

# **The Kensington and Chelsea Partnership**

Minutes of the meeting of the Partnership Steering Group  
held at the London Lighthouse, 111-117 Lancaster Road,  
London W11 1QT at 5.00 p.m.  
on Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> July 2004

## **PRESENT**

### **Members of the Steering Group**

Malcolm Spalding - Kensington & Chelsea Chamber of Commerce (Vice-Chairman in the Chair)  
Doris Besant - Kensington and Chelsea Residents Association  
Cllr. Judith Blakeman - Minority Party (RBK&C)  
Zrinka Bralo - Representative for Education and Employment (VOF)  
Dominic Clout - Borough Commander, Metropolitan Police  
Cllr. Timothy Coleridge - Cabinet Member for Housing (RBK&C)  
Jed Davis - Forum of Faiths  
Paul Haigh - Chief Executive, Kensington & Chelsea Primary Care Trust  
Menghi Mulchandani - Action Disability Kensington & Chelsea  
Geeta Nanda - Octavia Housing Trust  
Augustine Omara - Director, Kensington & Chelsea Social Council  
Dez O'Neill - Representative for Children and Young People (VOF)  
Cllr. Paget-Brown - Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Community Safety and External Relations (RBK&C)  
Celia Rees-Jenkins - The Kensington and Chelsea Societies

### **Others in Attendance**

Helen Kay - Partnership Support Officer (RBK&C)  
Christine Lawrence - Head of Regeneration and Partnerships (RBK&C)  
Don McBean - Learning and Skills 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)  
Stephen Duckworth - Golborne Utd  
Margaret Cairns-Irvin - Golborne Utd

## **A G E N D A**

### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Merrick Cockell and Karin Woodley.

## 2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2004

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> March were confirmed as a correct record, subject to the following changes:

### Item 6 – Choosing Health

*Page 7, second bullet; amendment in bold: 'Council and KCP could lobby central government to **mainstream national Healthy Schools standard with ring-fenced funding**'*

*Page 7, first set of bullets; additional bullet added: '**Access to free health care for refused asylum seekers was being increasingly restricted. Is this a threat to public health? For example the increase of TB. Is there a contingency plan for those not eligible for GP services?**'*

## MAIN BUSINESS

## 3. STRATEGIC AREA REVIEW (StAR) – POST-16 LEARNING

### Presentation by Don McBean, Learning and Skills Council

Don McBean from the Learning and Skills Council updated the Steering Group on the current developments of the Strategic Area Review (StAR). He presented the range of aims and strategic options for the three stakeholder groups (14-19 forum, adult learners and employers). The Steering Group was reminded that the aim of StAR was to complete a fundamental review in all LSC regions. All London sub-regions were brought together to form a collective London region. The review would result in a new strategy for Learning and Skills by March 2005.

A set of strategic options would be issued for consultation in November 2004, for comments before 4<sup>th</sup> January 2005. The Steering Group was asked to consider its local priorities and potential contribution to the consultation.

During discussion, the following issues and concerns were addressed:

- Funding request for helping health professionals return to employment, such as ESL provision for those with overseas qualifications, had been rejected by the central LSC. It was suggested that the application process should be simplified in order to ease the local shortage of GPs and dentists, etc. Don McBean hoped that the situation would change following consultation and promised to pass on feedback to the LSC.
- Options should not be made all-inclusive as this could impair the understanding of specific issues. Learning and Skills should not just concern employment; for disabled people in particular it was just as important to their quality of life.
- Issues around older people for whom English is not their first language. This was quite a challenge and a joint community learning

project/consultation was currently taking place with St. Charles and Golborne wards to capture the whole spectrum of learners.

Don McBean suggested that the KCP responded collectively with any radical ideas, adding that an early response to the pre-consultation would frame options in formal consultation. He referred the Steering Group to the options in the original papers issued before the meeting (contact Helen Kay for copies) .

Jacky Griffin, the Council's Executive Director of Education, Libraries and Arts, urged the Steering Group to start thinking before October as local needs required sufficient time to be integrated into the LSC's strategy.

#### **4. PRESENTATIONS ON CLUSTER REVIEWS**

##### **Homes and Housing**

Geeta Nanda presented a summary of the Homes and Housing Cluster Review. Successes in improving the quality of management, maintenance and repairs across social housing over the last two years included:

- The establishment of the Dalgarno Neighbourhood Management Alliance, which brought together the five main social landlords working in the Dalgarno Estate area.
- The establishment of the Borough's ALMO (Arms Length Management Organisation) status following the 2-star rating awarded by the Audit Commission.
- The appointment of a Regeneration Manager to coordinate regeneration on the Wornington Green estate.

A number of barriers were also identified:

- Some Dalgarno landlords were national organisations which presented problems when operating at a local level.
- The total cost of bringing the Council's housing stock up to the Decent Homes standard was expected to exceed the current allocation under the ALMO investment programme.
- Funding restrictions on bringing the (listed) Trellick Tower up to the Decent Homes standard were due to additional demands of English Heritage.

Actions for improvement included getting residents more involved in setting and monitoring standards and seeking additional government funding through the ALMO programme in order to reach the Decent Homes standard. The Partnership could 'add value' by working across all housing providers to surpass this standard and tackle overcrowding. Also the Partnership could focus on a small geographical area where we could all make a contribution. Cllr Paget-Brown reminded the Steering Group of the KCP's role as a lobbying body, suggesting that a collective response would help to secure the additional funding.

## **Environment and Transport**

Cllr Paget-Brown presented the special achievements of the Environment and Transport cluster:

- Improvement of the streetscape through work on the Portobello Road railway bridge and work through the Cleaner Greener Initiative.
- Streetscape proposal for Golborne Road initiated.
- Recruitment of North Kensington Environment Manager.
- Assistant to Graffiti Officer appointed.

London Underground had painted and pigeon-proofed the Portobello Road railway bridge at their own expense, demonstrating that they were now committed to making improvements to other bridges. Regarding the proposed new entrance to Westbourne Park tube station, Westbourne Studios had declined a quote of £100,000 as their contribution to the feasibility study, as it was deemed too expensive.

A key achievement reported for parks and open spaces was the opening of an organic garden in Kenley Walk. Also, the standard of parks in the North had been improved. Celia Rees-Jenkins requested that she be informed of any land available for gardening projects.

The land between the Westway and the neighbouring railway line was identified as having a severe rubbish problem. Cllr Paget-Brown said the issue would be picked up by the Cleaner Greener initiative and any similar issues should be brought to the attention of Mark Bennett, the Council's Community Environment Officer.

## **Safer Communities**

Dominic Clout discussed the achievements, barriers and improvement actions relating to the NRS issue which addressed residents' feelings of safety on the streets and at home. He reported that 59 Police Community Support Officers were now operating in the Royal Borough, with an additional 18 earmarked for Spring 2005. The PCSOs had so far been a great success in terms of public reassurance. It was added that every ward wanted its own PCSOs and there would be sufficient opportunity to put forward cases for discussion.

Other successes included the use of Section 222 of the Local Government Act to evict prolific crack dealers, which had made national headlines. Seven Anti-Social Behaviour Orders had also been secured.

Colville ward had been a pilot for the 'Safer Neighbourhoods' initiative, a new policing model that devolved local offices in local areas. A key action for improvement would be for the KCP to champion the initiative in the following year.

A significant barrier identified was the conflict between local priorities and national reduction and detection targets. Proposed solutions included the Safer Neighbourhood initiative, effective deployment of PCSOs and better partnership working. To this effect Dominic had appointed another Superintendent to focus on community liaison and partnership working.

Cllr Blakeman expressed concern over the increase in crime in Notting Barns and made a number of suggestions including a PCSO presence in the area.

It was reported that the introduction of Recommendation 61 in the Stephen Lawrence Report meant that, from October 2004, anyone subjected to stop-and-search must be issued with a full written record containing the reasons for which they were stopped. This new requirement was in an early consultation stage.

## **5. NEWS AND VIEWS**

### **Primary Care Trust**

Cllr Judith Blakeman reported that Kensington and Chelsea Primary Care Trust had recently been announced as the second best PCT in the country at reducing avoidable hospital admissions. The Steering Group congratulated the K&C PCT.

Regarding the recent Choosing Health consultation, Paul Haigh reported that the PCT would be presenting further proposals to the KCP in the autumn. (Did he?) The initiative would have a permanent impact with the publication of a white paper at the end of the year.

#### **RESOLVED –**

- (1) That Paul Haigh would circulate a paper containing facts and figures regarding the health of Kensington and Chelsea residents and services provided.

*Action by: Paul Haigh*

### **Golborne Road Improvement Proposals**

Augustine Omara was concerned that Golborne United had not been consulted on the proposed improvement scheme for Golborne Road. In particular they had not had an input during the appointment of the consultants, which would have been useful in ensuring the views of residents were properly considered, for example, by helping draw up the consultant's brief. There was concern that a consultant uninterested in local opinion would diminish the character of the area and that they may not have local residents' interests at heart. Furthermore, as Golborne Road is in a neighbourhood renewal area, the KCP should be involved or made aware of the process.

Derek Myers assured the Steering Group that although consultants had been appointed, their brief did not involve a set scheme of 'social engineering' but was merely a broad review of options at this stage. Nevertheless, the Council had recognised its error in overlooking Golborne United and was currently taking steps to remedy the situation.

The Steering Group agreed that the Partnership as whole should be looking at the development, and the process for consultation should be improved. It was pointed out that although Golborne United had not been consulted during early stages of this initiative, this was more an unfortunate oversight rather than a reflection of current consultation practice on large schemes of this type. The Steering Group

was informed that a consultation compact already existed between statutory and voluntary organisations, but awareness of it should be improved. Dez O'Neill asked for clarity around the development process for Golborne Road. It was agreed that advice would be circulated so that the Partnership was made fully aware of the development and consultation process.

**RESOLVED –**

- (2) That Derek Myers would circulate a note to explain the process, brief and timetable for Golborne Road improvement schemes.

**Action by:** Derek Myers

**Percent for Art / Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance on Public Art**

Before speaking on this item, Dez O'Neill declared an interest as a member of the Westway Development Trust.

The voluntary sector had presented a paper on Percent for Art two years previously (17<sup>th</sup> July 2002). The scheme required a proportion of the capital costs of a new development or refurbishment to be set aside to commission or buy works of art to enhance the neighbouring environment and contribute to neighbourhood renewal. All major planning applications would be expected to adhere to the scheme, except not-for-profit organisations who would be asked to contribute on a voluntary basis.

The scheme formed part of the draft Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) on Public Art, which was currently in its consultation phase. The original 2<sup>nd</sup> July deadline for comments had been extended to enable the KCP to make a contribution. An immediate concern for the Steering Group was the emphasis of contemporary sculpture over other art media in paragraph 6.3 of the Draft SPG. It was felt that the emphasis should be broader.

A further feature discussed was the Public Art Advisory Panel (section 5 of the draft SPG). The Panel would ensure the quality of art introduced to the Royal Borough, identify sites, commission, promote and publicise the art. Proposed membership of the Panel comprised the Deputy Leader of the Council, the Chairman of the Planning Services Committee, one other councillor and two well-respected art professionals. The Steering Group suggested that the Panel should include a community representative to ensure that any decisions took local views into account. Although it was pointed out that the three councillors on the Panel would have been elected to represent local interests, the Steering Group was encouraged to put forward its proposal as part of the consultation response.

The Vice-Chairman clarified that the Partnership's response would raise the following issues:

- Loss of emphasis on contemporary sculpture
- Joined up partnership working between the KCP and the Council on public art in the neighbourhood renewal areas
- The inclusion on the Public Art Advisory Panel of a community representative, ward councillor or someone elected by a ward councillor on a case by case basis

RESOLVED –

- (3) That Derek Myers would circulate a draft response to the draft SPG on Public Art on behalf of the KCP steering group.

*Action by: Derek Myers*

## **INTERNAL BUSINESS**

### **6. ISSUES ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

#### **Report on the Community Strategy Consultants**

Tony Redpath reported that the Community Strategy Sub-Group had met to receive presentations from two short-listed consultants. The Office of Public Management was duly appointed and would soon be working with the Council, the LSC, the PCT and Voluntary Sector Organisations to form proposals. The consultants would be contacting those Steering Group members not part of the Sub-Group.

#### **Membership of Sub-Groups**

It was reported that Paul Haigh was to become a member of the Agenda Planning Sub-Group and Zrinka Bralo was to join the Community Strategy Sub-Group.

RESOLVED –

- (4) That revised membership lists for both the Agenda Planning and Community Strategy Sub-Groups be circulated to all members of the Steering Group.

*Action by: Helen Kay*

#### **Update on the Equalities Audit**

Similola Towry-Coker reported that the Social Council had met with officers from all sectors in May to discuss equalities. There had been a lot of discussion around the different monitoring systems and different consultations on Equality Schemes. A more joined-up, consistent approach was sought, rather than each sector repeating the process. A note of the meeting, plus subsequent meetings with the police and Margaret Burns (the Council's Diversity and Equalities officer), had been circulated and was described as reflective of the current situation.

The Vice-Chairman endorsed the first suggested target which he interpreted as the need for a standard format to report back to the public on the equalities schemes from different public sector bodies. It was likely that equalities would be fed into the Community Strategy as a crosscutting theme including disability and so on.

The Steering Group agreed that an audit of all the partners work in Equalities was too large a piece of work for the voluntary sector to deal with alone. The possibility of funding from the Community Strategy budget was discussed briefly, but it was decided that the Community Strategy Sub-Group should discuss this first and take the issue forward.

RESOLVED –

- (5) That the Community Strategy Sub-Group would discuss the possibility of using part of the Community Strategy budget to fund the Equalities Audit.

**Action by:** Community Strategy Sub-Group

A letter had been received from the Neighbourhood Renewal Unit asking the Partnership to be a pilot for testing new guidance on ethnicity monitoring in neighbourhood renewal. Derek Myers reported that the Council had chosen not to take the lead, but suggested that the KCP may wish to do so collectively. If they chose to do so the Steering Group should respond to the Government Office for London (GOL) before 23<sup>rd</sup> July. Tony Redpath warned the Steering Group, however, that it would certainly be a non-trivial commitment, as the work would involve using two lengthy guidance documents and would need to be completed by the Autumn.

## **7. PARTNERSHIP PLAN FOR THE CURRENT YEAR**

### **Submission to Government Office for London**

Helen Kay reported that the draft Partnership Plan had been sent to GOL on 22<sup>nd</sup> June and the Annual Review had taken place on 23<sup>rd</sup> June. The KCP had been given an Amber-Green assessment, indicating that the Partnership was performing well. Formal approval was sought from the Steering Group for the Partnership Plan and accompanying Improvement Action Plan. The latter included the updating of the Terms of Reference and actions for improving direction and communication with the public.

RESOLVED –

- (6) That the Partnership Plan and Improvement Action Plan be approved.

### **Key Priorities**

The Steering Group was requested to formally decide on its priorities for the coming year. Five or six priorities were required, from the following four categories:

1. Strategic (e.g. Forward Planning)
2. Partnership Development (e.g. Away-day)
3. Thematic (e.g. Health Inequalities or Community Safety issues)
4. Crosscutting (e.g. Health and Well-being or practical projects not dependent on NRF)

RESOLVED –

- (7) That a set of priorities be circulated to the Steering Group for comment and agreement for submission to GOL.

**Action by:** Helen Kay



## **8. NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL FUND**

Christine Lawrence discussed the proposed redistribution of NRF funds following the withdrawal of funding from Women's Education in Building, which had gone into liquidation. The original assessment panel had looked again at all projects to select the next highest scorers and those that had funding reduced in the original allocation. The panel also recognised the priority the KCP placed on work around disability. Allocation was therefore proposed for the following projects:

- Partnership for Supplementary Schools (re-instatement of reduction)
- Addition to Arts/Cultural Diversity Post (re-instatement of reduction)
- KCSC/Portobello Business Centre
- North Kensington Video Drama Project
- Blenheim/HOT project
- Access Officer (disability) at ADKC

It was also proposed that any underspend up to £30,000 occurring during the year should be allocated to security works in Golborne and St. Charles wards. It would re-cycle underspend promptly and would have real benefit to local communities. It was reiterated that the maximum of £30,000 was for the whole year.

RESOLVED –

- (8) That the pattern of expenditure set out in paragraph 2.5 of the report be implemented, and
- (9) That any further underspend occurring during 2004/05 (up to a total of £30,000) be pre-allocated to security works in the Golborne and St. Charles wards.

*Action by: Christine Lawrence*

## **9. FORWARD PLANNING**

### **Away Afternoon on Governance and Maintenance**

Derek Myers proposed to the Steering Group that an 'away-afternoon' be organised for the near future. It would provide an opportunity for members to discuss their aspirations for the Partnership, air any grievances and come to an agreement on current processes. The Vice-Chairman supported the proposal, referring to the previous away-day, which served as an excellent introduction to the Partnership Steering Group. It was suggested that the event could run from 4.30pm to 8.00pm, including a two-hour meeting followed by dinner.

RESOLVED –

- (10) That members would be canvassed for suitable dates on which to schedule the proposed 'away-afternoon'.

*Action by: Helen Kay*

### **Forthcoming Meeting Dates**

The Steering Group was asked to note the meeting dates for 2005. Recent meetings had been held at the earlier time of 5.00pm on a trial basis. This time was popular with members of the Steering Group and it was agreed that all future meetings would be held at this time.

RESOLVED –

- (11) That all future meetings of the KCP Steering Group be scheduled for a 5.00pm start.

***Action by:*** Helen Kay/Ainsley Walcroft

The meeting ended at 7.25 p.m.

Vice-Chairman