



Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th January 2011

Present:

Cllr Carole Gandy (Chair)	Redditch Borough Council
Cllr Mike Braley	Redditch Borough Council
Cllr Graham Vickery	Redditch Borough Council
Kevin Dicks	Redditch Borough Council
Sue Hanley	Redditch Borough Council/Chair RCSP
Hugh Bennett	Redditch Borough Council
Ruth Bamford	Redditch Borough Council
Helen Broughton	Redditch Borough Council
Trish Burton	NEW College
Cllr Barry Gandy	Worcestershire County Council
Pete Sugg	Worcestershire County Council
Lee McKenzie	Redditch Community Forum
Ian Joseph	West Mercia Police
Ann Sowton	BARN
Peter Fryers	Worcestershire Primary Care Trust

In attendance: Susan Tasker (minutes), John Edwards – Worcestershire County Council (item 1-3.a)

1. **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

Cllr Carole Gandy welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were noted for Angie Burnett, Angie Heighway, John Callaghan, Maggie Collins (Bryan).

2. **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true record. The following matters were arising.

Sue reported that Angie Heighway would be the RBC representative on the **Health and Wellbeing Group**

Hugh reported that he had met with officers about **Church Hill Centre interrelated issues** including the bus lanes. A multiagency group had been set up to take this forward.

Osprey House/New College – Trish said a positive article had appeared on the front page of local paper.

Areas of Highest Need – there had been no alternative suggestions for a snappier name.

Future Agenda item – Carole asked that Judith Willis be invited to the next meeting to update on Sure Start/Children's Centre (as per minutes of meeting held on 16th December).

ACTION: Helen

3. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY (SCS) AND ACTION PLANS

Hugh drew the Board's attention to the draft Strategy and Action Plan. He explained that the Strategy had been written to solely concentrate on the priorities of education, health, the economy and areas of deprivation.

Graham questioned the total population figure quoted in the document as it was different to the figure used in the Core Strategy. Helen informed the Board that the figure used was the 2009 Mid Estimates provided by the Office of National Statistics. Helen agreed to contact Planning to ensure consistency of the figures and to list the source as a footnote.

ACTION: HELEN/HUGH/RUTH

Graham also remarked on the comments made through public consultation regarding the buses. Carole said it had been a major issue emerging from consultation that where events were taking place people could struggle to reach them due to a lack of buses. It was noted that as part of the Abbey Stadium opening there would be a need to look at transport issues to ensure young people had access.

Kevin pointed out that the section detailing information on the economic priority did not contain information on the work already taking place to address this priority area. He requested that the section be amended to reflect current work taking place.

ACTION: HELEN/HUGH

Carole said she felt the three issues (jobs, education and health) in the document were reflective of issues raised through the public consultation and it was not for the Board members to decide differently.

Hugh explained that whilst the aim was to make inroads in three years, the vision was longer term i.e. 10 years. Ruth suggested it should be a longer period such as the same timeframe as for the Core Strategy and within that action plans breaking into short/medium/long term targets. It was agreed that the vision would be long term over 26 years but that a refresh should be undertaken every three years when any new/amended priorities could be built in.

Sue H asked for an update on the Worcestershire-wide SCS and the links the Redditch SCS would have to this. Hugh understood the local SCS would be summarised into 4 pages to be appended to the Worcestershire SCS, however the full document would be the local working/business plan. As Maggie was not at the meeting the exact position was unable to be confirmed. Helen said she understood that Worcestershire County Council was in the process of mapping the priorities of all district LSPs. Peter Fryers added that it was important to know how the priorities would be mapped across and how different district priorities could form key priorities for Worcestershire. Peter suspected that the PCT would be more likely to sign up to the Worcestershire wide version (with separate local area sections within that), rather than each separate one. Carole commented that the reason she was keen to retain a separate Local Partnership was that it focused on Redditch, although that may not be the view / way ahead for other areas.

Carole commented that since Amanda had left there had been no representation from the Kingfisher Centre and that it was important that representation was maintained given the economic priorities of the Partnership. Ruth said they have been closely involved in Town

Centre Strategy work and Town Centre Partnership and she could ask them to send a representative. Carole asked Ruth to invite them.

ACTION : RUTH

The way in which Theme Groups reported to the Board was discussed. Hugh asked if there was any preferred method that the Board received updates. It was agreed that written updates were preferred so that anyone who was unable to attend the meeting still received the information.

The Board discussed the Theme Groups of the Partnership and their membership. Peter felt that the membership needed to be broader on the theme groups. There was some discussion about the need for a group to take forward the work of the economic priority. Hugh said he would look at the groups to ensure the right people were attending.

It was agreed that Hugh and Helen would update the SCS as per comments made.

ACTION: HELEN

3a. Educational Achievement Action plan

John Edwards introduced himself as Head of Educational Achievement at Worcestershire County Council. John explained that whilst educational attainment was lower in Redditch, the pace of improvement had been in line nationally. John explained that the new baccalaureate indicator (5 GCSEs including English, maths, science and humanities) had proved interesting as some schools who had previously scored well in 'attainment' were scoring lower on this indicator.

Results had improved but he stressed that it was important to decide where comparisons were made against (statistical neighbours, Worcestershire or nationally). John explained it was important to look at all but in particular to compare the level and progress against the rest of Worcestershire.

He went on to explain that with regard to improving literacy and numeracy, there had been – better progress at 16 years than 11 years. There was some concern about the low numbers of girls aged 11 not achieving highly enough in maths.

Carole agreed there was some good news and that a balanced view needed to be taken. Carole said that previously the Board had asked that a survey be undertaken to establish where and why parents were choosing to send their children to other schools outside of Redditch. John confirmed that this piece of work was being undertaken by officers at the County.

Barry was concerned where schools receive pupils from good schools, they could coast through the next school but not improve, which may not show up on the figures. John acknowledged this.

The Board discussed whether or not the name of a school made an impact on a parent's choice of school. The changes in funding were highlighted as a concern for pupil attainment. NEW College received pupils from all schools of different levels of attainment but there were resources to help those pupils that need more support; however that support had been cut significantly. A lot of pupils attending the College received the Education Maintenance Allowance; with this benefit now being cut it was noted that this may deter some pupils from pursuing further education.

Lee mentioned that Sandycroft had secured additional tutors for pupils in Redditch outside of school time. There had been a large number of people from deprived areas wanting to take up places for their children. It had been oversubscribed and many hardship cases had been seen. Ruth asked if there was anything the voluntary sector/organisations could do to help. Lee said that what was really required as private sector / trained teachers. Lee said volunteers may be able to help with homework support. It was agreed that this issue would be discussed outside the meeting.

ACTION: Carole/Ruth/Lee/Ann

Barry mentioned the Pupil Premium and the extra support for pupils which could be gained through this especially through free school meals scheme. This could bring in enough funding for extra support. Barry suggested that parents should be encouraged to apply even if they do not take up the meals. John said letters are already going out to parents to urge them to apply for this.

Kevin asked if there was enough in the action plan that was education focussed. John said that there was not and he would work with Helen/ Hugh to amend it.

ACTION: John/Helen/Hugh

3b. Health Action Plan

There was nothing more to add.

3c. Economy Action Plan

Ruth introduced the Action Plan and explained that it mainly consisted of actions being delivered by the RBC Economic Development team.

Graham commented that the item on job clubs appeared to be bringing back the REDDI Centre. Carole disagreed, saying that this is more a jobs club with help / support for getting a job, not courses which was what the REDDI Centre became. Lee said Sandycroft had established similar jobs clubs and that different people using them were at different points with need different needs, which must be taken into account. Lee said job clubs needed to be age specific, given the varying experience of needs.

Peter suggested that a health intervention project focussed on unemployed people could be established. There was evidence that employability increased for people who were fitter and healthier.

It was pointed out that the plan needed updating as Business Link was due to close. The Chamber of Commerce, Federation of Small Businesses and WCC also had responsibility for delivering actions so the Action Plan should be reflective of any work these organisations were undertaking.

Trish explained that Business link was coming up with a scheme and the College would be talking to Ruth about this. There was also a campaign for employers to take on apprenticeships, so Trish agreed to speak to Ruth regarding these issues. Ruth commented that there had been little progress regarding apprentices for the Abbey Stadium Project. Carole had the details of the person involved in the Abbey Stadium project.

ACTION: Carole/Ruth/Trish would chase this

Peter questioned how many of the actions were truly 'adding value' and occurring because of the Partnership, rather than what individual organisations would be delivering anyway. Pete Sugg commented that on education, a lot was happening because of the red flag and only because of the partnership.

3d. Areas of Highest Need

Carole mentioned the carol service/PACT meeting which took place in December was well attended and the first community event for a long time.

Once the strategy had been agreed, targets/performance measures and reporting need to be determined.

ACTION: Angie/Liz W

4. STATE OF THE BOROUGH CONFERENCE

Hugh suggested that a launch event for the Strategy should take place in April with all partners in Redditch. It was suggested that feedback could be given at the event on education and health issues. It was agreed that the event should take place mainly in the daytime.

The Board discussed who the event was aimed at – stakeholders or the public. Carole asked what the purpose of the event was – was it to be focussed on the public or partners. It was agreed that the event should focus on engaging with partners.

Sue suggested that something was needed to encourage people to attend. Peter suggested that each agency should have a stall (i.e. food lunchboxes, food swaps). The possibility of drama or performing arts/Indigo arts was also discussed. Ann suggested that as it was after the latest grants round the voluntary sector provide information about what they were doing to fit with the priorities of the Partnership. Peter suggested that each person needed to have something to go away with – individual actions. It was agreed that in the first instance Hugh and Helen would work up a plan to circulate to Board members before the next meeting.

ACTION: Hugh & Helen

Trish said Cllr Jane Potter was organising a jobs fair hosted at the college, to give pupils information on careers to see what skills and qualifications they need to develop; however there had been a lack of interest from local employers. There was a list of occupations they still needed representatives for and Hugh would distribute this to Board members to see if they could help fill some of the spaces.

ACTION: Hugh

Ruth had previously raised idea of compiling a list of all the events Partners are putting on to make sure there is a co-ordinated /managed involvement of these.

Mike raised the concern that if this event was for first school children, that they were far too young to benefit from this. Trish explained that there was a strategic group meeting to discuss it and if anyone has any comments/ questions they should contact Jane Potter directly.

It was agreed that an update on the careers fair should be circulated to the Board.

ACTION: Helen/Hugh

Whilst glad something was happening, Kevin raised concern that the Board had not been briefed by WCC on this event.

5. THEME GROUP UPDATES

5a. Local Children's Partnership

Barry explained that the last meeting was cancelled but that the implementation of the Action Plan would be discussed at the next meeting.

5b. Economic / Town Centre Partnership

Ruth informed that it was progressing well. Christmas Carol/events had been held in the town centre to encourage people to visit. These events would be built upon in future.

6. COMMUNICATIONS AND CONSULTATION

Hugh asked about other events taking place. Ruth commented that the Core Strategy consultation started in January, together with consultation on landscaping.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Judith Willis – presentation on Children's Centres evaluation.