

NORTH DEVON COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

Minutes of a meeting of the NORTH DEVON COMMUNITY ALLIANCE held at the Cedars Inn, Bickington Road, Barnstaple on Monday 19th April 2004 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT: Representing

Archdeaconry of Barnstaple: Reverend M. Jones
Barnstaple Town Council: Councillor Hawes
Community Council of Devon: Mr J. Talbot
Devon and Cornwall Constabulary: Chief Inspector Nutt and Inspector
Woodley
Devon County Council: Councillors Cann, Fowler (substitute for
Councillor Knight) and Spear
Devon and Cornwall Learning Skills Council: Mr J. Peart
Ilfracombe Town Council: Councillor Thompson
Job Centre Plus: Mr R. Screech
Local Community Alliances: Councillor Pearson, Mrs Sewell and Mrs
Webber
National Trust: Mr S. Mulberry
North Devon College: Mr D. Trueman
North Devon Homes: Mr J. Keyes
North Devon Voluntary Action Forum: Mrs P. Jackson
North Devon Volunteering Development Agency: Ms A. Brenton
Northern Devon Healthcare Trust: Dr J. Roberts
North Devon District Council: Councillors Prowse and Mrs Shapland
(Chairman)
North Devon Economic Partnership: Mr D. Whiteley
Parish Councils: Councillor Fraser-Smith
Partnership NHS Trust: Mr T. Hiller
Voluntary Sector: Mr B. Allen and Ms W. Butler
Westcountry Ambulance Service NHS Trust: Ms C. King

Officers:

Devon County Council

Ms A. Boyd - Assistant County Community Strategy Officer

North Devon District Council

S. Pitcher - Executive Director, B. Holme - Community Development
Manager, Ms B. Venn - Housing Enabling Manager and Miss B.
Greenslade - Member Services Co-ordinator.

1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs Shapland be appointed Chairman of the North Devon Community Alliance until re-appointments are made in the next municipal year.

2 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 26th January 2004 (circulated previously) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3 MATTERS ARISING

(a) Devon Compact "Hub"

The Alliance considered a report by Mrs P. Jackson (circulated previously) regarding the Devon Compact "Hub".

The Alliance agreed the following:

- (i) that the progress report be noted;
- (ii) that a progress report on the Devon Compact "Hub" be brought to a future meeting of the Alliance;
- (iii) that Alison Boyd continue to represent the statutory organisations on the Devon Compact "Hub" for the time being until such time as the Alliance appoints a representative to serve on the "Hub".

(b) Appeals Service

The Alliance agreed to consider a paper by Ms W. Butler (tabled) regarding the suspension of the use of the appeals venue located at the Civic Centre, Barnstaple.

She reported that the Citizens Advice Bureaux had already responded in unison to the consultation to object to the proposal and she urged other organisations to also write letters to object to the proposals. She stated that one of the reasons that the Appeals Service gave to suspend the use of the venue at the Civic Centre, Barnstaple was the inadequacies of the venue. She informed the Alliance that she had suggested several alternative venues in Barnstaple in the letter which she had sent in response to the consultation.

The Alliance agreed the following:

- (i) that the all organisations on the Alliance and the local Members of Parliament be requested to write to the Appeals Service and object to the proposal to suspend the use of the appeals venue located at the Civic Centre, Barnstaple;
- (ii) that the Alliance also write a letter to the Appeals Service to object to the proposal stating that it did not accept the reason given that the Civic Centre was an unsuitable

venue as other alternative venues were available within Barnstaple.

4 DEVON TALK

The Alliance considered a paper by the Assistant County Community Strategy Officer (circulated previously) regarding Devon Talk.

Councillor Prowse raised concern that too many documents and newsletters were being produced and sent to members of the public by the local authorities.

The Alliance agreed the following:

- (a) that a Communications Sub-Group be formed from appropriate members of the Alliance to investigate this issue and seek a budget for this initiative and that the following Members be appointed to serve on the Sub-Group:

Dr. J. Roberts, Patrick Hamilton, Councillor Mrs Sewell, Inspector Woodley, Roy Gardner (on behalf of North Devon College).

- (b) that partners be requested to examine their own communication needs to see whether producing a joint document would present any opportunity for cost savings.

5 "CHOOSING HEALTH" CONSULTATION PAPER

The Alliance considered a paper by Liz Plastow (tabled) regarding "Choosing Health" consultation paper.

Councillor Mrs Shapland reported that Liz Plastow was unable to attend the meeting. Liz Plastow had informed her that a "user friendly" questionnaire would be produced shortly as part of the consultation exercise. She requested that Members of the Alliance be invited to respond to the Consultation Paper when the questionnaires had been produced.

The Alliance agreed the following:

- (a) that Members of the Alliance inform Miss B. Greenslade (who would then inform Liz Plastow) if they wished to receive a copy of the questionnaire in response to the consultation paper "Choosing Health".

6 TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR HOUSING SUB GROUP

The Alliance considered a paper by Ms B. Venn (circulated previously) regarding the Terms of Reference for the Housing Sub-Group.

Ms B. Venn reported that the following Members had been appointed to serve on the Housing Sub-Group: Reverend M Jones, Councillor Pearson, Councillor Thompson, Ms E. Plastow, Ms L. Hitchins, Councillor Mrs Webber, Mr G. Sherburn and Mr B. Allen.

Further nominations from the Alliance were made to serve on the Sub-Group which were as follows: Mr J. Keyes (representing North Devon Homes), a nomination to represent older people and Councillor Mrs Chesters (representing North Devon District Council).

In response to a question from Mr J. Talbot, Ms B. Venn reported that she already worked closely with the Planning Department of North Devon District Council and with the Planning Department of the Exmoor National Park and was aware of their issues regarding housing. Tenants would be consulted on housing issues through the Registered Social Landlords tenants groups.

S. Pitcher reported that the Housing Sub-Group would supersede other housing groups which had been established previously.

The Alliance agreed that the proposed Terms of Reference for the Housing Sub-Group be agreed subject to task number 5 being amended to read "to recommend local priorities for the use of the second home council tax money to North Devon District Council and Devon County Council".

7 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

The Alliance agreed to adjourn the meeting at 11.00 am for 15 minutes for a coffee break.

8 REVIEWING NORTH DEVON FIRST

The Alliance considered a paper by I. Hobbs (circulated previously) regarding Reviewing North Devon First.

The meeting adjourned to workshops and considered the priorities for the four themes within the Strategy "Safe and Health Communities", "Learning and Working Communities", "Living and Thriving Communities" and "Fairness and Engagement" to enable Members to confirm or adjust the priorities contained within the action plan which was attached to the report.

The Alliance agreed the following:

- (a) that the achievement report and revised action plan be prepared for publication following discussion at the meeting of the Alliance;
- (b) that a performance plan be prepared by the Alliance Support Group to support the delivery of the priority actions;
- (c) that the Alliance work programme be developed to contribute to and inform these actions;

- (d) that the issues relating to financial contributions be noted and discussed at a future meeting of the Alliance.

9 A COMMUNITY STRATEGY FOR DEVON

The Alliance considered two Devon Strategic Partnership documents entitled "Focus on Devon" (tabled) and "A Community Strategy for Devon" (circulated previously).

S. Pitcher reported that an amended version of the document entitled "A Community Strategy for Devon" had been produced on 19th April 2004.

The Alliance agreed the following:

- (a) that the Devon Strategic Partnership document entitled "Focus on Devon" be welcomed and that the Alliance work towards the production of North Devon version of the document;
- (b) that the following comments be made on the Devon Strategic Partnership document entitled "A Community Strategy for Devon":
- That the Strategy needs to be more targeted and comprehensive
 - The Alliance urged the production of a targeted Community Strategy which identified priorities for action over the next two years
 - That each section of the Strategy include a lobbying section
- (c) that Members of the Alliance be requested to inform Mr E. Farwell of any comments on the "A Community Strategy for Devon" via Miss B. Greenslade and that any comments on the Strategy be considered by the Alliance Support Group prior to being fed back to Mr E. Farwell.

10 STRATEGIC RAIL AUTHORITY CONSULTATION - COMMUNITY RAILWAYS

The Alliance considered a paper by I. Hobbs (circulated previously) regarding the Strategic Rail Authority consultation on "Community Railways".

Members of the Alliance expressed concern regarding trains travelling along the "Tarka Line" not directly linking with other parts of North Devon.

The Alliance agreed the following:

- (a) that Members of the Alliance feed back any comments on the consultation document to the Alliance Support Group;
- (b) that the Alliance Support Group liaise with Devon County Council to develop a strategic response to the consultation document;

- (c) that the Alliance Support Group prepare a formal response to the consultation document on behalf of the Alliance;
- (d) that it be noted that there may be an opportunity in due course for the Alliance and local Community Alliances to participate in any community involvement process.

11 PROPOSAL FOR A WORKSHOP WITH LOCAL COMMUNITY ALLIANCES

The Alliance considered a joint paper by I. Hobbs and B. Holme (circulated previously) regarding a proposal for a workshop with local Community Alliances.

The Alliance agreed to the running of a workshop for all local Community Alliances.

12 NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT

The Alliance considered a joint paper by I. Hobbs and B. Holme (circulated previously) regarding Neighbourhood Management.

B. Holme reported that a Neighbourhood Manager had now been appointed.

The Alliance agreed that Wendy Butler be nominated to sit on the Management Board of the Neighbourhood Management Programme.

13 REPORTS FROM LOCAL COMMUNITY ALLIANCES

The Alliance considered and noted reports of the Local Community Alliances (circulated previously).

14 RESPONSE TO THE NORTH DEVON MARKETING BUREAU TOURISM STRATEGY 2004-2008

The Alliance considered and noted a paper by S. Pitcher (circulated previously) regarding a response to the North Devon Marketing Bureau Tourism Strategy for 2004-2008.

15 SUPPORT FOR RURAL COMMUNITY PLANNING

The Alliance considered a paper by B. Holme (circulated previously) regarding support for Rural Community Planning.

J. Talbot had previously given notice that he wished to ask questions on this item.

In response to those questions, S. Pitcher reported that the Government's timetable for the implementation of the Local Development Frameworks was optimistic. North Devon District Council was currently carrying out work in preparation of the introduction of the Local Development Framework. The community planning process and parish plans would feed into the Local Development Framework.

B. Holme reported that North Devon District Council was advanced in the community development process and community consultation. Four applications had been submitted to the "Vital Villages" programme. If those applications were successful, the funding would cover 32 parishes in the North Devon area.

16 REPAIR

The Alliance noted the leaflet regarding REPAIR (circulated previously).

Councillor Mrs Shapland urged those agencies involved with helping those affected by domestic violence to use this service and to promote it to others.

17 DEVON SOCIAL SERVICES CONTACTS

The Alliance noted a list of contacts for Devon Social Services (circulated previously).

D. Trueman raised concern that the none of the contacts for Devon Social Services were based in the North Devon area.

Chairman

The meeting ended at 12.44 p.m.