

PRESENT

Members of the Committee

Councillor Merrick Cockell, Chairman (Leader of the Council, RBK&C)
Michael Bach (Chairman, Kensington and Chelsea Social Council (KCSC))
Zrinka Bralo (VOF Education and Employment representative)
Chief. Supt. Mark Heath (Borough Commander, MPA)
Councillor Judith Blakeman (Notting Barns Ward, RBK&C)
Mary Gardiner (Chief Executive, KCSC)
Don McBean (Partnership Manager, Learning and Skills Council - London Central)
Geeta Nanda (Notting Hill Housing Group)
Dez O'Neill (VOF Arts and Culture representative)
Councillor Nicholas Paget-Brown (Cabinet Member for Regeneration,
Environmental Management and Leisure, RBK&C)
Celia Rees-Jenkins (The Kensington and Chelsea Societies)
Jamie Renton (VOF Disability Issues representative)
Dr. Melanie Smith (Director of Public Health, K&C PCT)
Malcolm Spalding, Vice-Chairman (President, Kensington and Chelsea Chamber
of Commerce)

Others in Attendance

Councillor Barbara Campbell, (Cabinet Member for Corporate Service, RBK&C)
Councillor Dr Iain Hanham, (Brompton Ward Councillor)
Sheila Dane (Development Officer, Kensington and Chelsea Social Council)
Derek Myers (Town Clerk and Chief Executive, RBK&C)
John O'Sullivan (Head of Resource Utilisation, RBK&C)
Tony Redpath (Director of Strategy and Service Improvement, RBK&C)
Joyce Roberts, (LSC Partnership Director)
Richard Saunders (Project Manager, RBK&C)
Rachel Smith (KCP Support Manager, RBK&C)
Penelope Tollitt (Head of Planning Policy and Design, RBK&C)
Chris Turner (Senior Planning Officer, RBK&C)
Asha Gupta (Governance Services, RBK&C)

1 Apologies for Absence. Agree Agenda

Received from Tim Chidgey (Borough Commander, Fire Service), Chief
Supt. Dominic Clout (Borough Commander, MPA), Jane Mather (Forum of
Faiths representative) and Councillor Shireen Ritchie (Cabinet Member for
Family and Children's Services, RBK&C).

2 Minutes of the meeting held on 12th September 2007

The minutes of the 12th September meeting were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Tribute to Menghi Mulchandani

Councillor Cockell gave tribute to Menghi Mulchandani who, sadly, passed away on 9 October, having been diagnosed with cancer. The Steering Group all stood in silence for two minutes to commemorate Menghi.

Membership of the Steering Group

Councillor Cockell welcomed Chief Supt. Mark Heath, Borough Commander of Camden to the Partnership meeting. He informed the Group that Chief Supt. Dominic Clout would be swapping Borough's on 14th January.

3 Planning Priorities

(i) LDF Progress

Penelope Tollitt, Head of Planning Policy, gave an oral update on the LDF. She reported that the timetable was being reviewed and subject to Government approval. The Core Strategy would take a year to process with a view to have it submitted in 2009, with the Examination in Public later that year, allowing adoption in 2010.

The main themes, as they are emerging, of the Core Strategy are as follows:

- Keeping life local
- Fostering vitality in Town Centres
- Maintaining high quality in the Borough
- Life in the public realm
- Preserving our future
- Delivering a mix of housing
- Regeneration of North Kensington

She updated the Group on the spatial strategy which was two fold:

i) this is the 'where' of things; and

ii) about integrating different programmes and policies across organisations and agencies.

The North Kensington Area Action Plan, which is a spatial strategy, was currently in development and would be going out for consultation in January 2008.

In response to a question by Mary Gardner, Mr Redpath said that the LDF process was governed by a statutory timetable while as the Community Strategy was 'the Council's gift'. He felt there was an opportunity to lock the two together, as their timings overlapped, but considerable thought would need to be given as to how this would be done.

Michael Bach felt that the Community Strategy did not capture local people's view in its themes. In response, Mr Redpath said that the Community Strategy Sub-Group had looked at this and decided to go for a thematic framework to link items to their delivery vehicles. If the Strategy was presented on a quality of life basis then it would not be as straight forward to link it to their delivery vehicles clearly.

In respect to specific areas in the spatial strategy and linking them to Local Area Forums to promote community empowerment, Mrs Tollitt said that there was an opportunity to have fairly wide consultation.

(ii) Findings from the Retail Commission

Chris Turner gave an oral update on the findings of the Retail Commission. He reported that the Retail Commission had published its report in May 2007 outlining 60 recommendations. A copy of the report can be obtain by emailing chris.turner@rbkc.gov.uk or telephoning 020 7361 3236.

In September 2007, the Council published its response to the Retail Commission, in which it agreed to adopt 54 of the 60 recommendations. A copy of the report was tabled at the meeting and a hardcopy has been placed on the Minute Book.

Mr Turner gave details and a progress update on some of the recommendations, such as the reintroduction of shop front grants and appointment of a new town centre manager. Progress would be made over the next few months and work would be undertaken across Council departments and not just by Planning. The Retail Needs Assessment would be looking at the impact of Congestion Charge and the White City Development on the Royal Borough's retail position.

In response to a question by Dez O'Neill, Mr Turner said that he accepted that Portobello Road was at risk, but there was no specific timetable. Some recommendations would be delivered sooner, while others would take longer as the government would have to be lobbied. He felt it would take a few years for delivery of the recommendations. Councillor Cockell added that Portobello Road was not the only retail outlet at risk but Kensington High Street was too. Councillor Ahern, Cabinet Member for Service Improvement was responsible for the findings of the retail commission and would be reporting back to Cabinet in one year's time on progress.

Geenta Nanda informed Mr Turner of the report by Sothebys looking at the long-term value of commercial activity. She agreed to forward details of it to Ms Tollitt. Councillor Paget-Brown added that there were lots of reports and research around, such as the Golborne Road BDP report, Market Streets Action Group and LDF, and the Council now needed to get an overriding sense of direction.

4 Tourism and visitor management

Derek Myers introduced the item on behalf of Tot Brill, Executive Director of Transport, Environmental and Leisure Services, who was unable to attend the meeting and send her apologies. He reported that Ms Brill was the Commissioning Manager and would be hiring a special consultant to seek the views of visitors, residents and businesses in the Royal Borough and update the Council's existing Visitor Management Strategy. The work would take around 12 months and costing up to £100,000. He pointed out that at some stage the consultants will want to talk to the Steering Group members for their views.

During the discussion the following main points were made:

- Joyce Roberts and Dr Melanie Smith said that an updated Visitor Management Strategy would help them plan training for employment in the tourism industry and A&E treatment for visitors respectively.
- Zinka Bralo felt that better street signage was needed and that popular cultural places, such as locations in the film Notting Hill, should be signposted. Councillor Cockell said that the Visit London website was good on mapping such places.
- Mr Bach suggested inviting a representative of the Local Tourism Industry to become a member of the Partnership.

The Steering Group welcomed the plans to update the existing Visitor Management Strategy.

5 News and Views

The Steering Group Members reported briefly on matters of current interest. In particular it was noted that:

Learning and Skills Council

- Praise was given to Connections and JCP for their Stirling work.
- The London Skills Strategy was out for consultation. The key focus of the Strategy was tackling worklessness.
- The Annual Statement of priority was out next week.

Action Disability Kensington and Chelsea

- Menghi would be commemorated at the AGM in December.
- A report on disabled parents has been published.

Chamber of Commercial

- The Business Crime Reduction Partnership has been running successful for one year.
- A three-month Shopwatch pilot scheme has been launched on Kensington High Street. If successful, it would be rolled out borough wide. Early results show that retail crime has reduced by 50%.

- The Chamber would be hosting their Second Annual Thanksgiving dinner in the Mayor's parlour on 22nd November. Tickets are available for purchase.
- The Mayor and Greg Hans, MP will be hosting a Christmas dinner on 11th December.

The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

- Works at Ladbroke Grove Bridge were now complete.
- The Royal Borough had won a Gold Award in London in Bloom and would be entered for Britain in Bloom next year.
- The children's playground and water play area at Kensington Memorial Park have opened.
- The Council's Arts Strategy was out for consultation.

Kensington and Chelsea Societies

- Residents Associations were seeking to apply for a Gold Award which is a scheme assessing the effectiveness of an organisation.

Kensington and Chelsea PCT

- The PCT has achieved an overall rating of 'good' for its quality of service and 'fair' for its financial management. Chelsea and Westminster Hospital received an 'excellent' rating in both categories.
- The PCT's Health Care Strategy for London was out for consultation and may be presented to the Partnership.

Housing Associations

- Following local demand, the TMO has set up a housing group. The group will address issues such as overcrowding.

Migrant and Refugees Forum

- Zinka Barlo has been invited to advise the Mayor of London's Integration Board for Immigrants. She was pushing to include asylum seekers and not just immigrants.
- Members were invited to attend an International poetry evening on 6th December.

Kensington and Chelsea Social Council

- This was the last meeting of all the Voluntary Sector representatives. Elections would be taking in December and new members would serve from January 2008.
- Joint work was being undertaken with the PCT on commissioning.
- The Council has been successful in its Lottery Bid and been granted funding for five years for two new posts. Interviews would be held next month.

6 Voluntary Organisations Forum (VOF) Structure

The Steering Group received and noted the report.

7 Value for Money in Partnerships

The Steering Group received and noted the report.

Mr O'Sullivan agreed to take on board Michael Bach's comment on the 'added value' principal such as contributions from the voluntary sector.

RESOLVED:

- i) Subject to the inclusion of the 'added value' principal, the Steering Group agreed the definition of 'Value for Money' as outlined in paragraph 2.3.
- ii) Endorsed the principles that have been put forward in considering VfM as outlined in paragraph 4.2.
- iii) Agreed to provide regular information through the LAA and Community Strategy monitoring process on what is being planned and what has been achieved from a VfM perspective, as outlined in paragraph 4.3.
- iv) Review the good practice ideas as outlined at Annex B and consider if any could be applicable to partnerships that Steering Group members are involved in.

8 LAA progress and Community Strategy Review

Councillor Cockell introduced the report on developing targets for LAA.

RESOLVED:

The Steering Group concurred with the recommendation of the Community Strategy Group and agreed to pursue a three-strand strategy with regards to developing targets for the new LAA.

Councillor Cockell introduced the Community Strategy Review report and invited Steering Group members for their comments.

Celia Reese-Jenkins and Councillor Paget-Brown both felt that the wording of Aim 5 in Annex A needed tightening up. Mr Redpath agreed to speak to them outside of the meeting and revise the wording. Michael Bach also agreed to seek the views of the Environmental Roundtable at their 10th December meeting.

Action by: Tony Redpath/Michael Bach

Michael Bach felt that much progress has been made on community empowerment and this needs to be captured in the text on page 8.

RESOLVED:

Subject to the above comments the Steering Group approved the draft document for publication as part of the mid-term review of the Community strategy.

9 Forthcoming meeting dates

Future meeting dates were: 16 January 2008, 12 March 2008, 14 May 2008, 16 July 2008, 17 September 2008 and 12 November 2008 (all Wednesdays).

Any other urgent matters

Councillor Cockell wished everyone a very happy festive season.

The meeting ended at 7.20 pm

CHAIRMAN