

The Kensington and Chelsea Partnership

Minutes of the meeting of the Partnership Steering Group
held at the Town Hall, Hornton Street,
London W8 7NX at 5.00 p.m.
on Wednesday, 16th March 2005

PRESENT

Members of the Steering Group

Cllr Merrick Cockell, Chairman - Leader of the Council (RBK&C)
Cllr Judith Blakeman - Minority Party (RBK&C)
Gillian Bowen - Representative for Children and Young People (VOF)
Zrinka Bralo - Representative for Education and Employment (VOF)
Dominic Clout - Borough Commander, Metropolitan Police
Paul Haigh - Chief Executive, Kensington & Chelsea Primary Care Trust
Menghi Mulchandani - Action Disability Kensington & Chelsea
Geeta Nanda - Notting Hill Housing Group
Augustine Omara - Director, Kensington & Chelsea Social Council
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 - Dalgarno SRB Programme
Anna Geenty - Golborne United SRB Programme
Christine Lawrence - Head of Regeneration and Partnerships (RBK&C)
Derek Myers - Town Clerk & Chief Executive (RBK&C)
Susie Parsons - Golborne United SRB Programme
Tony Redpath - Director of Strategy and Performance Improvement (RBK&C)
Gillian Reid - NRF Programme Manager (RBK&C)
Dr Melanie Smith - Kensington and Chelsea PCT
Rachel Smith - Partnership Support Manager (RBK&C)
Graham Taylor - Chief Community 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, Doris Besant, Steve Crow, Jed Davis and Dez O'Neill. Councillor Cockell left the meeting at 6.30pm and Malcolm Spalding took the Chair.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26TH JANUARY 2005

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 26th January 2005 were confirmed as a correct record.

MAIN BUSINESS

3. CHOOSING HEALTH – IMPLICATIONS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH WHITE PAPER FOR KCP

Presentation by Dr Melanie Smith

Melanie Smith gave a presentation on Choosing Health, including an explanation of the Government White Paper published in November 2004, and its implications for the Partnership. The presentation slides are appended to the minutes.

Dr Smith suggested that the partnership could choose to support one of the priorities mentioned in the White Paper and identified reducing obesity as a possibility. The presentation covered the following initiatives as examples of how individuals, organisations and the Partnership as a whole could become involved:

- Increasing physical activity
- Improved food labelling
- Incorporating healthy choices into vending machines
- Accredited training for youth groups

Following the presentation, the discussion focussed on healthy eating. It was agreed that particular attention should be given to schools, with key changes made to physical activity and attitudes about food. The health of children attending both state and private schools was equally important. It was suggested that local restaurants be invited to contribute in some way.

Leisure and sports provision was identified as an area that the Council could evaluate and make a valuable contribution to, possibly in collaboration with the private sector. Derek Myers pointed out that substantial work had been completed on the Royal Borough's streets to create a positive attitude to walking.

The following suggestions were made:

- Renting school car parks for farmers markets selling fresh fruit and vegetables
- Using the Community Strategy to convey the desired messages
- Education programmes similar to the Dalgarno SRB's 'Get Cooking' initiative to teach people how to buy and cook the most healthy food

The Steering Group agreed that the Partnership should begin to generate ideas and targets as soon as possible.

4. GOLBORNE AND DALGARNO SRB PROGRAMMES

Presentation by Anna Geenty, Golborne SRB Programme Manager

Anna Geenty gave a presentation detailing the background and achievements of the Golborne SRB Programme (Golborne United), and its likely future once funding was exhausted in the forthcoming year.

Golborne United was set up in September 1999 and its programme is due to come to an end in its current form by March 2006. It had been granted a total of £2.7 million, which had funded the employment of a programme manager and part-time director and nearly 80 projects. Its board included representatives from the police, the community, the PCT and social landlords. Priorities included community involvement, improvements in health, drug education, tackling crime and community safety.

As the programme was entering its final year, an exit strategy had been devised which looked at promoting the continuation of individual projects and funding strategies. A 'Golborne Forum' had been proposed that would consist of people living and working in Golborne. This would provide a single voice and coherence to the future regeneration of the area.

Cllr Paget-Brown added that he had been very impressed with the programme's achievements and pointed out that there might be potential funders among the Steering Group partners who could help take the proposals forward.

Presentation by Magda Bartosch, Dalgarno SRB Programme Manager

Magda Bartosch gave an update on the achievements and future of the Dalgarno SRB Programme. The presentation slides are appended to the minutes.

The programme, which had been allocated £1 million of SRB funding, employed a small team of three staff; two full-time and one part-time. The Dalgarno Estate, somewhat cut off from the other residential parts of North Kensington, consists of 1,500 properties, 98% of which was social housing.

Over five years, the programme had transformed the Dalgarno community centre and had completed work essential to the regeneration of the area. Once funding was exhausted, the work would continue under the Dalgarno Neighbourhood Trust and the Neighbourhood Alliance, which was championed by Cllr Paget-Brown and Karen Buck MP. A transition into the new structure would begin by December 2005.

A key element in the future success of the programme was the support of the Housing Associations, and the necessary commitments were already being sought.

5. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IN RBKC

Discussion led by Geeta Nanda

Geeta Nanda presented a paper and led a discussion which sought to identify what the Partnership could do together to tackle anti-social behaviour and improve community safety in the Royal Borough.

Examples of action taken to reduce anti-social behaviour in the Borough included the issuing of:

- 11 Acceptable Behaviour Contracts;
- 15 Anti-Social Behaviour Orders; and
- Four crack house closure notices

Although the above work was encouraging, the Partnership requested more information on existing projects and initiatives in which it could become involved.

Although the common perception of anti-social behaviour was one of minor crime such as spitting and littering, a key issue highlighted by Geeta Nanda and Dominic Clout was knife crime. 44% of violent crime in the Borough involved knives, the highest percentage within the Metropolitan Police area. Borough police would be launching a Knife Crime Strategy, which would provide an ideal opportunity for the Partnership to become involved, along with local schools. The Strategy aimed to reduce knife crime using a combination of education, enforcement and media involvement. The strategy would be circulated to the Steering Group at a later date.

Mr Myers suggested that the KCP should focus on assisting the Police to tackle knife crime and that, subject to member approval, some resources could be made available by the Council from the underspend on PCSOs to support this work. More minor crimes, although important, would be dealt with at a later date. Dominic Clout reported that a knife crime Project Management Group would be set up, to exist for 12 months to focus on 10 to 18 year-olds.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the KCP should focus on tackling knife crime and that Dominic Clout would circulate a consultation document to all partners on the Steering Group.

Action by: Dominic Clout

6. NEWS AND VIEWS

Maxilla Gardens Area

Cllr Judith Blakeman reported that she had recently completed a 'walkabout' in the Maxilla Gardens area in the north of the Borough with Cllr Paget-Brown, Cllr Daniel Moylan, Cllr Mushtaq Lasharie, and Council highways officers. The area was in a state of neglect and the need for improvements had been identified.

Community Relations Lecture

Cllr Paget-Brown reported that the recent Community Relations lecture, attended by 250 people, had been a great success, tackling difficult issues in a sensitive and engaging way.

Police Performance

In addition to the Knife Crime Strategy, discussed under item 5, Dominic Clout reported that crime, in particular residential burglary, in Kensington and Chelsea was falling significantly and was on track to meet Government targets by the end of March.

'Change-Up' Initiative

Augustine Omara reported the latest developments of the initiative, which as well as the Kensington and Chelsea Social Council, also involved the Council and the Kensington and Chelsea PCT.

Work and Business

Malcolm Spalding announced that the next Regeneration Exchange would focus on Arts and Culture and would take place on 15th April at the Tabernacle Arts Centre.

The Jobcentre Plus proposal for Kensal Road had been granted planning permission.

INTERNAL BUSINESS

7. ISSUES ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Update on Inclusive K&C

Menghi Mulchandani gave a brief update on the Inclusive K&C project. Responses by email to the strategy would be received until mid-April and those members who had not yet responded were requested to do so as soon as possible. The strategy would be put before the Corporate Equalities Group and would feature on the KCP's website.

8. KCP STEERING GROUP CHAIRMAN

Derek Myers requested that Steering Group members make their nominations for Chairman by the deadline of 13th April.

9. NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL FUND

Report on Year 4 Expenditure and Recommendations for Year 5 Programme

Christine Lawrence gave an update on the current level of expenditure in Year 4 of the NRF programme. The predicted underspend of approximately 5% had previously been set aside for the Race Equality Partnership (REP) and the Environmental Improvements Programme. However, recent calculations had shown that there would in fact be little or no underspend for Year 4 after all.

It was agreed that the above two projects would join the four other projects that had been put forward to take up the agreed 5% of over-programming in Year 5. As most of the Steering Group members had an interest in at least one of the six projects, it was proposed that a decision on allocation be discussed by a smaller group of members and put to the next Steering Group meeting for agreement.

RESOLVED –

- (2) That Year 5 of the NRF Programme be over-programmed by 5%.

Action by: Christine Lawrence

RESOLVED –

- (3) That a decision on how to allocate the above level of over-programming be deferred to the next meeting of the Steering Group on 26th April 2005.

Action by: Christine Lawrence

10. SAFER, STRONGER COMMUNITIES FUND AGREEMENT

Graham Taylor updated the Steering Group on the Safer, Stronger Communities Fund Agreement. An allocation of £660,000 would be used to address the four issues identified in the new community safety strategy.

Cllr Paget-Brown would be accountable for the Agreement in his role as Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Community Safety and External Relations, although the KCP Steering Group and the Community Safety Programme Board need to agree the plan in the first instance. Mr. Taylor said he would circulate a two page summary of the spending proposals for comments and proposed that authority to approve the final Agreement should be delegated to the Councillors Cockell and Paget Brown, Mr Clout and Mr Omara.

RESOLVED –

- (4) That a two-page summary of the spending proposals be circulated to the Steering Group for comments and that authority to approve the Agreement be delegated to Councillors Cockell and Paget Brown, Mr Clout and Mr Omara.

Action by: Graham Taylor

FORWARD PLANNING

11. FORWARD PLAN FOR NEXT TWO MEETINGS

The draft agendas for the May and July Steering Group meetings were noted.

The meeting ended at 7.37 p.m.

Chairman