

## SSP OMG Plus 14 April 2009: Notes of Meeting

**Present:** Tom Charnock (TC), John Brownlee (JB), Martha Parry (MP), Paul Gregory (PG), Stephen Taylor (ST), Sara Tough (SaT), Ian Bickerton (IB), Chris Sivers (CS), Stella Milsom (SM), Allyson Jordan (AJ), Bernie Brannan (BB), Judith Hawkins (JH), Steve Henderson (SH), Pam Gough (PGh), Cllr Brian Mattock (BM), Janet Beattie (JeB), Alison Chamberlain (AC)

**Apologies:** Matt Gott, James Griffin, Peter Giles, Mike Pringle, Fidelma Meehan, Marilyn Beale, Jo Osorio, Mandy Mercer, Neil Pullen, Mark Walker

### Key issues and decisions:

- The next OMG Plus meeting will be July 14<sup>th</sup> in Committee Room 1, Civic Offices
- Chris Sivers and Mark Walker will be invited to that meeting
- By the next meeting OMG plus will have started to pull together information to help the cluster leads on:
  - What groups already meet in different areas of the town
  - What buildings are used and by whom
- Partnership Team will update the SSP website with a CPCP page

### Discussion and Decisions

1. **Notes of last meeting and matters arising** – MP brought up a point of clarification from the notes of the last meeting. JeB to correct the notes accordingly.

### 2. **Connecting People Connecting Places**– Cluster Leads

The Cluster Leads introduced themselves to the group and explained their Council role and where they currently are in the CPCP programme.

**Stephen Taylor** is the Director of Law and Democratic Services and the Council's monitoring officer, he is also the Cluster Lead for the 'South' which covers the 3 wards of Old Town and Lawn, Ridgeway, Wroughton and Chiseldon, and includes 5 parishes. He has already met with the Ward Councillors and the parish council clerks involved. He added that there is a meeting planned for early May. TC asked if meetings with Ward Councillors are open to the community, ST replied that initially the meetings are closed as they are purely planning sessions.

MP added that it would be good to identify the community groups that currently exist in each Cluster. PG raised his concerns over the soft launch approach and how the CPCP programme will be communicated effectively if the meetings with Councillors are private.

JB had concerns around the Cluster Leads being council employees and how they will manage Councillors? ST replied that it is important to look at what Cluster Leads are and what they are not, they are not elected but know what the priorities are, the Councillors are elected and know their areas. It is not for Leads to tell Councillors what to do, it is more important to look at what is being done between the Cluster meetings, then use the cluster meeting to pick up on issues arising. BM added that the Ward Councillors are expecting the Cluster Leads to tell them what the issues are and to challenge and drive the project forward.

JH added that it is important to note that a lot of people are 'community' but not necessarily part of a community group and was concerned about how we reach people who live within the community but don't 'take part'.

TC added that the cluster meetings need to be visible and transparent and asked if the notes from the Cluster meetings will be made public? ST added that the output from the meeting could be public and they will probably use the SBC website for this. MP suggested a page on the SSP website would be more useful.

**Ian Bickerton** is the Director of Access Local Provision, Children Services, which covers the provision and planning of school places, admissions, PFI. He is the Cluster Lead for 'North Central' which covers Gorse Hill & Pinehurst, Penhill and Western wards. He added that he had been in contact with 8 Ward Councillors and had been on a walkabout in the Cluster. IB added that he agreed with most of what ST said but added that there is also an element of feeling the way, it is an exciting opportunity and has a lot

## SSP OMG Plus 14 April 2009: Notes of Meeting

of potential for the future, it won't be done in months, it will take years and he is looking forward to the challenge.

**Sara Tough** is the Director Integrated Services, Children & Young People, covering locality provision and PCT services through the Section 75 agreement. She is the Cluster Lead for 'North East', which covers Covingham and Nythe, Highworth, St Margaret, St Phillip. SaT added that her Cluster has 4 wards, 12 members and 2 parishes. Her Director role is challenging and is about relevant provision and shaping services for the community, she sees the Cluster Lead role as a complimentary element to the day job. She added that the Cluster Leads need to learn and listen and to raise awareness of what CPCP can do, and added that she has no pre-conceived ideas and is happy to have guidance from the group.

JB asked how much time will CPCP take them away from their day jobs? IB replied that there will be capacity issues, and we are all working in an arena where there is not enough money or resources, but he works closely with this senior staff who are happy to cover the 'day job'. At the moment it is difficult to quantify how much work will be involved, but he also feels that CPCP can help/overlap into what each of the Cluster Leads is doing in the day job.

PG asked if it is planned that the Cluster Leads meet up to exchange views and feed back from their areas, as this could be an enormous benefit to the programme. AJ added that this will happen. BM added that there may be seven Cluster Leads but we also need to think about the thousands of employees that will also link into the CPCP agenda. It's about how we can deliver better services to our customers, not about money. The first 12 months of the programme will be telling and we are bringing our partners into the process. The Police are looking at how they can link into the Cluster arrangement, it may well be that in the future a Cluster Lead is part of the Police or one of our other partners.

SM added it's about making the connections, there is a lot of knowledge in each Cluster and the big job is bringing it all together.

**Allyson Jordan** is the Head of Swindon Libraries and Archives, she is Cluster Lead for 'North' area which covers Abbey Meads, Blunsdon, Haydon Wick and Moredon. Her Cluster has 10 Ward Councillors and she has met with 1 so far, has spoken to the rest and has looked at the priorities for the area and has talked about a Cluster Ward walk. She added that the challenge is about how to get people interested enough to come along to the meetings and suggested 'themed' meetings as a way forward. She is also exploring different ways of working and is open to any ideas the group might have.

**Bernie Brannan** is the Director of Housing and Leisure and is Cluster Lead for 'West' which covers Freshbrook & Grange Park, Shaw & Nine Elms, Toothill and Westlea. He added that his Cluster has 6 members, including 3 cabinet members, the current Mayor, and 2 MPs. The west area is an interesting mix of wealth and deprivation. He has contacted the Councillors and has a better understanding of issues in the area. BB added that there is a lot of Cluster data out there and it needs to be not only understood, but also any gaps need to be investigated. He added that information from his Cluster suggests that the key priorities are fear of crime in the evenings and domestic burglaries. BB also added that West Swindon was the one area where the Area Panel was successful and the next Panel meeting is on 11<sup>th</sup> May. He feels that in order to get public support at the meetings we need to get real live issues on the agenda. BB will be attending the meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> May where CPCP is on the agenda. BB added that there is also a joint West and North CPCP article in the next edition of the Link magazine.

TC thanked the Leads and commented that the common theme emerging from all the of the leads presentations is about how to get local people involved and reflected back to earlier comments on who and how to get issues and interested people from community and Voluntary/Third Sector groups. This is something that the group could help with. MP talked about churches and community centres having a visible focus within the community, but that we don't seem to communicate within the visible places. JH added that the community needs to pull together to use buildings more effectively, she added that a lot of church buildings are redundant. JB added that St Johns Church is a good example of groups using the Centre and Church Hall for meetings and events. However, a lot of people are put off attending because of the Church connection. SH added that the Cluster Leads have been tasked with making CPCP a reality, and feels that all people whatever their religion will want to be involved. He was impressed that the Cluster Leads have started having conversations and want to move this on

## SSP OMG Plus 14 April 2009: Notes of Meeting

quickly.

TC commented on the communication of CPCP and added that at the last meeting Marilyn Beale had suggested Facebook, which had proved effective in her area. MP agreed but added that this should not be the only route of communication. ST advised that communication routes are being included in the CPCP Communications Strategy, SaT added that Facebook could enable us to reach people who don't normally come to meetings.

SM advised the group that it is currently business planning time at Government Office, and as part of the discussions they would like to help support Swindon with CPCP and talk to the Leads about any issues in their areas where they may be able to help.

### 3. **Connecting People Connecting Places** - update on the programme

PGh gave an update on the CPCP programme since the last meeting. There is a report going to Cabinet on 15<sup>th</sup> April, the report includes a map of the Cluster areas, an introduction to the Cluster Leads and a scenario of what Swindon could look like a few years into the CPCP programme. There is also development work on Cluster profiles which have come from the Swindon Intelligence Network, this background information has highlighted issues for the Cluster Leads.

PGh added that the CPCP Project Team is looking at how the organisation can support the programme, and embed CPCP into business plans. PGh added that the scenarios aim to explain what CPCP will look like if it is a success, and would welcome any suggestions from the group. There is one scenario in the cabinet report and others are being completed. SH added that the scenarios will help when OMG members speak to their groups to give them an idea of what CPCP is about. PG added that there are lots of ways of looking at an issue and it is useful to have different examples. BM added that there is also a simple presentation that the group can use when speaking to their groups and he is also happy to be invited along to the meetings and maybe invite the Cluster Lead for that area along.

MP added that the SFCO has a wealth of experience in neighbourhoods and asked if it would be possible to meet the project team and talk about the data which they have as an organisation which could feed into the cluster profiles. PGh confirmed that she will take this request back to the project team and feed back to MP.

### 4. **AOB**

- **Conference Summary:** TC shared the summary from the February conference with the group and AC added that the document is now available on the SSP website. TC advised that this is not the definitive story but it is what the community have said their concerns are and that it may be a start of the conversations at the Cluster meetings.
- **Conference:** The next conference date has been agreed as the 12<sup>th</sup> October 2009, at STEAM.
- **Newsletter:** There is a new format for the partnership newsletter and the publication of this will now be quarterly. If anyone would like to submit an article for the July edition please contact Janet Beattie.
- **OMG Plus – Future meetings:** The next OMG meeting is scheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> June. AC asked the group if they wanted to revert back the main OMG group on this date, with the suggestion of using the July date as an OMG Plus meeting to get feedback on CPCP as it will be two months into the roll-out. PG agreed that this would be a good idea as the OMG group have other issues that need to be discussed. JH asked if we could hear from Mark Walker and Chris Sivers in July as these were two Cluster Leads we didn't hear from today.

### **Date and time of next meeting**

**OMG – 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 12-2 Function Room**

**OMG Plus – 14<sup>th</sup> July, 12-2 Committee Room 1**