

PRESENT

Members of the Committee

Councillor Merrick Cockell (Leader of the Council, RBK&C)
Michael Bach (Chairman, Kensington and Chelsea Social Council)
Councillor Judith Blakeman (Notting Barns Ward, RBK&C)
Gillian Bowen (VOF Children and Young People representative)
Zrinka Bralo, (VOF Education and Employment representative)
The Reverend John E. Davis (Forum of Faiths)
Chief. Supt. Dominic Clout (Borough Commander, MPA)
Geeta Nanda (Notting Hill Housing Group)
Don McBean (Partnership Manager, Learning and Skills Council - London Central)
Jamie Renton (VOF Disability Issues representative)
Councillor Nicholas Paget-Brown (Cabinet Member for Regeneration,
Environmental Management and Leisure, RBK&C)
Celia Rees-Jenkins (The Kensington and Chelsea Societies)
Juliette Rawlings (Chairman, TMO Board)
Councillor Shireen Ritchie (Cabinet Member for Family and Children's Services)
Dr. Melanie Smith (Director of Public Health, K&C PCT)
Malcolm Spalding (President, Kensington and Chelsea Chamber of Commerce)

Others in Attendance

Councillor Miss Barbara Campbell, (Lead Member, RBK&C)
Councillor Paul Warrick, (Cabinet Member for Service Improvement, RBK&C)
Lin Gillians, (Chief Executive, KCSC)
Asha Gupta (Governance Services, RBK&C)
Christine Lawrence (Head of Regeneration and Partnerships, RBK&C)
Lewis Morrison, (Environmental Co-ordinator, RBK&C)
Menghi Mulchandani, (ADK&C)
Derek Myers (Town Clerk and Chief Executive, RBK&C)
David Palmer, (MRCF)
Usha Prema, (K&C PCT)
Tony Redpath (Director of Strategy and Service Improvement, RBK&C)
Rachel Smith (KCP Support Manager, RBK&C)
Deborah Wallworth, (Voluntary Sector Manager, RBK&C)
Joanna Yeung, (Natural History Museum)

1 Apologies for Absence

Received from Dez O'Neill (VOF Arts and Culture representative) and Tim Chidgey (Borough Commander of the Fire Service).

2 Minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2006

The notes were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3 Community Cohesion

Michael Bach gave an oral presentation on the historical community makeup of the Royal Borough. He concluded his presentation by saying that the Royal Borough needed to establish a clear vision and strategy to promote a mixed community by looking at its access to education, housing, shopping centres, leisure and sports facilities.

Zrinka Bralo gave a presentation on immigration. Copies of the slides and handout have been placed in the Minute Book.

Councillor Paul Warrick introduced the "Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea's contribution to an area characterised by tolerance and mutual respect - Discussion document." Councillor Warrick said that the document sets out where the Royal Borough thinks it is and its beliefs about itself. It is the first version and there was an expectation from partners, Government policy and the Audit Commission to have one. He concluded by inviting the Steering Group to comment on the document.

During the discussion the Steering Group made the following main points:

- Geeta Nanda felt that the Partnership should discuss how different communities could be brought together and housed together and also look at where young people were being excluded and how local agencies could address these issues. She added that she would like the document to form the basis of a way forward in allocating resources and to become a document of the Partnership.
- Juliet Rawlings commented that the TMO had been unable to successfully get communities to talk with one another. She felt that the Borough needed to allow different cultures to do their own thing but find some link to draw them together.
- Zrinka Bralo said that resources and infrastructure should be put into place to allow different communities to engage with one another. She felt that asking community leaders to speak on key issues was a way forward.
- Councillor Blakeman said that the Council should look at Voluntary Sector Funding to see how it retracts or helps community cohesion.
- In reference to the section on "Separate lives" Malcolm Spalding said that:

- i) paragraph one should say "We recognise most people mix with people least like them in education and work settings."
- ii) reference to "social class" in paragraph three was indirect discrimination.
- iii) paragraph four should go further and say that the Council wants to foster inclusion and diversity.
- In reference to the section on "An active Council":
 - i) Councillor Ritchie said that respect was a two-way thing and that young people should also be respected.
 - ii) Dr Melanie Smith suggested adding a paragraph on the Council's expectations from other agencies and partners.
- In reference to the section on "Freedom and compliance" an example of what the Council would tolerate was requested to be added.
- The Reverend John Davis said that in reference to the section on "Many others contributing" paragraph two should say "The Council believes that our faith groups and community groups are a natural..."

Councillor Cockell invited the Steering Group to submit any further comments to Cllr Warrick outside of the meeting.

4 News and Views

Learning and Skills Council (LSC)

Don McBean reported that training provision to local residents run jointly by LSC and Whole Foods Market had now started.

Kensington and Chelsea PCT

Dr Melanie Smith reported that the PCT had received its Commission rating and was found to be weak in financial management. It was, however, rated Good for its services.

Metropolitan Police

Chief Superintendent Dominic Clout announced the launch of the Community Payback Scheme run jointly by the Probation Service and the Royal Borough whereby PCSOs would supervise offenders while they cleaned up local sites. Residents, through their Safer Neighbourhoods Team, could nominate sites to be cleaned or tidied up.

Kensington and Chelsea Chamber of Commerce

Malcolm Spalding reported that the Chamber of Commerce was working with LSC and Whole Foods Market to fund two recruitment courses. He announced that Mark Harris was the new Job Centre Plus Branch Manager in North Kensington and would be joining the Work and Business cluster of

the Partnership rather than the main Steering Group. He also announced that the Chamber would be holding two small business seminars and invited the Steering Group to attend.

Forum of Faiths

The Reverend John Davis reported that the West London Churches Homeless Concern had started its Christmas night shelter activities which would run until Easter 2007. The Chelsea Methodist Church was running a counselling service for young people.

Space Kensington and Chelsea

Gillian Bowen reported that the Cannabis Action Group would be running a further questionnaire in January to target schools and was looking at family and cultural attitudes towards cannabis. It was also jointly carrying out Peer research with the PCT on attitudes towards sex and discussing and undertaking research on sexual exploitation. She also announced that Space K&C had been awarded funding by Comic Relief to run an alcohol brief programme.

Kensington and Chelsea Social Council

Michael Bach announced that Lin Gillians was the new Chief Executive and that the Social Council had held a successful Funding Seminar.

Notting Hill Housing Group

Geeta Nanda reported that Housing Associations were working with Local Authorities to promote under occupiers to release their housing.

Migrant and Refugees Communities Forum

Zrinka Bralo reported that the Forum had been awarded funding of £240,000 from Heritage Lottery Fund to carryout a national project on capturing the living memory of the Moroccan Community in Britain. The Forum would be shortly interviewing for 12 vacancies to carry out the work.

The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

Councillor Ritchie thanked everyone involved in the JARR inspections.

Councillor Paget-Brown announced that the North Kensington Environment Project had secured limited funding to clean up "grot spots" in the Borough. He would ask Mr Terry Oliver, North Kensington Environment Manager to liaise with Chief Supt. Dominic Clout on the Community Payback Project.

Councillor Cockell informed the Group that Cabinet would be looking at its Equality Scheme and Action Plan and he would ensure the report came to the Steering Group for comment.

5 Update from Community Empowerment Sub Group

Dr Melanie Smith introduced the report.

RESOLVED:

a) the Steering Group agreed the proposals outlined in the report for the use of the Community Empowerment money.

Action by: Dr Melanie Smith

6 Environmental Strategy

Lewis Morrison gave a presentation on the Environmental Strategy. A copy of the slides have been placed in the Minute Book. In conclusion he invited Steering Group Members to join the focus groups.

In response to Councillor Ritchie's question, Mr Morrison said that young people were involved in the development of the Strategy through the Youth Forum. The Council would also be engaging with key contacts within the Family and Children's Services Business Group.

In response to Malcolm Spalding's question on carbon emissions and green spaces, Mr Morrison said that his Team had good links with the Planning Department and were feeding comments to them through the Local Development Framework.

7 Forthcoming meeting dates

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 17 January 2007.

Further meeting dates are on 14 March, 16 May, 4 July, 12 September and 14 November (all Wednesdays).

Any other urgent matters

Councillor Cockell announced that Christine Lawrence was leaving the Royal Borough to join the Office of National Archives. He thanked her for all her hard work and wished her all the best for the future.

The meeting ended at 7.22pm

CHAIRMAN