

SSP OVERVIEW & MONITORING GROUP MEETING

Minutes of Meeting – 8th January 2008

Tom Charnock (TC) (Chair)		Joe Backshell (JB)	Equalities Representative
Stella Milsom (SM)	(GOSW)	Ruth Hursey (RH)	Renewal Task Group
Geoffrey Hammond (GH)	Environment Representative	Pete Manley (PM)	SWRDA
Alison Chamberlain (AC)	SBC	Ken Turner (KT)	GOSW
Angela Clack (ACI)	SBC (for item 3)	Cllr Colin Lovell (CL)	SBC
James Griffin (JG)	SBC	Janet Beattie (JEB)	SBC

Apologies for Absence:

Steven Richards (SR)	SWRDA	Steve Henderson (SH)	Faith Representative
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ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTIONS
1	<p><u>Minutes and matters arising</u></p> <p>Minutes of the last meeting were agreed with the amendment to item 1, and signed off as a true record.</p> <p>Matters arising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Safer Communities Forum</u> – RH advised that the letter had not been written as she is in discussion with Bruce Clarke. RH will follow this up. • <u>Safer Communities Forum</u> – JB questioned if the SCF Exec Committee and the Working Group produce minutes of their meetings. AC to check with Caroline Cooper. 	<p style="text-align: center;">RH</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AC</p>
2	<p>Rural Issues</p> <p>SM has not yet had a conversation with SR due to the Christmas break, but will endeavour to do this and report back to the March meeting. TC updated the group on how the issue initially arose. PM added that he had spoken to Sally Rackard, the Rural Account Manager at SWRDA, who had produced a brief report for the meeting. PM added that Sally was happy to answer any questions the group had. PM added that the under new RDA Corporate Plan all RDA's are duty bound to deliver through the LAA. All rural wards in Swindon are able to apply for funds to the Rural Renaissance Scheme, this is usually processed through the Economic Block of the LAA. There is also a Coastal and Rural Town Scheme which is accessed through the Community Strategy, Wroughton and Highworth are both involved with this. PM will provide information for the group.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PM</p>

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<p>PM advised that there is Leader Funding available of £28m for the Rural programme for 2008 – 2013. So far expressions of interest have been received amounting to £86m. Expressions of interest have been received from North Wessex Downs, Cricklade Country Way, North Wilts Churches and tourism, and the A350 project at Salisbury Plain. PM added that he is happy to get penpictures of the expressions of interest for the group.</p>	<p>PM</p>
<p>RH expressed her concern that rural issues had been on the agenda for discussion for some time, but the group had had no real facts and no-one within the Borough routing for money. She added that Community groups cannot be expected to trawl through the reams of paperwork to apply for funding, and asked if there was anyone in the Borough who could help with the process. ACI advised the group that one of the things the Core Strategy will do is look at the needs of the Community and rural settlements and explore how funding can be obtained. This proposal will go into the Preferred Options paper which will be going to Cabinet soon. JB added that as a member of the SSEP and the Policy Group of the Economic Block discussions have been taking place with Wiltshire and Swindon Rural Regeneration Company. JB added that Bill Cotton is very involved in developing the Rural Development Strategy. ACI advised that WALC (Wiltshire Association of Local Councils) was involved in the development of the Core Strategy. TC to find out what information went to WALC and provide JEB with the details. JB added that there is confusion in the Community on how to apply for funds, many projects could do with more funding, but funds and grants are not being applied for. JG added that signposting funding comes within his remit as Head of Policy, the Board asked him to report to a future meeting on the Bid Track Funding and other funding opportunities.</p>	<p>TC JG</p>
<p>JB informed the group that at the Transport Forum last year, one key priority was the concern for transport in rural areas, does that come under GOSW's remit? KT replied that GOSW are pushing to get Transport into the new LAA. The latest version of the Swindon Story will be shared with the group.</p>	<p>AC</p>
<p>TC asked PM about Wiltshire County Council being the accountable body who receive the allocation for rural funding for Swindon, and asked if he knew how much was allocated to Swindon? PM will find out and added that records of the projects the funding was used on should also be available and will provide details to JEB to circulate to the group.</p>	<p>PM</p>
<p>RH added that the danger of looking at a big area instead of Neighbourhood Renewal or Rural areas is that Community needs could be missed. SM will provide a funding update for the next meeting.</p>	<p>SM</p>

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	RH added that at a previous SCF meeting there was a long discussion on Rural Issues and asked if we could find out where the information went. AC to check with Caroline Cooper.	AC
3	<p>Core Strategy (Preferred Options)</p> <p>ACI gave an update to the group on the Preferred Options Draft paper. The report had been circulated to the group prior to the meeting. The Preferred Options Draft of the Core Strategy establishes the Council's preferred options for meeting the Council's corporate objectives and delivering the community's aspirations for Swindon. If approval is secured at Cabinet and Full Council, the Core Strategy Preferred Options paper will be released for public consultation in March 2008. The consultation will run for 8 weeks. RH asked why the consultation period didn't comply with the Swindon Compact of 12 weeks. ACI explained that the Town and Country Planning Act sets legislation of 6-8 weeks consultation period. TC asked if the relevant strategies are named within the Core Strategy. ACI replied that there is a need to go beyond just naming the relevant strategies, key issues for Swindon need to be looked at and the plans need to link to the document. RH asked if the Regional Spatial Strategy looked at flood risk. ACI replied that the team have undertaken a flood strategy, a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and a Water Cycle study and looked at consequences on flooding from beyond the Borough's. Boundary. TC asked if this report for the general public to read. ACI advised that she will look at getting the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment on the website.</p>	
4	<p>Swindon Central Area Action Plan (Submission Paper Consultation)</p> <p>ACI advised the group that her colleague David Dewart released the Submission Paper consultation at the end of December. The report had been circulated to the group prior to the meeting. ACI added that if anyone would like a copy of the document sent to them to let her know. The document is available online with the response forms. The Consultation started on 31st December 2007 and will end on 25th February 2008. RH expressed her concern on the lack of time for the Community to respond to the consultation. With the consultation starting at a time when a lot of people are still on holiday it doesn't give communities and group enough time to read the document, meet and provide a response. ACI advised that she will speak to David Dewart to see if the consultation period could be extended. Group thanked Angela for her updates.</p>	
5	<p>Vice Chair – nominations / discussion</p> <p>TC started the debate into the Vice Chair discussion. At the moment the OMG doesn't have a vice-chair, RH has kindly taken the helm when needed, but now is the time to look at having a formal vice-chair. AC distributed the job description, commitment and key areas of responsibility for the Vice Chair to the group. Group discussed the document and agreed it subject to a couple of amendments. Group agreed to vote by a</p>	

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	show of hands. JB proposed that RH takes on the role of Vice Chair, motion seconded by GH. Motion agreed that RH is Vice Chair.	
6	<p>OMG – looking forward discussion</p> <p>TC advised that he had met with JG to discuss future issues for the group. He added that the group needs to ensure that it is meeting the communities needs. TC added that the Borough is happy to provide officer support to look at what the group might do in future. It was proposed that a formal report of what the OMG could do in the future would be brought to a future meeting. Confusion needs to be eliminated and the OMG could answer these questions. JG has offered to look at this and report back. RH added that we already have a role in looking at LAA. TC confirmed that this will not change, the LAA role will remain as it is. The Scrutiny Committee attendance was successful and has resulted in an open invitation to attend future meetings. JB asked are there issues on representatives here, do we need people representing other parts of the Community on the group? What does representative mean? All Government papers refer to the SSP as the consultation route, strategic needs to be defined and the role of the SSP needs to be looked at. We need to be careful that we don't duplicate what others are doing. SSPOMG is vital to carry out strategic responsibilities. JB asked how do we measure our effectiveness? AC advised that the Community Strategy is measured, and measures can be put into place for the OMG if required. TC added the effectiveness of the group is measured by the amount of key documents we are responsible for. Things will change in the future, and as Chair he would like the OMG to look at future issues before they arise and try to keep ahead of the game. JG added that this had been a good discussion and the role of the group should be developed with clout and credibility.</p> <p>SM added that it's not just about challenging the Borough, but all of the Partnerships. RH asked who will pick up the rural question. TC advised that he meets every 6 weeks with the Leader of the Council and he will be raising the issue again with him.</p> <p>TC suggested that the group wait for the report from JG and discuss further at the March meeting.</p>	<p>JG</p> <p>TC</p> <p>JG</p>
7	<p>Feedback from Chairs briefing</p> <p>No update this month, meeting will be held later in the month.</p>	
8	<p>Feedback from Block meetings</p> <p>JB fed back from the Economic Block meeting. The block has produced a 2 year plan, AC to obtain a copy</p>	AC

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	<p>from Ernesto Gomez for circulation to the group. JB added that he is impressed with what the block is trying to do, and this is a good example of what the observer role from the SSP should be.</p> <p>RH asked when Q3 data was going to be available, AC confirmed that Q3 data will be collected at the end of January and the data will be coming to the March meeting.</p>	AC
9	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>SSP Conference</u> – AC updated the group on the work the Conference Committee had been doing and shared the draft Conference agenda with the group. Invites have gone out, with a reminder, and to date we have had 90+ replies with a good mix of people. This time there will be 5 or 6 Sharefair sessions instead of workshops. AC to check with Paula Harrison if one of the sessions needs to be on Neighbourhood Renewal. Group confirmed that they were happy with the proposed agenda. • <u>5th Block update</u> – JG advised the group that a report on the proposed 5th block went to Partnership Board in November, but the report had little to do with Climate Change. JG added that the Chair of the Partnership Board wanted climate change and sustainability issues highlighted with clarity, and set the task for Celia Carrington, Bill Cotton and himself to move this forward. JG has met with Celia Carrington and Bill Cotton to more fully scope the 5th Block, it's very much a work in progress, but the 5th Block should also include environmental aspects. It needs to be tested more rigorously and be championed across all of the blocks. The role of the Climate Change Steering Group may need to be expanded. The idea from the previous report of using the Infrastructure Delivery Board as the reporting mechanism for block for the 5th block is not going ahead. Further work is being done this week with the Director and the Group Director to prepare for the 28th January Partnership Board meeting. • <u>LAA2</u> – JG advised that the latest version of the Swindon Story will be going to the Partnership Board meeting on the 28th January. All blocks are at different stages with prioritising the national indicators. JG added that if we need to move quickly to get the 5th block to the same level by then. 	
10	<p><u>Date and time of next meeting:</u> 11th March 2008 – 3.30-5.30 pm – CR5, Civic Offices</p>	

Agreed and signed as a correct record: Date: