

SOUTH BUCKS PARTNERSHIP

Meeting - 8 July 2009

Held at the SBDC Offices, Capswood, Denham

MEMBERS PRESENT

South Bucks District Council

Adrian Busby (Chairman)

Naomi Arnold, Ken Brown, Santokh Chhokar, Guy Hollis, Maureen Royston and Alan Walters

Buckinghamshire County Council

Trevor Egleton (Vice-Chairman)

Lin Hazell and Roger Reed

Parish's / Town Councils

Janet Simmonds & Deborah Sanders (Beaconsfield Town Council)

Bob Slater (Burnham Parish Council)

David Quinton & Margaret Skelton (Denham Parish Council)

Michael C. C. Saxby (Fulmer Parish Council)

Chris Brown, Ian Gordon, Peter Chapman & David Peters (Gerrards Cross Parish Council)

Sue Cooper (Hedgerley Parish Council)

Carol Gibson (Deputy) (Iver Parish Council)

Mary Trevallion (Taplow Parish Council)

Marion Dunstall (Wexham Parish Council)

Thames Valley Police

Stuart Greenfield Acting Superintendent Chiltern & South Bucks

Faith Community

Revd Brian Griffiths (St Peter's Church, Iver) Faith Representative

Voluntary/Community Sector

Diane Rutter Chief Officer Voluntary Action Chiltern and South Bucks

Business and Learning Sector

Alastair Pike Chairman Wycombe and South Bucks Chamber of Commerce

Lynne Cairns Bucks Economic and Learning Partnership

Bucks Fire and Rescue Authority

Jeremy Williams Bucks Fire and Rescue Authority

Officers

South Bucks District Council

Chris Furness Chief Executive

Marjorie Weaver Democratic Service Officer

Alex Rowland Team Leader Performance & Improvement Officer

Laura Campbell Policy Officer, Policy & Performance

Rachael Winfield Communications & Partnership Manager

Buckinghamshire County Council

Alison Derrick (Senior Area Co-ordinator - GC2C)

Stephen Young (Area Co-ordinator Locality Services)

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Sue Brown (Team Leader Casualty Reduction)

Apologies for Absence: -

PC/TC: - Graham Easton & Peter Smith (Dorney), Peter Cathcart (Farnham Royal) Michael Rice (Hedgerley) Julian Wilson (Iver) and Kathie Webber (Stoke Poges)

SBDC: - Damon Clark and Shorne Tilbey

BCC: - Dev Dhillon, Peter Hardy, Bill Lidgate, and Ruth Vigor- Hedderly

Bucks Primary Care Trust: -

Clare Blakeway-Phillips Assistant Director - Partnership Development Buckinghamshire Primary Care Trust

Voluntary/Community Sector: -

Barbara Davis Chairman South Bucks Youth Forum

Thames Valley Police: -

Anthony Humphreys Traffic Management Officer

Business and Learning Sector: -

Ian Johnson Vice Chairman Wycombe and South Bucks Chamber of Commerce

Bucks Fire and Rescue Authority

Bryan Dugdale Bucks Fire and Rescue Authority

BCC - Officer

Rita Lally, (Strategic Director, Adult Social Care),

29. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The Chairman made the following points: -

- As this meeting was an amalgamation of the SBJLC and LSP with the key aim being to coordinate and increase the effectiveness of public services in South Bucks; the agenda was evolving such that the following amendments / additions would be made to the Agenda: -
 - Questions from Members of the Partnership (if any)
 - Items Raised by Members of the Partnership
 - Any Other Business

- Petitions

These are usually sent to the District and / or the County Council by residents or groups for actions / answers and are brought to this Partnership for information purposes only.

- Meeting at Capswood to discuss Local Area Forums (LAF) with Bill Chapple Deputy Leader BCC

Present :- Dean Taylor, Strategic Director Community Service BCC, Chris Furness Chief Executive SBDC and representatives of 7 out of 12 Town/Parish Councils in South Bucks

In summary and following a 2hour debate at which the Town / Parishes expressed their views that they did not want four LAF's in the District, all parties discussed an appropriate way forward which would be acceptable to all concerned. No agreement was reached by the end of the meeting.

Since then informal discussions had been held to try to find a way forward but no movement or a softening of approach was forthcoming on this issue from BCC.

30. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the South Bucks Joint Local Committee held on 22 April 2009 were received.

31. **PETITION(S) - None received**

32. **PRESENTATION - TRANSPORT FOR BUCKINGHAMSHIRE - CASUALTY REDUCTION**

Members received a presentation from Sue Brown, Team Leader: Transport for Buckinghamshire - Casualty Reduction.

In addition the 2009 Health Profiles were circulated showing that South Bucks had a very high level of road injuries and deaths.

Members were informed that: -

- The Government had set targets to address Casualty Reduction and to achieve a substantial improvement in road safety by 2010. The targets were as follows: -
 - ❖ A 40% reduction in the number of people killed or seriously injured in road collisions.
 - ❖ A 50% reduction in the number of children killed or seriously injured
 - ❖ A 10% reduction in the slight casualty rate.
- **Categories of injury:** -
 - ❖ Fatal injury - was where someone died in less than 30 days as a result of the crash, not natural causes or suicide.(KSI)
 - ❖ Serious injury - was where medical treatment was required e.g. fracture, internal injury, severe cuts, crushing. This was also used when a casualty dies 30 or more days after the crash from injuries sustained in that crash.
 - ❖ Slight Injury - casualties who did not require medical treatment e.g. sprains, whiplash, bruises, slight cuts, slight shock.
- A road traffic collision was an incident involving a vehicle, where a road user was injured and was reported to the Police within 30 days. Cyclists, pedestrians, motorcyclists were particularly vulnerable and a priority for action.
- In 2008 there were 220 people killed/ seriously injured on Buckinghamshire's roads, and 1,754 slightly injured with the cost to the community of £80m pa per road crashes. The aim was to reduce the number of casualties occurring on the road through a variety of targeted campaigns - children; cyclists; pedestrians; motorcyclists and vehicle passengers /drivers.
- In South Bucks in 2008 there were 45 killed/seriously injured 2 of which were children and 451 slightly injured 28 of which were children. As the South Bucks area is covered by several motorways and therefore had a moving population there were more crashes some of which involved alcohol and speed and were mainly in the age range of 20 - 24.
- **Improving safety:** -
 - ❖ The County's current method of identifying sites where remedial safety works might take place, was by first identifying where at least 5 injury collisions (of any severity) had occurred within a 40m radius, in the last 3 years. These collisions were then ranked by a 3, 3, 1 weighting for fatal, serious and slight to ensure that the county was addressing the sites with the highest level of KSIs. Plot results on graph / data base - look for trends - identify hot /black spots.
 - ❖ After investigation small changes might be made that would help e.g. fresh white lines or signs. Bigger projects were considered by the BCC Cabinet Member and Local Committees within the context of the whole county and budget.
- **Education, Training and Publicity - County were involved in the following schemes:** -
 - ❖ Approved driving instructors - work closely with; Community speedwatch; Drink and drug driving; Driving for work; For my girlfriend; Get in gear; Lean and live; Mobile phone; Older drivers; Pass plus; Rider/Driver Assessments; Safe Drive Stay Alive; Safety cameras; Schools; Seat belts compliance and child restraints; Speed; Speed limit review; Young driver - biggest killer in the 16 - 19 age group.
- New targets would be set in 2010 - Consultation out from the Department of Transport for consideration with the draft recommendations for a further 33% reduction in KSI's.

Sue agreed to follow up Members suggestions regarding: - having road shows in different areas; articles in Village Magazines or other suitable places as suggested by the Partnership and agreed to look into Lynne Cairns point regarding BELP's involvement in some of the courses.

The Chairman thanked Sue for her informative presentation commenting that there was a communications exercise to do on this topic.

33. **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS (IF ANY) - None received**

34. **ITEMS RAISED BY PARISH COUNCILS**

(i) From Dorney Parish Council: -

What assistance is or can be given by the District and County Councils to the Parish Council in its efforts to alleviate the disruption to residents and businesses by the Car Boot Sale in Taplow Parish.

Answer - from BCC

“Taplow Car Boot Sale, is dealt with as far as our powers allow. District planning could object or take action if the sale does not conform with the regulations governing permitted development (each site being used 14 times a year). We cannot prevent the event from taking place, therefore we have worked with the events organisers, to make it as safe as possible from a highway perspective and also cause as little disruption to other roads users as possible (although this may not seem to be the case) An order paid for by the organisers and supported by BCC was made to control the entrance to the lay-by on the days that this sale is held and so minimise the hold ups when traffic enters and leaves the site. This would appear to be as far as we can go. We are currently looking at whether there is a Clearway order for the A.4 which would assist the police when dealing with parked vehicles.”

The Correspondence from SBDC was also noted a report concerning The Control of Car Boot Sales / Markets which went to SBDC Planning Committee on 11 February 2009 and letters to Dorney Parish Council.

(ii) From the Highways Committee Chairman, Gerrards Cross Parish Council: -

“I note the feature promoting Cycling in Buckinghamshire in the Spring edition of the Buckinghamshire Times. However, the lack of provision for cyclists in South Bucks deters people from cycling to work or allowing their children to cycle to school. I would like to ask what provision the County Council plans to make for cycling as a means of transport in South Bucks.

I should emphasise that by Cycling, I mean push-bikes, not motor bikes, which I see referred to as Bikes in the Bucks Times.”

ANSWER - Lee Stevens, BCC Team leader, Cycling Walking and Accessibility

“The majority of cycleway improvements in Buckinghamshire are derived from contributions received from developments. Therefore the number of cycle routes introduced in the south of the County are limited. To counter the lack of cycleways, we are investing heavily in on-road cycle training in schools, and this year are providing £140,000 to train school children county wide (approx 3000 children). This training is backed up by campaigns in schools to promote safety and road awareness. In addition we partly fund Clare's role as a Bike It officer from Sustrans who works in schools in south Bucks to promote cycling. She is having considerable success with 6 schools this year and has recently written to all south bucks schools to see if they want to be involved next year. Maybe, the councillors could urge their local schools to reply to their letters and get on board with the scheme. A breakdown of the schools will forward on for information.”

35. **POLICING IN THE DISTRICT UPDATE REPORT**

The Partnership considered the report of Chris Furness, the Chief Executive of SBDC on the current position on policing and crime in South Bucks and the outcomes of a meeting with the Chief Constable on these issues.

Members noted that the main points were: -

- SB's experiences a corrosive mix of high levels of acquisitive crime but low clear-up rates (the worst in the Thames Valley by some margin). Violent crime was below average but rising.

Policing resources were better than they used to be but still not appropriate to the crime levels. The MSA was likely to increase crime levels.

- Police staffing levels were patchy with many vacancies and lack of continuity.
- Cross border work was crucial but was still not as good as it should be.
- SB had no LPA Commander from early January. NOTE: Chief Inspector Paul Cook was due to start here from East Berks on 1 August.
- Resourcing - the national TRAF formula for allocation still applied and had not been reviewed yet despite promises and allocated by: - resident population; daytime population; incident numbers; recorded crime numbers; 1.5% deviation before adjustment; Initial allocation by area (W. Berks, East Berks, Bucks, Oxon, MK); Bucks getting 14 more soon - but where would they be placed?; Allocation up to BCU Commander Paul Tinnion.
- Clear-up rates: detective team of 5 based in Burnham had helped but were only temporary. C/C promised to consider if they could be made permanent, and would be take up with BCU Commander as well.
- Staffing levels - up to the BCU Commander but were beginning to look better, the C/C agreed that there should be continuity, but needs to be monitored.
- Cross border - agreed that this should be taken forward; work underway with Probation but more needed to be done. Would have discussions with the new LPA Commander to take this issue forward.
- LPA Commander appointment - no consultation over this which was not good partnership working.
- New BCC representative on Police Authority was Cllr. David Carroll from WDC, discussions would be taking place on how he could help on the above points.
- Vacancies left unfilled - money saving exercise?
- Recruitment would be a problem and priority on the agenda as in the next three years 400 Officers would be retiring in the Thames Valley Area.
- Affordable housing for Officers was another problem.

RESOLVED that: -

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) the Chief Executive to invite all South Bucks Partnership Members to attend the SBD Council Meeting on 15 December 2009 when Sara Thornton the Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police would be in attendance to give a presentation and to answer questions of which prior notice had been given;
- (3) the Chief Executive to invite the new BCC representative on Police Authority to attend the SBD Council Meeting on 15 December 2009

36. **PATHFINDER - UPDATE FROM SBDC / BCC**

The Partnership considered an oral report from Chris Furness, the Chief Executive of SBDC on Pathfinder.

He made the following comments: -

- Support Services:
 - All the participating authorities had agreed the business case and committed to proceed to the next phase of the programme. The procurement phase began with the publication of an advert in the Official Journal of the European Union. Milestones: -
 - ❖ Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) notice published June 2009
 - ❖ Shortlist of Bidders confirmed July 2009
 - ❖ Invitation to participate in competitive dialogue August 2009
 - ❖ Invitation to submit detailed proposals November 2009
 - ❖ Invite best and final offer March 2010
 - ❖ Selection of final bidder April 2010
 - ❖ Ratification of Councils May 2010
 - ❖ Contract awarded June 2010
 - Various Councils in the South East had expressed an interest in bidding for the contract;
 - If no savings were apparent then SBDC would not go ahead as the final sign off on joining the Joint Venture Company (JVC) remains with the individual councils.

- Various Councils had expressed an interest in being a client of the JVCo
- Buckinghamshire was the most advanced Council of the Pathfinders in the Country.
- Waste: Works in progress on joint collection contract.
- Community Engagement: The outcome of pilots at AVDC and WDC are currently being evaluated.

37. SOUTH BUCKS COHESION AND INEQUALITIES STRATEGY

The Partnership considered the report of Chris Furness, the Chief Executive of SBDC on the Cohesion and Inequalities Strategy for South Bucks.

Members noted that the main points were that: -

- The Cohesion and Inequalities Forum had been established as a sub group of the South Bucks Partnership (Local Strategic Partnership) under the Chairmanship of Dominic Grieve to take an overview of cohesion and inequalities in South Bucks. The breadth of partners involved had provided a valuable insight and strategic view of possible cohesion and inequalities issues in South Bucks.
- The Forum had produced a Draft Cohesion and Inequalities Strategy. The next step was to consult on this Strategy.
- Community cohesion lies at the heart of what made a safe and strong community and it was essential to the quality of life of local people. Community Cohesion included tackling problems such as access to services and also daily interaction and communication with people from different backgrounds. In South Bucks rural isolation could be factor as was pockets of deprivation along side areas of affluence which could greatly impact on access to support and services. This could lead to inequalities, and where inequalities existed cohesion could be problematic.
- The Forum approach had been to review all statistical evidence and consultation feedback for geographical and communities of interest that could be at risk from cohesion and inequalities. This work had developed into the Cohesion and Inequalities Audit which would be a working document and covered the following areas: - Black and Minority Ethnic Communities; Migrant Workers; Carers; Refugee and Asylum Seekers; Areas of deprivation; Young People; Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities; Rural/Access to Services; Older People; Mental Health, Physical Disability and Learning Difficulties.
- The Forum has reviewed the findings for each of these groups, and identified priorities and actions to address cohesion and inequalities which had been encompassed into the draft Cohesion and Inequalities Strategy. It was not intended that this strategy covered all cohesion and inequalities work being undertaken by all members of the Forum, instead it focused on areas that require a partnership approach by identifying priority themes - namely groups at risk due to difficulties in accessing services and other Cohesion and Inequalities Risk Areas
- A Buckinghamshire wide approach to cohesion and equalities was being co-ordinated through a Buckinghamshire framework called the Buckinghamshire Cohesion and Equalities Scheme. The South Bucks Strategy would provide the context and key priorities for South Bucks to inform the countywide scheme;
- Housing Association had been approached but unfortunately L & Q had been missed off the list;
- Despite comments from Members Mental Health, Physical Disability and Learning Difficulties would remain as one group;
- The implementation Group meets every 6 months with the sub-groups meeting every 2 months or as required.

RESOLVED that: -

- (1) the report; Strategy 2009 - 2012 and Audit be noted;
- (2) A glossary be included in any final documentation;
- (3) the consultation timeframe be 2 months;
- (4) Rachael Winfield would be emailed direct with any comments on the strategy as soon as possible after consulting with their individual Town / Parish Councils or Partnership Groups;
- (5) the wider community and stakeholders be consulted on the strategy;

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- (6) A series of focus groups/1:1 meetings be held with a cross section of groups;
- (7) a survey be sent to community groups and partners (including the Members of the South Bucks Partnership);
- (8) the consultation be promoted on the SBDC website and through South Bucks Report;
- (9) Feedback on the findings of the consultation be disseminated to Members and the finalised Cohesion and Inequalities Strategy be distributed;
- (10) an update be provided on the progress of the Action Plan implementation.

38. SOUTH BUCKS SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY - FINAL DRAFT

The Partnership considered the final draft of the South Bucks Sustainable Community Strategy from which it was noted that the previous Community Strategy - The Shape of Things to Come - South Bucks 2006 - 2016 had been replaced by this new Sustainable Community Strategy, which would be regularly refreshed through consultation, to ensure that the Council continued to work towards what the residents want South Bucks to be by 2026.

RESOLVED that: -

- (1) Members would email Alex Rowland direct on alex.rowland@southbucks.gov.uk by the end of the month following the Workshop to be held on 20 July, with any further comments on the emerging outcomes;
- (2) The new Sustainable Community Strategy for South Bucks be adopted by the Partnership and published as soon as possible after the end of July 2009.

39. ANNUAL REPORT

The Partnership considered the Annual report of the South Bucks Partnership the contents of which were noted.

RESOLVED that the Annual report for South Bucks be adopted by the Partnership published and distributed as soon as possible

40. BUSINESS CHALLENGE FUND

Lynne Cairns, Bucks Economic and Learning Partnership, confirmed that the Business challenge fund had pledged £100,000 to support businesses in Buckinghamshire. Through the fund, grants of up to £5,000 would be awarded to the successful applicants. Two bids had been forthcoming from business in South Bucks one of which had been successful in getting through to the second stage.

41. DATES and TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Members noted that the future meetings of the South Bucks Partnership would be held on Wednesdays, commencing at 6 00 p.m. as follows: -

* Please note dates changed

7 October 2009 - Apologies Bob Slater

*27 January 2010 21 April 2010

*14 July 2010 6 October 2010

to be held in South Bucks District Council's Council Chamber, Capswood, Oxford Road, Denham, Bucks.

42. TERMINATION OF MEETING

The meeting having commenced at 6.00 p.m. terminated at 7.35p.m.