

## SSP OVERVIEW & MONITORING PLUS GROUP MEETING

### Minutes of Meeting – 12<sup>th</sup> February 2009

Tom Charnock (TC)	(Chair)	Matt Gott (MG)	SBC
James Griffin (JG)	SBC	Alison Chamberlain (AC)	SBC
Pam Gough (PaG)	SBC	Janet Beattie (JeB)	SBC
Paul Gregory (PG)	Equalities Rep	Judith Hawkins (JH)	Anglican Community
Peter Giles (PeG)	Capita	John Brownlee (JB)	SWAP Group
Dr. Mike Pringle (MP)	Swindon Cultural Partnership		

#### Apologies for Absence:

Steve Henderson	Faith Representative	Sylvia Brown	ACRE
Geoffrey Lutaaya (GL)	VAS	Cllr Brian Mattock (BM)	SBC
Stella Milsom (SM)	GOSW	Neil Pullen (NP)	WWT
Ram Thiagarajah (RT)	Interfaith Partnership	Fidelma Meehan (FM)	Bahai Faith
Marilyn Beale (MB)	Penhill Community Group	Steve Flavin (SF)	Churchfields School
Lynn Forrester (LF)	SBC		

ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTIONS
1	<p><b><u>Connecting People Connecting Places (CPCP):</u></b> Matt Gott, Director of Policy, Performance and Communications revisited the presentation that had been updated following comments made at the meeting in January 2009. PG asked if a target will be set in the cluster areas for increasing residents satisfaction with the Council from 46-48%. JB added that his area is recognised as one of the most deprived in the Borough and it appeared that things had ground to a halt and that nothing was moving forward in that area. MG confirmed that Swindon will be measuring resident satisfaction annually. JG added that the challenge for us all is to find out where we are trying to go with Connecting People Connecting Places, we are not suggesting that it is going to work the same way in all areas, and that these meetings form part of the pre-consultation dialogue, the conference will encourage more dialogue and it will be an on-going conversation. MG added that we are trying to build the programme together, and we are trying to do it in a different way to how things have been done before. MP suggested a change to the wording on slide 2 as the statements implies it is the personal responsibility of the local people to challenge, MG agreed. Slide 3 was agreed with the changes made from the previous meeting. The group discussed a suggested strapline of “Together we will sort it”, to emphasise that the cluster will need people from all walks of life to make CPCP work. MG then shared the progress made on the Governance arrangements for CPCP with the group. He added</p>	

**SSP OVERVIEW & MONITORING PLUS GROUP MEETING**  
**Minutes of Meeting – 12<sup>th</sup> February 2009**

<p>that the decision makers in each cluster will be the Ward Councillors as they are the elected representatives for the areas. There is still work to be done around how the Clusters will work, what Cluster Leads will do, how ward members will get their views heard, and how decisions will be reached. MG added that each cluster will be different, some will be built on existing groups that are working well. It is not our intention to prescribe how each cluster will look and work. PG asked if the Cluster Lead will do this, MG added that the Cluster Lead will pull the forum together, as a facilitator but not as a decision maker. It is envisaged that the Cluster Lead will be in post for around a year, this will be a senior member of SBC staff to get the programme going and to be accountable. PG asked if elections will be held after the first year for the clusters to get a new Cluster Lead? TC suggested that the Cluster Leads for Year One become Vice Chairs for Year 2 to ensure a smooth transfer. MG agreed that this sounded like a good idea.</p> <p>MP expressed concerns that there appears to be ways for groups and forums to have a voice, but it doesn't represent an individual – MG agreed to change the slide to show that you don't have to belong to a group to be represented. JB added that you are never going to win with some groups, as some won't want a say. PG added that there could be a problem with very vocal groups or local employers. MG added that the Cluster Leads are there in an advisory capacity to ensure that the decision makers in the cluster have the most up to date and correct information available to them to enable them to make an informed decision. PG asked if the Terms of Reference or Governance for the Clusters were available to look at – MG added that these were being worked on and emerging and it is hoped to have some principles in place ready for the Conference.</p> <p>TC raised his concern from a Parish Council perspective, and shared the concerns with the group – the Parish Councils feel that they will be no longer needed within 2-5 years time. Another concern is that the Parishes currently have their own precept and if one parish is in a cluster with a non-parished area what would happen to that Precept? MG replied that some clarification on the rules on Parishes and precept money is needed and he would check this out with the Borough's Legal Department. JG added that the extent to which the parishes see this as a threat means that there is more to be done to help parishes get more information. TC gave an example of the precept money of the Highworth &amp; Covingham cluster – Highworth is a parish with precept funds, Covingham is not parished. If Covingham flooded would the precept money from Highworth be used? TC asked how much importance is put on the money and what can be influenced without the funding? TC added that this would be an interesting scenario to use at the Conference to get the delegates working in clusters to sort a specific problem. JH added that there is an awful lot to do, it's connecting the existing and connecting the new – and more thought needs to be given to community needs right from an initial planning stage, otherwise we could end up with some new developments with no</p>	MG
--	----

**SSP OVERVIEW & MONITORING PLUS GROUP MEETING**  
**Minutes of Meeting – 12<sup>th</sup> February 2009**

	<p>heart or sense of community.</p> <p>JG shared the Cluster Area Agreement with the group and explained where we currently are in the development of the agreements and asked the group what they thought a Cluster Area Agreement should look like. JG added that as an organisation SBC holds a lot of data on areas and from this data we have pulled together a Cluster profile – with quite a lot of statistics, but that we have gaps in local insight and this is where we need the people in the community to help, we are currently ‘Data rich, insight poor’ and if we are working at a cluster level we need to recognise the sense of community and quality of life that currently exists. We are not creating anything new, it’s already out there and we need to recognise this and understand it. Lots of services touch the Community but are not joined up and we need to do this a lot better, this is where Connecting People Connecting Places will help.</p> <p>PG added that a good example of how CPCP could work is the current situation with a local Doctors Surgery moving to a different part of Swindon, leaving the residents without a GP practice. JH concurred that the new housing estates have put a strain on what is already a shortage of GP’s. There are a lot of practices struggling to cope and the hospital is constantly on alert. JH added that she went to the surgery consultation meeting, but the PCT started the meeting by telling the assembled crowd that the decision had already been made. JG added that this is another scenario that could be used at the Conference, to try to find a solution from a resident’s view and bring it to life. By using the scenarios the 3 pillars can be tested to see how they work. There was a discussion around the table exercises and TC said it would be really interesting to first tell people what is not up for grabs! ie: bins emptied 3 times a week etc. So that they can focus on other issues.</p> <p>JG added that the OMG Plus group was set up as a time limited group, but maybe we could bring some other scenarios back to a meeting after the conference. The conference is going to raise issues and questions, and the process needs to be demonstrated and answers given if we are going to engage with the community. JG added that there will be external facilitation at the Conference to get the discussions going. TC added that 2 supplementary OMG Plus meetings have been proposed for March and April to discuss the outcomes from the Conference and to help move the project on.</p>	
<b>2</b>	<p><b><u>Date and time of next meeting :</u></b> Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 12-2 – Committee Room 1 – an invitation for this meeting will be sent out w/c 16.2.09</p>	JB