

South Derbyshire Local Strategic Partnership

Board meeting 20th May 2004

Agenda Item 5

Development of the Community Strategy

At its last meeting the Board agreed the Vision and themes for the Community Strategy. Lead Board Members were nominated in respect of each of the themes and it was agreed to hold a series of working groups to explore the themes in more detail. The District Council was requested to organise the arrangements for holding the meetings which were subsequently held as detailed below ;

<i>Lifelong Learning and Culture – (Paul McGregor)</i>	<i>Friday 16th April</i>
<i>Creating Opportunities for All – (Jo Smith)</i>	<i>Tuesday 4th May</i>
<i>Safe Communities – (Tony Hurrell)</i>	<i>Thursday 6th May</i>
<i>Healthy Communities – (Vicki Price)</i>	<i>Friday 7th May</i>
<i>A Vibrant Economy – (Sharon Forton)</i>	<i>Monday 10th May</i>
<i>A Sustainable Environment – (Clive Keble)</i>	<i>Tuesday 11th May</i>

(Clive Keble and Vicki Price acted in their respective deputy capacities for Susan Bell and Nina Ennis.)

Invitations were sent to Board Members, key stakeholders and those individuals who had previously expressed an interest in attending at the Forum Annual General Meeting.

A suggested format for the meeting together with an 'aide memoire' to stimulate discussion and a compilation of the results of some local consultations were tabled to help structure and inform stakeholders. The format included sections to aid determining the scope of the theme, where we are now (baseline and issues), Views of local people (what the public consider are the issues), Vision and Objectives (to help focus on priorities), What's happening already (to avoid duplication and provide focus on what remains to be done) and a list of major related plans and strategies to which the Community Strategy and actions will relate and compliment.

Stakeholders were also requested to forward the results of any other public consultations undertaken by their respective organisations together with relevant copies of plans and strategies. Some of this information is awaited.

The purpose of the meetings was essentially to scope those issues and actions which may be appropriately addressed by the Community Strategy and to focus, for each theme, on what may be considered to be the main priorities for that theme. It should not be the intention of the Community Strategy to repeat existing organisations/partners plans, strategies or service plans. Rather to focus on those actions and issues where 'added value' can be given or new actions can be undertaken involving partnership working.

The timetable is now very tight. There is a need to get a draft strategy agreed by the Board on 3rd June for agreement at the 24th June Forum Event. This is to be followed by an extensive period of public consultation during the summer which is also most certainly likely to result in the strategy being amended to reflect the local communities' aspirations and priorities. In this context it was felt that targets and actions would better be addressed after the draft had been subject to consultation and possible change.

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The notes of the working group discussions are attached for Members information and use. (Annexe 5A)

Conclusions

Lifelong Learning and Culture

Embraces education, including non accredited learning, leisure and sport, arts, heritage and the library service. Learning should be promoted as a lifelong process and must be in a position to offer a high quality of learning, and recreational/cultural facilities to residents of the District.

suggested key aim/vision:

'More opportunities for local people to take part in learning and cultural activities'

priorities

- Developing activities and facilities for local people
- Encouraging learning

Creating Opportunities for All

The scope focused around equal opportunities, values, diversity, social inclusion, community involvement and capacity building. Improved communication and consultation were seen as central to achieving these ends. A better understanding and audit of local diversity and equal opportunities is required leading to the consistent application and delivery agreed equal opportunities and race equality policies.

suggested key aim/vision:

'Fairer, more inclusive and self reliant communities'

priorities

- Improving communication and consultation
- Valuing diversity

Safe Communities

As well as Crime and Disorder issues, including anti social behaviour, the group also considered wider public protection issues embracing flooding, harassment, re-assurance, victim support. Again private sector/business community engagement is seen as important across all themes. The main areas of action were seen as the need for cross agency working to increase public assurance by tackling anti social behaviour and the redirection of resources to what is seen as low level enforcement actions (nuisance, litter, dog fouling, etc)

suggested key aim/vision:

'A safer South Derbyshire in which to live, work and visit'

priorities

- Enforcing low level legislation
- Tackling antisocial behaviour

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Healthier Communities

The scope of the healthier theme included the broad base of health, social and emotional wellbeing, including service provision, protection and preventative issues especially in respect of children and older people, road safety, domestic violence and child abuse. Drug, alcohol and substance misuse also has health implications (eg: lack of treatment facilities) as well as Crime and Disorder aspects. Business sector involvement was considered crucial.

The thrust of a lot of legislation (Childrens Bill) and activities focus on intervention and access to services whilst there is a general health thrust towards earlier intervention and tackling the determinants of health. There are numerous groups, organisations and actions being undertaken but a lack of co-ordinated central information. Influencing healthier lifestyles appears paramount.

suggested key aim/vision:

'Healthier and supportive communities'

priorities

- Taking care of your health
- Supporting vulnerable people

A Vibrant Economy

With an economic base dominated by small businesses and a predominately out commuting workforce, the group quickly focused on the need to create further employment opportunities within the District through support to the local business community, capitalising on the development of the National Forest and the Nottingham East Midlands Airport, and securing more inward investment.

suggested key aim/vision:

'Better jobs and prospects for local people and businesses'

priorities

- Understanding and developing the local business community
- Securing inward investment

A Sustainable Environment

This thematic was perhaps the most difficult due its complex and wide ranging nature, from biodiversity to global warming, encompassing renewable affordable energy/energy efficiency, increased use of public space (major contributor to improved health/wellbeing), waste minimisation plus, environmental management (litter/dumping), equitable housing services (Opps for all ?), land quality and appearance, sustainable transport, pollution etc.

A wide range of agencies are involved (and not present at the meeting) in protecting and enhancing the District's environment but what was clear that there is no one overall 'environmental focus' either in the form of a strategy or group that could form the basis for

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common co-ordinated action. It was also felt that there was a generally lack of public understanding of environmental matters. Generally speaking it was considered that the District has a quality product (its landscape and diversity) and that this must be improved and protected.

suggested key aim/vision:

'A more sustainable environment'

priorities:

- Developing a joined up approach to environmental issues
- Improving our public spaces

It is recommended that the Board agrees the priorities set out above as the basis for the draft strategy