

The Kensington and Chelsea Partnership

Minutes of the meeting of the Partnership Steering Group
held at the Town Hall, Horton Street, London W8 7NX at 5.15 p.m.
on Wednesday, 17th November 2004

PRESENT

Members of the Steering Group

Cllr. Merrick Cockell, Chairman - Leader of the Council (RBK&C)
Cllr. Judith Blakeman - Minority Party (RBK&C)
Zrinka Bralo - Representative for Education and Employment (VOF)
Dominic Clout - Borough Commander, Metropolitan Police
Steve Crow - London Central Learning & Skills Council
Jed Davis - Forum of Faiths
Paul Haigh - Chief Executive, Kensington & Chelsea Primary Care Trust
Menghi Mulchandani - Action Disability Kensington & Chelsea
Geeta Nanda - Notting Hill Housing Trust
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
and External Relations (RBK&C)
Malcolm Spalding - Kensington & Chelsea Chamber of Commerce
Celia Rees-Jenkins - The Kensington and Chelsea Societies

Others in Attendance

Cllr. Miss Barbara Campbell (RBK&C)
Magda Bartosch - Notting Hill Housing Trust
Michael Frye - Chairman of the Creative London Commission
Emma Gittus - Employment Initiatives Co-ordinator (RBK&C)
Helen Kay - Partnership Support Officer (RBK&C)
Christine Lawrence - Head of Regeneration and Partnerships (RBK&C)
Derek Myers - Town Clerk & Chief Executive (RBK&C)
Tony Redpath - Director of Strategy and Performance Improvement (RBK&C)
Gillian Reid - NRF Programme Manager (RBK&C)
Amanda Smethurst - Community Arts Development Officer (RBK&C)
Graham Taylor - Chief Community Safety Officer (RBK&C)
Ainsley Walcroft - Governance Administrator (RBK&C)

A G E N D A

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Timothy Coleridge and Doris Besant.

The Steering Group was informed that Karin Woodley had resigned from the Partnership to focus on her new role with the Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust. The Steering Group thanked Karin for her valued contribution and wished her well.

Cllr Cockell left the meeting after Item 4, at which point Malcolm Spalding took the Chair for the remainder of the agenda.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15TH SEPTEMBER 2004

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 15th September 2004 were confirmed as a correct record.

MAIN BUSINESS

3. THE POWER AND POTENTIAL OF THE ARTS

Presentation by Michael Frye, Chairman of the Creative London Commission

Michael Frye, member of the London Development Agency's (LDA) Board and Chairman of the Mayor's Creative London Commission, gave a presentation on the undervalued potential of the creative industries in regeneration in London. Creative industries generate around £21 billion per year and employ approximately 500,000 people in the capital. They include businesses covering architecture, design, publishing, music, television, film, fashion and new manufacture (such as hand made jewellery, etc). The diversity of population found in London was critical in driving this creativity.

Deptford, Haringey and Brixton were just three examples of areas of London whose regeneration has been enhanced through the support of creative industries. The Commission recommended the creation of nine pilot "Creative Hubs" across London, who's aim would be to provide a base to help local creative businesses get started, support those already established and build on cluster development. Examples of support could include:

- Intellectual property advice
- Flexible, affordable premises
- Access to marketing data
- Access to key industry players
- Basic business advice
- Routes into training
- Venture funds

The development of these Creative Hubs, across London, is being led and funded by the LDA. However, the LDA's forecast budget has been reduced from approximately £10-15 million to £2.4 million for the first phase of the establishment of the pilot Creative Hubs.

The voluntary sector was more acutely aware than the private sector of the role of creative industries in regeneration, and voluntary organisations played a critical part in managing the hubs and applying their local knowledge.

In the following discussion, several Steering Group members said they hoped that a creative hub could be set up in Kensington to pull together the wealth of creativity in the Borough. The Steering Group discussed ways in which this might be achieved. Members were invited to share their experiences of using creative projects to enhance social inclusion and regeneration. These included:

- The use of public art to engage the community
- The PCT's 'Healing Environment' initiative (garden in St. Charles' Hospital)
- The AGM of the Migrant and Refugee Communities Forum, which featured a specially written play that encouraged audience participation
- Community photography where women were given cameras to record all aspects of their lives for a week. Selected images were displayed at an exhibition put together by a professional photographer
- Mural and mosaic work with disaffected youth
- Portobello Business Centre
- Notting Hill Carnival

A brainstorming session followed, where all members recorded their experiences on a wall chart.

See appendix for summary of brainstorming session.

4. COMMUNITY SAFETY: PCSOs AND THE COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY

Presented by Graham Taylor, Chief Community Safety Officer

Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs)

Graham Taylor updated the Steering Group on the current situation, the future of the programme and the next steps. The capacity had now been increased to 59 officers, with ten operating in Earl's Court, ten in Cremorne, eleven in Campden, nine in Colville, eight in St. Charles, four in Courtfield and two each in Notting Barns and Norland.

Cllr Paget-Brown and Graham Taylor had met recently with the police to assess current provisions. The deployment arrangements for the PCSOs were seen as particularly successful. Unfortunately, it was difficult to employ officers living in the Borough as recruitment was handled centrally. Nevertheless, staff turnover was low.

Consultation was taking place across the Borough in conjunction with the Metropolitan Police Authority. It was anticipated that, in due course, the MPA intended to fund a total of 54 PCSOs in the Royal Borough (three for each of the 18 wards) leaving the Council to decide whether it wanted to fund a further 126 officers. The recruitment of a further 40-45 PCSOs was proposed for April 2005. Wide consultation was taking place to determine the most appropriate wards for deployment. One way of doing this would be to put more PCSOs in high crime areas, but there were a number of other criteria to be considered. The Steering Group was invited to give their views.

Malcolm Spalding reported that most London boroughs have a Business Crime Partnership involving a network of retail businesses sharing information to prevent theft and so on. As the cost of a PCSO was equal to funding for a Business Crime Co-ordinator, it was suggested that a group of retailers could be invited to fund a dedicated PCSO. Mr Taylor reported that contact had already been made with "Shopwatch" to discuss a business crime partnership based in the south of the Borough and a further meeting was due to take place soon.

Community Safety Strategy

Graham Taylor reported that a three-year audit was currently taking place which would contribute to the development of the strategy, which had close links with the Partnership's Community Strategy.

Particular attention was given to anti-social behaviour and burglary. Reports of anti-social behaviour had declined in each of the last three years. Burglary accounted for 6% of all crime in the Borough, with Courtfield, Redcliffe and Queen's Gate wards identified as hotspots. Domestic violence accounted for a high 9.5% of all crime, and would feature heavily in the strategy as a result.

As part of the consultation with local people, the Residents Panel named litter, begging and dog fouling as the most important issues for community safety. In contrast, a similar survey carried out by the TMO found that youth disorder and street crime caused the greatest concern.

Councillor Paget-Brown reported that a Safer Surer joint enforcement event would be taking place on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th December in Latimer Road and Portobello Road.

5. NEWS AND VIEWS

Future Builders/Change-Up

Augustine Omara gave an update on the central Government initiatives 'Future Builders' and 'Change-Up' which would affect how CSV's are funded. The latter used Infrastructure Development Plans to identify gaps in support for local voluntary sector organisations. The Social Council would be consulting the Partnership about any changes this may bring about.

Race Equality Partnership

Zrinka Bralo reported that the R.E.P had 'kicked off' this week. Three members of staff were now in post.

London Housing Strategy

Geeta Nanda said the draft London Housing Strategy was available and urged the Steering Group to find out more on the website for the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. A key aim of the strategy was to introduce more houses in cheap areas of the capital. The paper also addressed some difficult questions such as whether we should build at high densities.

Three Faiths Forum Seminar

Jed Davis informed the Steering Group that a Three Faiths Forum seminar was taking place on 30th November at the Chelsea Methodist Church.

PCT Autumn News

Paul Haigh reported that the K&C PCT would not be eligible for some of the new national initiatives as it was not one of the most deprived. He suggested that Steering

Group members view the Autumn News on the PCT website. He said he would email members with a link to the summary of the recent White Paper on Health.

Learning for Offenders and Ex-Offenders

Steve Crow reported that the LSC was taking responsibility of learning for offenders and ex-offenders from the Home Office. Kensington and Chelsea currently had one of the lowest take-ups of learning among offenders and ex-offenders.

Creative Hub in North Paddington

Referring to earlier discussion on Creative London, Dez O'Neill added that a creative hub at an early stage already existed in Paddington. Christine Lawrence confirmed that the possibility of a North Kensington/North West hub established in partnership with the Paddington Development Trust was currently under discussion.

Stop and Search

Dominic Clout reported that the Metropolitan Police Service's new 'Stop and Count' initiative was now active. Whenever a member of the public was stopped and searched, the officer responsible was required to fill out a detailed form, giving reasons for the search.

Regeneration Exchange

Malcolm Spalding announced a Regeneration Exchange event arranged for 3rd December from 9.15am to 1.00pm with lunch.

Omission from Progress Report

Helen Kay thanked all those that had contributed to the Report over the summer. Unfortunately a number of people had been on holiday and therefore she regretted that the KCP's relationship to the Single Regeneration Partnerships in the north of the borough had not been sufficiently drawn out, nor their role in some of the projects which featured in the report.

INTERNAL BUSINESS

6. ISSUES ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) Report of the Community Strategy Sub-Group

Tony Redpath reported that the Sub-Group had assessed the results of the Residents Panel survey and a summary was available on request.

Proposals for the published Community Strategy had moved beyond the printed document, with suggestions for a CD-Rom and web-based material. The Media and Communications department was supporting this work.

A full set of draft briefings would be available at the January meeting.

It was agreed that an additional Steering Group meeting would be arranged for April to agree the Community Strategy, which was due to be published in May. Also, the

September meeting would be rescheduled to a week earlier to allow for agreement of the final strategy by full Council.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That an additional meeting would be scheduled for April 2005, and an earlier date be arranged for the September meeting.

Action by: Helen Kay

The meetings were subsequently arranged for 26th April and 7th September

b) Follow-up Actions from Away-Evening

Derek Myers reported that the evening had been a great success, and the Steering Group had identified several subjects in which they could add value. The Community Strategy Sub-Group would explore the themes in more depth and they would then be discussed at the next meeting of the Steering Group.

No changes in domestic arrangements were identified, although it was agreed that representatives would be co-opted into clusters where necessary rather than extending the membership of the Steering Group.

RESOLVED –

- (2) That a formal minute of the evening's discussion would be circulated to the Steering Group.

Action by: Derek Myers

c) Update on the StAR Consultation and how to get involved

Steve Crow reminded the Steering Group that the consultation had been taking place for over 18 months and final formal consultation on the proposals had begun. Views could be submitted to one of the LSC's mobile coffee shops or by visiting www.efeedback.biz/hwlearner.htm. The relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committees in each borough were to have an agenda item on the consultation.

d) Environmental Audit Questionnaires

Helen Kay informed the Steering Group that copies of the questionnaires would be distributed during the following weeks.

7. NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL FUND: MID-TERM REVIEW

Christine Lawrence reported that 41% of the overall grant had been spent by the end of October. Although this should have been over 50% by this point, some groups had been slow starting and an increase in spend was anticipated for the coming months. A supplementary bidding round was not planned at this stage but spend would be kept under review.

FORWARD PLANNING

8. OUTLINE PLAN FOR DISABILITY AWARENESS TRAINING

Menghi Mulchandani requested that members planning to attend the half-day training event should prepare to make a genuine contribution. As disability awareness also covered the aged, the issues were obviously shared by a large population of the Borough. Helen Kay reminded the Steering Group that in the Partnership Plan members had committed to training on disability awareness.

RESOLVED –

(3) That a date would be arranged for February or March 2005.

Action by: Helen Kay

9. FORWARD PLAN FOR NEXT TWO MEETINGS

Noted. The draft agendas were subject to change and any comments should be forwarded to Christine Lawrence or the Agenda Planning Sub-Group.

The Steering Group thanked Helen Kay for all the work she had done for the Partnership as she was leaving the Council at the end of December. Her contribution had been invaluable and members wished her luck for the future.

The meeting ended at 7.30 p.m.

Chairman