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SOCIAL FORUM

7 June 2007 – 1.30 pm

PRESENT:

Representing Great Yarmouth Sports Partnership:
Jim West

Representing Great Yarmouth Borough Council:
Barry Cunniffe, Mark Burns, Peter McGuinness and Sarah Davis

Representing Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT:
Lyn Blizzard

Representing Great Yarmouth Community Advice Bureau:
Simon Baker

Representing Great Yarmouth Voluntary Sector Partnership:
Paul Cheeseman

Representing Julian Housing:
Sue Read

Representing GFS Platform:
Sue Battersby

Representing GYROS:
Des McKeating

Representing Great Yarmouth Community Trust:
Carole Reilly

Representing Norfolk County Council:
John Holmes

Representing Boroughwide Churches Forum:
Adrian Barnes

Representing North Yarmouth Community Partnership:
Mike Hewitt

Representing Disability Forum:
Lindsay Seward

Representing Rural Partnership:
Chris Barlow

Representing the LSP:
Tim Leonard

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

In accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, the Forum was asked to appoint Mark Burns as Chairman for the 2007/08 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED:

That Mark Burns be appointed as Chairman for the 2007/08 Municipal Year.

2. REPLACEMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

The Forum was asked to appoint a Vice-Chairman for the 2007/08 Municipal Year and it was noted that only one nomination had been received from the Voluntary Community Sector, namely Jim West.

RESOLVED:

That Jim West be appointed as Vice-Chairman for the 2007/08 Municipal Year.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from J Leak, Councillors B Collins, B Peck, B Williamson and J Shrimplin, and T Aydin.

4. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 March 2007 were confirmed subject to the name of the person representing the Rural Partnership being amended to Chris Barlow and the first paragraph of Item 9 relating to Great Yarmouth Large Casino being amended to reflect that the "Duty of Care" was on the Local Authority.

5. MATTERS ARISING

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

6. WORKSHOP SESSIONS RESPONSES

The Forum received a document produced by Great Yarmouth People which gave an analysis of the questions asked at Workshop Sessions relating to this Forum's future. Adrian Barnes reported that it was felt Great Yarmouth People should be a partner rather than just a Working Group of the Social Forum. They should be able to influence the Forum's agenda and be helped to achieve that with minutes and agendas being available sooner and electronically which would then enable GYP Sub Groups to access the information prior to meetings. The LSP Officer stated that he felt there were two main issues, one of which was communication/lobbying and this could be taken on board. The second was the role and remit of the Social Forum and it was suggested that a decision on this should be deferred until the Autumn when guidance on the new LAA's would hopefully have been received. The Senior Member Services Officer reported that generally all agendas for LSP meetings were now placed on the website as soon as the hard copies of the agendas were despatched.

RESOLVED:

That a decision on the future of the Social Forum be deferred until after guidance on the new LAA's was received.

7. COMMUNITY LEGAL AND ADVICE CENTRES (CLACS) AND COMMUNITY LEGAL AND ADVICE NETWORKS (CLANS)

The Forum received a document giving an introduction for potential joint funders and contractors in relation to the CLACS and CLANS. Simon Baker reported further on the likely changes to the Legal Aid system and it was noted that Great Yarmouth contracts ended in March but would be rolled over. Following meetings with Great Yarmouth Borough Council and Waveney District Council, an informal consortium had been developed and had been approached by the regional body of the LSC on the possibility of creating a CLAN as they recognised the potential of sub-regional element. He added, however, that if Norwich City gained unitary status this could affect any proposals. It was pointed out that there was a need to recognise that expertise in this area was provided through the Voluntary Community Sector and they should, therefore, be involved in discussions. Simon Baker reported that the worst case scenario was that the consortium would lose the contract and there would not be any Debt/Legal Aid advice in Great Yarmouth. It was suggested that a letter be written on behalf of the Social Forum and LSP Board in support of the continuation of Legal Aid and Debt advice in Great Yarmouth.

8. GREAT YARMOUTH AND WAVENEY PCT

The Forum noted a letter from Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT in relation to the commissioning of Public Health and Social Care issues. The LSP Officer reported that he had represented the LSP at a recent meeting and the issue was moving forward but he requested views on local priorities where a joint approach could be taken.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT's letter be noted and any views on local priorities be forwarded to the LSP Officer as soon as possible.

9. WORKING GROUP UPDATES**(a) Crime**

It was agreed that this update would be deferred to the next meeting.

(b) Housing

It was noted that a Sub-Regional Housing Market Assessment would hopefully be finished in July and a report be made back to the next meeting. The Decent Homes Project was going well with almost 1,000 people being helped and 2,000 vulnerable households being identified in the Borough. It was noted, however, that demand was outstripping supply and there was a need to target the funding available. The Chairman reported that Region had been lobbied to try to obtain more funding for next year. Reference was made to the Home Support/Floating Support programme which had six local providers and was a five year programme linked to supporting people. A new domestic violence refuge was almost completed and would be opening shortly. The former Bretts building was nearing completion and would house 16 to 18 year old homeless people with on-site support. Work on the former Boultons site would start shortly. In relation to the Home Select sub-regional scheme, Members were informed that Waveney District Council would be adopting the scheme with some caveats and this would offer more choice and resources could be shared. Community Connections and Great Yarmouth People had agreed to help with Impact Equality Assessments to ensure that Borough Council schemes met the needs of the diverse communities within the Borough.

(c) Health

The Forum received an update from the Great Yarmouth Partnership for Health which included details of the MEND Programme and Community Nutrition Project.

(d) Sports Partnership

The Forum received an update from the Great Yarmouth Sports Partnership which gave the results of a national survey of people to determine the frequency and intensity of physical activity across the population. The survey showed that Great Yarmouth was at the bottom of local authority areas whose residents engaged in moderate levels of physical activity three or more times a week. The progress report also included the latest details in relation to the Sport and Leisure Trust.

(e) Financial Wellbeing

The Forum received a brief up-date on the work of the Financial Wellbeing Working Group which included the progress of NRF projects allocated funding by the Group.

It was reported that the Working Group was looking at an alignment to the Economic Forum and would be discussing a link with Corporate Connect with Business in the Community.

10. INTRODUCTION TO WARM FRONT

Clare Moore gave a presentation on the Government funded Warm Front Scheme which aimed to reduce fuel poverty. It was noted that £457,000 had been spent in the Borough for central heating since the scheme had commenced. Clare reported that £2,700 was a maximum for insulation and gas/electric heating with £4,000 for oil. A further £300 grant was available for those over 60 who were not eligible for the normal Warm Front Scheme ie were not on Income Support related benefits. Peter McGuinness reported that Safe at Home referred clients to Warm Front and could also assist with the top-up costs for eligible clients. It was suggested that a link to the Warm Front web-site be placed on the LSP website.

RESOLVED:

That Clare Moore be thanked for her informative presentation on Warm Front and the LSP Officer be asked to ensure that a link be placed on the LSP website.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Social Forum would take place on Thursday, 6 September 2007.

12. CLOSURE OF MEETING

The meeting ended at 3.15 pm.