

SSP OMG 29th June 2010: Notes of Meeting

Present: Tom Charnock (TC), Steve Henderson (SH), Daniel Rose (DR), Alison Chamberlain (AC), Pam Gough (PG) Juliette Randall (JR), Mike Pringle (MP), Yaqub Murray (YM), Paula Harrison (PH)

Apologies: Cllr Brian Mattock, James Griffin

Discussion and Decisions

Tom opened the meeting and welcomed the group. He introduced Yacub Murray to the group. Yacub is the new equalities rep.

1. Connecting People Connecting Places (CPCP) update

Pam updated the group on the way CPCP is being rolled out in different cluster areas. More information on workshops, events and projects can be found on the website at www.swindonsp.org.uk and are also attached at the end of these notes.

She told the group that there had been the following changes to Cluster Chairs/Leads:

North East:

- Unfortunately Sara Tough has broken her ankle and is off work at the moment - Peter Robinson, Integrated Services Manager in Children's Services will be taking her place for the next couple of months. He can be contacted on probinson@swindon.gov.uk
- Dale Heenan has stepped down as he is now a Cabinet Member - they are currently recruiting a new chair for the area.
- There is also a new neighbourhood engagement officer for the area, her name is Michelle Matthews and she can be contacted on mmatthews@swindon.gov.uk

East Cluster:

New chair for the East Cluster as Cllr Kevin Perry steps down and Cllr Mavis Childs takes his place

North:

New Cluster Chair for North following the resignation of Cllr Tomlinson (he is now an MP). Cllr Peter Stoddart is the new Chair.

South:

The South Cluster has a new Chair, he is Cllr Eric Shaw

Pam also updated the group on the Pinetrees and Northview projects and talked about the neighbourhood conversations which are taking place in those areas to determine what the buildings could be used for in the future.

She also talked about the new Parish Charter. TC fed back to the group about the recent Parish Council meeting where the charter was discussed. Stephen Taylor, Director of Law & Corporate Governance is updating the Charter following comments made at that meeting.

TC also talked about a possible 'case study' for CPCP around transport.

A Transport Forum has been set up to deal with complaints following removal of bus services in the rural north and north east Clusters of the Borough, which has resulted in the isolation of around 2,000 people - but savings in the region of £120k. The Forum is tasked at looking at ways to divert existing buses into villages and maybe using Section 106 funding around this. Feedback from the Forum has indicated that none of these things are possible. There have also

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been questions around the £250k dividend from Thamesdown Transport which is paid to the Borough Council - but no answers have been forthcoming.

If CPCP is about working with local people in their communities, listening to their ideas and helping them to bring ideas to life - then this is a case study in how not to do that.

There was a lively discussion around Asset transfers, the big society and the radical change in thinking and in relationships. Group agreed that it was difficult to see how CPCP which was a new programme of work could work effectively alongside old organisational structures etc.

MP added that there will be radical changes but that communities needed to get up to speed and not wait for permission any more – this was a time to push barriers and find mechanisms to get involved and move things forward.

YM asked where and how Muslim people were getting involved with CPCP – if they were not talking in the public sphere where are they talking and how can they get involved? He asked if there was data currently available about how many BME citizens are actually involved in organisations?

PH answered that we do have cluster information at that level, but anecdotally only. She has commissioned a piece of work which is a BME mapping audit. We have in excess of 40 different groups and we are interested in who they are, how engaged they feel, what if anything do they do in the community. This is due to come back in September and she will bring it back to the group in Sept/Oct this year. **Action PH**

SH talked about CPCP faith reps and how they are connecting with cluster chairs/leads and getting information into community. This has been quite a long process but seems to be working now.

The group discussed how many people who come along to cluster meetings really represent the people in that cluster eg: Bank Mangers, Solicitors, Soccer Mums.

JR talked to the group about the new spending plans that all govt departments have had to submit by beginning of July and the Comprehensive Spending Review which is taking place in October.

Group discussed funding and acknowledged that this will be in short supply in the future and that community engagement is very important. They agreed that the 3rd sector needed to be 'light and agile' as opposed to clunky and institutionalised'.

TC asked JR if she could find out more about 'Orphan Funds Act' and what happened to the funding of around £2-5bn which was promised – is it real? JR added that central Govt will be launching the 'Big Bank' soon. Funding will be given to intermediaries to provide infrastructure and support to organisations. Don't know what this looks like at the moment – but will keep group informed. **Action JR**

2. One Swindon

AC talked to the group about One Swindon and the work and conversations which had been taking place over the last 8 months or so. The group discussed the current 5 priorities.

TC asked about sustainability and asked if this had dropped off the Council's agenda? Group agreed that 'Responsibility' is an ethos which should run through the priorities, like sustainability – these should not be priorities.

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Group discussed what meaningful engagement would look like in relation to One Swindon and building more detail behind the priorities.

They agreed that it should be:

- Tangible and believable – not just a tick-box exercise
- Make sure residents are involved – not just the usual groups and not through VAS. We should be looking at the sectors we work with and finding the lynchpins of those sectors.
- Maximise opportunities when asking questions
- There should be a significant shift from – do you agree? to how can we deliver together? - there could be a significant growth in the sector in relation to this.
- Make the language less parent-child
- Needs to be humility checked and honesty checked – less parent-child, more parent – teenager
- Who is the Council to invite us?
- Make it clear that there are going to be cultural and organisational changes within both local govt and partner organisations.
- Be truthful about no funding – with strong stories to justify changes
- We could use the clusters for this engagement
- Talk about 'whats off the agenda' and if they want it back, then there needs to be a discussion about how to do it differently in the future.
- Need to prefix the discussion with facts and what things could look like in the future
- Make engagement specific and appropriate – we need to solve problems together
- Open to rigorous challenge

JR asked about VAS and challenged the group – if VAS do not represent the sector then should they have a place at the SSPB table?

AC agreed to feed the groups comments to the cabinet report author. **Action AC**

3. AOB

- o **Conference** – AC advised that the conference date is set for Friday 8th October 2010 at STEAM and that as we had run out of time that she would continue the conversation 'virtually' and was looking for a couple of volunteers to form a 'conference working party'. **Action AC to contact the group**

Date and time of next meetings

OMG Plus – 27th July 2010, 12-2, Function Room, Civic Offices

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CPCP Update from PG:

Town Centre Cluster

- Eastcott Community Clean Up Day will take place on the 10th July 2010 supported by the Council's Streetsmart Team. The team will provide litter pickers, bags and gloves and take away any waste collected. Come along and help out.
- **Queens Park Community Council** The meeting on the 2nd June 2010 was the Annual General Meeting, this meeting took place in Queens Park at 7.00 pm. Members walked around the area seeking the views of local residents and visitors. Results of this survey will be published on the SSP website in the near future.
- **Queens Park Summer Fayre** - will take place on Sunday 18th July 2010. More details to follow.
- Mechanics Institute **Preservation Trust are holding a Children's Fete on 17th July 2010 at the Park, Faringdon Road, from 12.00 noon.**
- New Chief Executive of Forward Swindon Ltd
- Members of Town Centre Community Groups were invited to take part in the recruitment of the new Chief Executive of Forward Swindon Ltd. This was felt to be a positive step for the groups from Broad Green, the Railway Village, Eastcott and Queens Park. The new Chief Executive is Karen Walker. The community group members felt that the chosen candidate would be very successful.

East Cluster

- Churchfields Community Picnic - 24th July 2010 - 10.00 - 2.00 pm

West Cluster

- West Swindon Forum is still growing with the community setting the agenda, and also spin-off meetings for example related to the housing development on the edge of the Cluster. Minutes of all the meetings are available on the SSP website.
- The West Swindon Community are now organising their own community celebration event on Saturday 10th July – over 20 community groups, sports clubs, faith groups are involved along with the Council and other partners. This is tied in with the celebration of 25 years of the LINK centre – more information on the website.

North East Cluster

Moving forward with projects on the Fox roundabout the Stratton St Margaret planting project and the northview project.

South Cluster

- Work around developing a community group for the new community at Wichelstowe.
- Canal Festival Sunday 12th September to include CPCP.

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North Central

- Week of Action in the Cluster - 19th - 22nd July 2010
- Penhill joint event with Housing (Meet and Greet) - 6th August 2010 - 3.00 - 7.00 pm
- Penhill Community Information Day - 11th September 2010 - John Moulton Hall 10.00 am - 4.00 pm
- Cluster Wide Forum - late September 2010 - date and details to be confirmed

Intergenerational project – so what is it?

This project started from an idea about how to improve the relationship and understanding between older and young people, which would improve community cohesion and inclusion and use the arts as a tool to make it happen.. The project group consists of representatives from Children's services, schools, Adult services, SBC Policy Unit, Housing, Culture and a local artist Toni Robinson from No Added Sugar. We are working with Year 6 pupils from Sevenfields School, Year 11 pupils from Kingsdown School and a group of older people who live in a variety of settings in Penhill. During three planned project sessions with these three groups, the task they will be undertaking together is making bunting from a variety of materials, to be displayed at Lydiard Park on the 10th July – for more information on the Big Arts Day and Big Arts Experiment please follow this link <http://www.swindondoesarts.co.uk/the-big-arts-day>

The first meeting of all three groups was held on **Wednesday 19th May 2010** and was a great success! This project is being seen as a pilot to see if we really can achieve “attitudinal” change through collaborative working. We are evaluating all stages of the work, collecting evidence and data and the pupils are even producing a film to show what progress they have made. We know it is working as already twice as many older people have asked to join in session 2! The long-term outcome is to see if this type of work can be rolled out across communities through Connecting People Connecting Places and local groups encouraged to develop intergenerational projects of their own.

For more information on this project please contact: Helen Miah, Head of Culture, hmiah@swindon.gov.uk, (01793) 465353, Ian Bickerton ibickerton@swindon.gov.uk, Director, Access & Provision - Children Services, (01793) 465724 or James Griffin, Head of Policy, james.griffin@swindon.gov.uk (01793) 463648

Pinetrees Community Centre

Work is underway in the North Central Cluster to discuss the new **Pinetrees Community Centre**.

North

- Developing a project in Moredon to work through health ambassadors to reach older people on the theme of independence and well-being.
- Bringing together a finished proposal for the Moulden Hills site
- Will shortly be publishing a diary of regular (quarterly) meetings between Cllrs, parishes and other partners.
- Working with the parishes through the new Parish Charter.
- Working with the Highway Network Management (HNM) team to look at cluster issues.