

The Kensington and Chelsea Partnership

Minutes of the meeting of the Partnership Steering Group
held at The Tabernacle, Powis Square,
London W11 2AY at 5.00 p.m.
on Wednesday, 28th January 2004

PRESENT

Members of the Steering Group

Cllr. Merrick Cockell - Leader of the Council (RBC&C)
Cllr. Judith Blakeman - Minority Party (RBK&C)
Cllr. Timothy Coleridge – Cabinet Member for Housing (RBK&C)
Malcolm Spalding - Kensington & Chelsea Chamber of Commerce
Paul Haigh - Kensington & Chelsea Primary Care Trust
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)
Celia Rees-Jenkins - The Kensington and Chelsea Societies
Karin Woodley - Representative for Arts and Culture (VOF)

Others in attendance

Shyama Chouhan – NRF Programme Manager (RBK&C)
Royston John – facilitator (independent)
Christine Lawrence - Head of Regeneration and Partnerships (RBK&C)
Jill McNiven - Kensington and Chelsea Social Council
Derek Myers - Town Clerk & Chief Executive (RBK&C)
Tony Redpath - Director of Strategy and Performance Improvement (RBK&C)
Similola Towry-Coker - Kensington and Chelsea Social Council
Ainsley Walcroft – Governance Administrator (RBK&C)

A G E N D A

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Zrinka Bralo, Steve Crow, Rev. Jed Davis, Helen Kay and Moir Stewart.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19TH NOVEMBER 2003

The Minutes of the previous meeting of the Steering Group held on 19th November were confirmed as a correct record. Progress on the following action points from the previous meeting were reported:

Re: Item 3 of previous meeting – Housing Representative Update

Cllr. Coleridge reported that the proposed housing representative for the Steering Group was Geeta Nanda, Director of Octavia Housing Trust.

The Steering Group was reminded that it had previously determined that the housing representative on the Steering Group should be someone on the Board of a housing association, preferably a resident. Also, that 50% of the membership of the Steering Group should be made up of residents, rather than 'drive-in' experts. It was pointed out, however, that Doris Besant, a member of the Steering Group, was both a resident and a member of a housing association board.

It was argued that an executive such as Ms. Nanda would bring a high level of knowledge and added weight for achieving results.

RESOLVED –

- (1) Geeta Nanda to be invited to join the Partnership Steering Group as the housing representative.

Action by: Helen Kay

3. MATTERS ARISING

Timing of further meetings

In Helen Kay's absence, Christine Lawrence reported on the feedback received for the earlier start time of 5.00pm for steering group meetings.

Although some partners expressed a preference for the original start time of 6.00pm, it was agreed that both the next meeting on 17th March (to be held at the Town Hall), and the following meeting in May, would start at 5.00pm, again on a trial basis.

RESOLVED –

- (2) The following two meetings of the Steering Group to start at 5.00pm on a trial basis.

Action by: Helen Kay/Ainsley Walcroft

Environmental Actions

Christine Lawrence reported that the letters had been sent to the Mayor of London and Angie Bray, the Greater London Authority representative, although no responses had yet been received.

StAR Consultation

Steve Crow was unable to attend the meeting and this item was not considered.

4. CITIZENSHIP

Royston John, Director of RDJ Consulting, facilitated a discussion on the issue of citizenship in Kensington and Chelsea. He explained to the Steering Group that his aim was to achieve some clear action points at the end of the discussion.

In order to give focus to the discussion, each member of the Steering Group was asked to think of one action they would like to see implemented that would promote citizenship within the Borough. These included:

- Involve local schools as a group, identifying practical ways to engage young people.
- Citizenship education, including courses and qualifications that result in tangible awards. This might attract students and adult learners, and could be led by the Learning and Skills Council.
- A local community project for recent migrants coming to London to encourage more social inclusion.
- Find a way of involving those residents who feel excluded from both their community and more specifically from the Partnership and what it does. Older residents as well as migrants/refugees would benefit.
- Commission a citizenship programme, including sections on citizens' rights, roles and responsibilities. Could include ethics, politics and legal frameworks.
- Encourage the involvement of all those residents who have chosen not to vote. Identify their reasons, and address these with young people before they reach the legal voting age.
- Promote a sense of neighbourhood belonging, encouraging residents to participate in as many ways as possible.
- Promote the nine aspects of independent living, with disabled people empowered to become active members of the community, rather than passive recipients.

The Partnership will consider how to take these issues forward.

It was agreed that consideration would be given to developing a welcome pack for new residents in the Borough. This would promote citizenship and address the problems experienced by migrants and refugees who may be unaware of many of the Council's procedures. Cllr. Cockell informed the Steering Group that the Council was already considering a guide of this type,

giving particular attention to how it could be kept current and accessible. Similar schemes completed by other boroughs would be assessed.

The guide could include information on basic procedures, Council services, Council Tax, the Primary Care Trust (PCT), sources of advice, and citizenship education. Cllr. Cockell felt that there were certainly members of the Steering Group who could make a contribution.

The first issue to address was that of funding, and it was agreed that appropriate sources would be identified and reported to the next meeting. These might include PCT, Council and Government/Home Office funding.

RESOLVED –

- (3) That sources of funding for a Royal Borough 'welcome pack' for residents be explored.

Action by: Tony Redpath

5. NRF PROGRAMME FOR YEARS 4 AND 5

Christine Lawrence briefly ran through the assessment process for NRF applications, and explained that, as far as possible, the views of the different clusters had been taken on board. The question of whatever smaller groups had been disadvantaged by the assessment process was raised. It was pointed out that all applications had been subject to the same assessment procedure (carried out by staff from both voluntary and statutory sectors), and that assessors had tried to judge all applications on merit. The Steering Group was also reminded that a Single Community Participation Fund of £200,000 existed in the Borough for community action and learning, which could benefit the smaller groups mentioned. It was pointed out that the NRF money was split fairly evenly between the voluntary and statutory sectors.

Concerns were raised over the ability of NRF applicants to work out how their projects could address disability issues, and deliver real benefits to disabled people. It was agreed that there was a lack of knowledge within the Borough concerning disability access, and a need was identified for a project to be commissioned to address the issue. It was agreed that any underspend identified from the NRF Programme could be used for a disability-related project.

RESOLVED –

- (4) That the proposed NRF Programme for years 4 and 5 be approved, with any underspend to be used to commission a disability-related project.
- (5) That the Steering Group will receive update reports at each steering group meeting from April 2004 onwards.

Action by: Christine Lawrence

It was agreed that disability awareness needed to be looked at by the Partnership at a dedicated meeting or seminar later in the year.

RESOLVED –

- (6) That a meeting or seminar will be held later in the year to focus on disability awareness.

Action by: Helen Kay

Cllr. Cockell thanked officers and partners for their work on the allocation of the NRF funding, which he believed to be balanced and sensitive.

6. REPORT FROM THE COMMUNITY STRATEGY SUB-GROUP

Cllr. Cockell informed the Steering Group of the discussions held at the Community Strategy Sub-Group meeting on 16th January 2004. It was agreed that the new Community Strategy should shift its focus away from the problems in the Borough and more towards aspirations. As well as recognising that we have a relatively high transient population, attention also needs to be given to residents that have lived in the Borough for generations. Issues of inclusion, rights and responsibilities would also be addressed.

The Steering Group was informed that content and style would be more accessible and readable. The strategies of other boroughs were being looked at, with both good and bad examples identified. Consultation work would also be completed, bringing in expertise from outside the Borough. The Borough Conference would be changed in nature and an event could be held at the Earls Court or Olympia Exhibition Centres to attract wider interest.

Cllr. Cockell invited the Steering Group to agree the Sub-Group's Terms of Reference, as follows:

"To plan the publication of the Royal Borough's second community strategy and the preparatory work that precedes it, seeking advice and decisions from the Steering Group as appropriate".

RESOLVED –

- (7) That the Terms of Reference for the Community Strategy Sub-Group be agreed.

Action by: Helen Kay/Community Strategy Sub-Group

The meeting ended at 7.23 p.m.

Chairman