

SSP OMG Plus 1st December 2009: Notes of Meeting

Present: Tom Charnock (TC), Steve Henderson (SH), Paul Gregory (PG), Daniel Rose (DR), Cllr Brian Mattock (BM), Barry Russell (BR), Juliette Randall (JR), Alison Chamberlain (AC), Janet Beattie (JeB), Pam Gough (PGh), Mike Pringle (MP), Jacky Thomas (JT), Carolanne Bond (CB), Joe Backshell (JB), John Brownlee (JohnB), Judith Hawkins (JH), Matthew Pearce (MP), Karen Leakey (KL), Keith Smith (KS), Linda Ford (LF), Martha Parry (MPy), Ruth Kiddle (RK), Lucinda Procter (LP)

Apologies: James Griffin (JG); Fidelma Meehan (FM); Ram Thiagarajah (RT)

Key issues and decisions:

- DS – AC to speak to Cllr Bluh re: 15th December Away Day
- DS – content of discussions at the Away Day to be shared with the group
- DS – draft plan shared with OMG
- CPCP – Cluster Reps meeting with Cllr Mattock
- CPCP – Cluster work summary to come to the OMG Plus group

Discussion and Decisions

The Chair welcomed the new geographical representatives to the group.

1. Notes of last meeting and matters arising – notes from the last meeting were agreed and signed off.

2. Destination Swindon

LP updated the group on Destination Swindon. Destination Swindon will be split into 6 themes and conversations are taking place in various forums to move this programme forward. The first draft of the document will go to the Partnership Board Away Day in December where the content will be reviewed by our strategic partners. The content is still in it's infancy and we are aiming to get it finished by Spring 2010. The first draft will be available hopefully between January and March 2010. MPy asked who from this group would be attending the Away Day in December, LP responded that Tom Charnock would be attending in his role of Chair of the OMG group. TC emphasised the reasoning behind Destination Swindon. TC added that information from the Away Day will be cascaded to interested parties including the Voluntary and Community Groups. MPy added that there should be representation from the Voluntary and Community Groups on the day and they shouldn't have to wait for it to be cascaded down. Voluntary and Community Groups need a voice in the process. JR added that of the 20 people at the Away Day, Government Office South West will be present; and are there as an observer and will provide constructive challenge. MP asked if the information on Destination Swindon that comes out of the Away Day could be shared with the Voluntary and Community Sector. MPy suggested that MP should attend the Away Day. AC to take as action.

LP continued that it was helpful that TC set the scene and the New Public Service Model is new and innovative, it is a new way of working together. LP shared the proposed timeline for the progression of Destination Swindon. Cabinet and Council will be updated this week; then Away Day on the 15th December with the draft plan going to Cabinet in February 2010. PG asked if the draft plan could come to a future OMG group meeting. BR asked if any more thought had been given to change the name from Destination Swindon, AC asked for any suggestions to be e-mailed in.

3. Connecting People Connecting Places

PGh updated the group on where Connecting People Connecting Places currently is and detailed events in each Cluster. PGh added that recruitment had taken place for the East Cluster Lead, interviews were held on Friday 27th November and the appointment of Mark Hopkins had been

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made and confirmed this morning. Mark is currently the Head of Programme and Project Management working at Swindon Borough Council, contact details for Mark will be circulated with the notes of this meeting.

MP asked how Cluster events were advertised and promoted. PGh replied that communication varies between the Clusters, leafleting, web based advertising, and contacts through groups were all happening and the SSP website has all the information available from the Cluster Leads on its CPCP pages. MP added that he would be happy to use the VAS newsletter to promote events. CB commented that it is worth remembering that not everyone has access to a computer. TC added that SBC should be smarter about communications. RK added that Bernie Brannan has done a lot of good work in the West Cluster that needs to be recognised, although the West Cluster now meets in the West Cluster Forum meeting which is confusing for residents and asked if clarification could be given over the name of the meeting. PGh will get clarification. TC added that Parish Councils are not being advised when meetings are taking place and it would be good to get involved in all Cluster meetings. Emphasis again on Communications and ideas shared that maybe the new geographical representatives can work on improving this.

PGh continued that funding had been acquired for intensive engagement work and neighbourhood engagement which will hopefully align community engagement officers to Clusters. New funding is available to appoint Cluster Assistants which will help with Cluster admin. An internal strategy paper is being worked on which will look at what we have learnt so far, this will inform a Cabinet paper which will be shared with the group.

BM added that it was great to see so many here at the meeting and to hear the comments. There has been a huge leap since the launch in May this year. BM added that he was at the Equalities Forum meeting when CPCP debate was held, everyone round the table had a different idea on how to communicate. Need to decide how we communicate, but it was established early on from staff that we would not tell the communities how to work. Masses of work has been done in all sorts of ways, and we now have some very good practice; Cluster Leads are meeting regularly to share their experiences and this will be put into a framework which will go to Cabinet soon. BM offered to meet up with the 7 cluster representatives to help them get the message out to the groups. JB raised concerns over geographic representatives time and resources.

SH added that in the established Inter Faith Partnership each faith representative had engaged with a Cluster and this appeared to be working well.

4. Swindon Federation of Community Organisations (SFCO)

Martha Parry gave a brief history on the SFCO, talked about the present and what lies ahead for the future. She circulated papers to accompany the presentation.

5. New Swindon Company Economic Regeneration

Bill Cotton updated the group on Town Centre Regeneration. The New Swindon Company initially was focussed on the New Town but this has been expanded to now include Old Town and to sell Swindon with a coherent and clear message to attract investment in Swindon. BC added that his Economic Development team will be moving to the New Swindon Company and a new company will be set up and operational with effect from April 2010. JohnB asked if BC could update him on the 2 major developers; BC added that MODUS had gone into administration but MUSE were still working on the area around the Zurich buildings and a planning application will be submitted in the new year. DR added that in the past the New Swindon Company had not engaged with Community groups and offered to help move this forward. JB added that the New Swindon Company had done a lot of consultation over time but whether the messages had been heard is another matter. JB added that with the regeneration of the Town Centre a new workforce would be needed, but he is concerned at the low level of attainment of Swindon school leavers, and asked how New Swindon Company were going to tackle this. BC replied that skills are important and attainment is low but this needs to be fought on all fronts, he recognises that there

SSP OMG Plus 1st December 2009: Notes of Meeting

are challenging issues in education but Swindon is getting there.

6. AOB

- **Interfaith Partnership** – SH advised that the Interfaith Partnership is working hard with Sam Weller, Emergency Planning Manager at Swindon Borough Council, with a major incident scenario to get this group working closer together.
- **Education** – SH shared his concern over capitation per head for education up to age 18 in Swindon.
- **Geographical reps** – observation from RK that the short meeting planned for after the OMG Plus meeting would have been better held before; also requested a list of who's who and contact details.
- **Pride of Swindon Award** – MP circulated information on the Pride of Swindon Award.
- **Voluntary Community Forum** – MP advised that the next VCF meeting would be held on December 10th 2009, 5.00 – 8.00 pm in the Central Community Centre.
- **VAS Newsletter** – MP advised that the VAS newsletter is an available source for anyone wanting to get information out to the Voluntary and Community Groups.

Date and time of next meetings

OMG – 26th January 2010, 12-2, Function Room, Civic Offices

OMG Plus – 23rd March 2010, 12-2, Function Room, Civic Offices