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SOCIAL FORUM

29 November 2007 – 1.30 pm

PRESENT:

Representing Great Yarmouth Sports Partnership:
Jim West (Chairman)

Representing Great Yarmouth Borough Council:
Simon Baker, Naji Darwish, Karline Edmonds and David Stannard

Representing Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT:
Lyn Blizzard and Bernard Williamson

Representing Great Yarmouth Community Advice Bureau:
Marie Peck

Representing GFS Platform:
Sue Battersby

Representing Boroughwide Churches Forum:
Adrian Barnes

Representing Disability Forum
Lindsay Seward

Representing Rural Partnership:
Chris Barlow

Representing the LSP:
Tim Leonard

Representing Community Connections:
Trish Aydin and Jacki Southam

Representing GY People:
Alan Ellison and Nicholas Davey

Representing Norfolk Constabulary:
Nick Russell

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor B Collins, Councillor J Holmes, Mark Burns, Paul Cheeseman (VSP) and Carol Congreve.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 June 2007 were confirmed.

3. MATTERS ARISING

It was noted that there were no matters arising from the above minutes.

4. COMMUNITY HOUSING BOARD MEMBERSHIP

The Housing Support Services Manager for Great Yarmouth Community Housing reported that the Community Housing Service was set up in April 2007 to manage all aspects of the Council's housing stock. A Community Housing Board had been created to offer advice and to monitor the performance of the service along with offering community cohesion through tenant participation. The Board consisted of six Councillors, three tenant representatives and two independent representatives.

The Housing Board were asking the Social Forum to consider their application for two places on the Forum, one for an Officer and one for a tenant representative. The LSP Officer stated that as the PCT had two places on the LSP Executive consideration should be given to this application. A Member asked how the Community Housing Board would fit in with the Housing Action Group who was already a Member of the Social Forum and would their aims and objectives conflict.

The Housing Support Services Manager stated that the service could look into linking in with the Housing Action Group. A Member of the Forum suggested that they meet outside of the Forum to discuss any issues to ensure that there is no conflict at the meetings.

RESOLVED:

That the Community Housing Board be allocated one voting place on the Forum and one co-opted place.

5. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

The LSP Consultant informed the Forum that there were three areas that he wished to talk about:

(1) The Sustainable Community Strategy

The Great Yarmouth Sustainable Community Strategy would be used to form part of the Local Area Agreement which is how local authorities would link in together to secure funding. Informal Community Consultation would be carried out in December 2007 with formal consultation commencing in January 2008 which would give rationale to the document. The three themes were taken from the 2020 Vision. The strategy should provide "A Sense of Place" detailing what Great Yarmouth is about.

(2) What is the Sustainable Community Strategy for?

The Sustainable Community Strategy is a requirement of a Government White Paper and this will feed into the Local Area Agreement. The seven District Councils in Norfolk's Local Strategic Partnerships (LSP) would all be submitting their priorities to the County LSP team. The priorities would then be used to produce County-wide objectives and priorities which would be submitted to the Government office for negotiation.

(3) Content of the Sustainable Community Strategy

In order for the Sustainable Community Strategy to be effective the content needs to come from the Community. In January 2008 the Great Yarmouth's community consultation will be launched and the Priory have

agreed to collate the results. It was reported that the following events would be visited as part of the public consultation:

“Enough Said” event – 17 December 2007 – to consult young people.

Neighbourhood Management Gift Wrapping Service – This opportunity would be used to consult with local residents.

4 February 2008 – Martham Village Hall

6 February 2008 – Magdalen Church

8 February 2008 – The Priory, Great Yarmouth

The LSP Officer stated the Sustainable Communities Strategy would be delivered via the LAA and so there was a need to ensure that all key areas that required funding were included as if they were not there could be a chance that funding may not be gained.

A PCT representative asked if the document would be sent out for public consultation in its present form. It was suggested that the document was wordy and less words could be used along with pictures. It was reported that Community Connections and the Voluntary Sector Partnership were guiding people through the document. It was suggested that the document could be placed on the LSP website in a format that was clearer to answer with only the main questions or points being asked. The LSP Consultant reported that the full Sustainable Communities Strategy document was currently on the LSP website and work was going on to give it more emphasis.

A Member of the Forum pointed out that there was a need to include the requirement for additional schools in the Borough otherwise this would affect people moving to the area in the future. It was stated that this is included under a general proposal to support education and training in Theme 3c.

A Member asked what the definition of affordable housing was and the LSP Consultant stated that this was an area that Great Yarmouth Borough Council was looking into.

It was reported that Community Connections, the Voluntary Sector Partnership and the Priory had all advised on the process for carrying out consultation on the Sustainable Communities Strategy.

The local priorities would be identified by mid-January 2008 with the local area agreement going live from June 2008.

A Meeting will be held on 4 December 2007 for the Norfolk County Strategic Board and the Norfolk County Management Board.

The LSP Officer pointed out that the whole of Norfolk would have 35 targets with additional local targets including those for Great Yarmouth.

6. COMMUNITY COHESION

Trish Aydin gave an update on the Community Cohesion report stating that a meeting had been held in 2006 which had concluded that there was a need to look at funding for Community Cohesion along with identifying a strap line and a logo.

A Member of the Forum asked if the following could be included in the four broad working definitions:

Community Cohesion enables the Community to contribute to what happens in Great Yarmouth.

7. HEALTH PRIORITIES

Bernard Williamson one of the PCT representatives reported on the document attached to the agenda stating that this brought together the service strategies from Great Yarmouth and Waveney ensuring the correct direction for the PCT over the next five years.

Consultation had taken place over a 13 week period which started in June and ended in September 2007. Residents were interviewed individually as well as public meetings being attended and poster and leaflets being distributed. Residents from 12 years of age through to 96 years of age were consulted through various methods.

Lord Darzi is currently carrying out a Government review and as a result of the findings the document could be amended. Glossy copies of the document would be produced after June 2008.

It was reported that investment would be made into Paediatric Physio, Life Style Services and Support Services.

Jackie Southam introduced herself as one of three Health Trainers working for Community Connections who were funded until 31 March 2008. Their role is to attend schools and events to promote Women's Well Being, Nutrition, Exercise, Sexual Health and Drugs. A Community Mental Health Action Group had been created. One to one sessions were being offered to look into eating disorders and health improvements who would then be sign posted to the relevant agencies for further help. She reported that she would be attending the Positive Health in Youth today event (PHIT) along with the "enough said" event to be held at the Arena. The PCT representatives reported that they were looking into the possibility of funding being provided to the Health Trainers posts.

8. CONSULTATION

Trish Aydin reported that she would like a consultation strategy to be developed with the LSP investigating other agencies and partners that could be involved in the consultation process. It was agreed that an agreed process should be in place for all stakeholders of the LSP.

9. REPORTS/COMMENTS FROM GREAT YARMOUTH PEOPLE AND THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

Adrian Barnes reported on the next joint LSP and Great Yarmouth Event which would be on Saturday, 15 March 2008 from 2.00 pm – 7.00 pm at the Marina Centre and would be called "Great Yarmouth Together" and would include a cohesion theme. When setting up the event the organisers had considered what attractions could be offered to residents in order for them to attend and a Memories of Great Yarmouth history talk would be held from 2.00 pm – 3.00 pm, an X-Factor talent show called "Great Yarmouth's got talent" would allow residents of all ages to have two minutes to perform an act and would be held from 3.30 pm until 5.30 pm 6.00 pm – 7.00 pm an awards ceremony would be held with the Mayor of Great Yarmouth handing out prizes. Free Swimming passes and entry to the play centre would be handed out and food would be available.

Trish Aydin reported that Great Yarmouth people were developing an action plan and this would be presented to the LSP for their consideration in order to ensure that they were working in line with the LSP.

10. WARM FRONT

The LSP Officer asked the Forum to note the documents attached to the agenda which included an application form for funding.

11. BME HOUSING NEEDS REPORT

In the absence of the Head of Community Services this item was deferred to the next meeting.

12. WORKING GROUP UPDATES

(a) Crime

The Crime Reduction Manager reported that the Safer Neighbourhood Teams were working on local issues which would be fed into the Local Area Agreement. A Member of the Forum asked for the crime report to have less figures in the future and more details of work being carried out in the Borough.

(b) Housing

Members were asked to note the report tabled.

(c) Health

Lynn Blizzard detailed the report attached to the additional papers on the agenda. It was reported that the Voluntary Sector Partnership and Community Connections in Great Yarmouth had been tasked with finding co-opted members for the new Great Yarmouth and Waveney Partnership for Health. A sub-group would be set up to discuss priorities and housing indicators.

(d) Sports Partnership

It was reported that the CIF application had now been submitted and was at the second stage and it was hoped that £38,000 would be gained with a $\frac{1}{3}$ of the contribution going towards promoting sport, health and its benefits.

(e) Financial Wellbeing

The LSP Officer reported that a meeting had not been held for a while and that one would be held in the future.

13. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The Forum were informed that any Member could ask for an item to be placed on the agenda.

The following items were requested as future items:

(a) Social Issues resulting from Flooding

A Member asked if someone could attend a future meeting to explain the process and procedures involved in flooding incidents.

(b) Local Area Agreements

(c) PCT Priorities

14. FUTURE DATES

The Committee were asked to note the dates for meetings in 2008 as 6 March 2008, 5 June 2008, 4 September 2008 and 4 December 2008.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Social Forum would take place on Thursday, 6 March 2008.

16. CLOSURE OF MEETING

The meeting ended at 3.40 pm.