green' purchasing to create viable markets for recycled goods.
- To influence the supply chain, e.g. councils can influence schools activities, such as recycling to reduce costs
- To encourage youths to take more positive action to improve the built environment.
- To bring in skills and expertise from other successful local environmental initiatives
- To work more closely and share responsibilities for improving the environment.

The Steering Group thanked Gerard for his presentation. It was suggested that the above actions be considered by the Agenda Planning Group as a first step to developing a way forward.

Action by: Agenda Planning Group

Cllr Blakeman suggested that it was not only young people that should be targeted to change their behaviour but also adults.

Menghi Mulchandani felt that more time was necessary for the subject and asked that consideration be given to holding future workshops at an earlier time (possibly lunchtime). Cllr Paget-Brown commented that the grid (*attached*) showing which partners were already contributing to the environmental objectives might also be used for other clusters in the Community Strategy.

Action by: Agenda Planning Group

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Closure of Community Language Centre

Cllr Blakeman expressed concern about the closure of the Community Language Centre. She felt that English as a Second Language (ESOL) provision in the borough was generally ad hoc. Cllr Blakeman asked for a report on the position of ESOL in the Borough.

Action by: Derek Myers

KCP Website

Malcolm Spalding reported errors in the Partnership's website. Helen Kay offered to assist in rectifying any reported problems.

Forum of Faiths

Jed Davis informed the Steering Group that the Forum of Faiths was now two years old and would undertake a travelling exhibition in October starting in the Town Hall on the 8th October. The Mayor had offered to host a reception to launch the Forum of Faiths initiative and the exhibition on Thursday 9th October. Further exhibitions would be held on:

10th October – Chelsea Old Town Hall

15th October – Isaac Newton Centre

Citizenship Programme

Karin Woodley suggested a presentation on the Citizenship Programme at the next meeting of the Steering Group.

Action by: Zrinka Bralo and Agenda Planning Group

Review of Post-16 Learning

Steve Crow informed the Steering Group that the Learning and Skills Council was undertaking a review of post-16 learning. He invited the Partnership to participate in the review and offered to give a presentation to the next meeting of the Steering Group.

Action by: Steve Crow and Agenda Planning Group

New Planning Framework

Cllr Cockell informed the Steering Group that the Government was introducing a new planning system, which included a role for LSPs. A report on this was being written and it could be considered at the next meeting of the Steering Group.

Action by: Agenda Planning Group

The meeting ended at 8.25 p.m.

KCP Discussion Notes – 17th September 2003

Open Spaces Discussion Group

What do you do now?

Public Art

Patrolling & enforcement

Cleaning and maintaining streets

Improving paving

Encourage use (*of open spaces?*)

Working with the community to improve open spaces, e.g. murals

Voluntary activities, e.g. Friends Of Holland Park

Community Support Officers

What else could you do?

Build upon views expressed in Community Forums and Environment Round Table

Partnership and encouragement of outside agencies and utility companies

Encourage youth to be involved: Hear by Right, Junior Citizen, involving and showing outcomes, through the school curriculum

Barriers

Conflict: Many youth only involved through conviction ?

Health & Safety constraints

London Transport not set up to allow involvement

Lack of experience in partnership in public art work

Perceived north/south divide on resources

Actions can take now

Engage youth to take positive action

Bring in more skills and experience & look at good practice

Better partnership working on these objectives

KCP Discussion Notes – 17th September 2003

Traffic and Transport Discussion Group

Objectives:

- Reduce traffic on our roads
- Safe, efficient and environmentally acceptable public transport
- Reduce air and noise pollution

Issues Discussed:

- Partnership initiative for parents with school children – encouraging walking to school (*Currently council encourages this*)
- Proposal for a circular bus route covering a number of schools
- Car sharing scheme (*Currently council encourages this*)
- Encourage electric/low-noise vehicles in Congestion Charging zone
- Increase cost of 'second car' permit
- Permits/enforcement for motorcycles
- Education to promote walking and cycling (*Currently council encourages this*)
- Lobby with business and Council for the Chelsea-Hackney Line and other schemes, including phase two of Eurostar to stop at Olympia to link the Royal Borough with Europe
- More stations on West London line to have a mainline station in North Kensington (*Currently council encourages this*)

Barriers:

- Resistance from residents
- Too many agencies with no unified approach to enforcement (for example parking on pedestrian crossings)
- Bureaucracy
- Resourcing

Actions: – those in bold indicate three key actions reported back to Group:

- Sharpen focus and lobby effectively
- Shopping trolleys (made of soft plastic) used to enable customers to walk home with their shopping
- Partnership to seek Council's view on Congestion Charging Extension to whole of Royal Borough – fairly urgently as consultation process is coming to an end
- **Should extension of Congestion Charging zone go ahead, KCP to support charging for the entire Borough**
- **More involvement in schools – see how environment education can fit into national curriculum and encourage children to be enthusiastic about the environment and how they travel to school** (*Currently council encourages this*)
- **Support for West London and Chelsea-Hackney Lines, etc.**

KCP Discussion Notes – 17th September 2003

Recycling Discussion Group

What we are doing now (and Barriers):

- Steve Modric, RBKC: Council has a recycling plan and a waste minimisation plan (his office is implementing it)
- Barking and Dagenham guest: said that recycling performance seems good, but councils should do more.
- ADKC: Officers recycle and try to reduce paper use, but specific applications such as large print and Braille use up a lot of paper.
- Residents: Celia believes that many long term residents understand recycling issues, but a big problem is overseas and short term residents
- Learning Skills Council: they recycle, but perhaps just as importantly they procure efficiently, e.g. they do not print more copies of documents than required - in spite of volume discounts.
- Small businesses (Cllr Cockell): it isn't easy for SMEs to recycle as the contractor arrangements are difficult and expensive, while many SMEs have other priorities

Ways forward:

- RBKC: awareness needs to be raised and champions need to be identified and supported. Residents must also be better supported
- Barking & Dagenham guest: must move towards a paperless office
- ADKC: must raise awareness of contracts and how to include environmental considerations in them, while training needs to be given on how to use equipment, e.g. how to photocopy on both sides of the page
- Resident: perhaps SITA should go back to two collections - given that a dedicated collection vehicle raises the profile and awareness of recycling
- Learning Skills Council: it is hard for the skills council to work on this as part of KCP, as they are not based in the borough, but they could help raise general awareness.
- Small businesses - it has got to be simple, just stop pressing the print button.

Practical Actions - : – those in bold indicate three key actions reported back to Group:

- Small businesses: Organise it with SITA so that SMEs get a discounted service for recycling - i.e. incentivise
- **RBKC: we should create a collective market with our partners for recycled goods**
- Barking & Dagenham guest: we should deal with white goods waste and electro-scrap by sharing and reusing in the community
- **Residents: initiative of old, e.g. milk bottle top collecting should be revamped to associate recycling with charity - to add value to the motivations of recycling, i.e. recycle for a good cause.**
- **Learning Skills Council: influence the supply chain, e.g. councils can influence schools activities**

Environment & Transport – Partnership working to add value

Partners currently working on this objective →	Council	PCT	Police	Area Partnership s	Voluntary sector	Housing providers	Business	Residents
Objective from Community Strategy ↓								
Reduce air & noise pollution	Yes (lead)	Yes, e.g. Walking projects						
Reduce the amount of traffic using K&C roads	Yes		Yes?			Car free developments ?		In part
Reduce the energy used in council's building & housing stock	Yes					Yes		
Increase proportion of domestic & commercial waste being recycled	Yes				Some recycle		Some recycle	Yes
Conserve and enhance public spaces	Yes			Yes		Yes	Some interest	Yes
Enhance local bio-diversity	Yes							
Partners to undertake a programme of staff training in environmental awareness	Can help							
Priorities from Review								
*Promote the 'Cleaner Greener scheme	Yes						Yes	
*Support the provision, maintenance and security of children's play areas.	Yes			Yes		Yes		