

NORTH DEVON COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

Minutes of a meeting of the NORTH DEVON COMMUNITY ALLIANCE held at the Cedars Inn, Bickington Road, Barnstaple on Monday 24th January 2005 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT: Representing

Archdeaconry of Barnstaple: Reverend M. Jones
Barnstaple Town Council: Councillor Hawes
Devon and Cornwall Constabulary: Chief Inspector Nutt
Devon County Council: Councillor Derrick Spear
Devon Health Forum: Mr I. Tearle
Ilfracombe Town Council: Councillor Thompson
Job Centre Plus: Mr K. McIntosh
Local Community Alliances: Mr M. Taylor, Councillors
Mrs C. Bowden, D. Gravell, A. Ridd-
Jones, F Pearson, Mrs C. Sim and
Mrs Webber
Member of Parliament: Mr N. Harvey
National Trust: Mr S. Mulberry
Northern Devon Healthcare Trust: Dr J. Roberts
North Devon District Council: Councillors Prowse and
Mrs Shapland (Chairman)
North Devon Volunteering Development Agency:
Ms A. Brenton
Northern Devon Voluntary Action Forum: Mrs P. Jackson
Parish Councils: Councillor Fraser-Smith
Voluntary Sector: Ms W. Butler and Mrs D. Bracher

Officers:

Devon County Council

I. Hobbs - County Community Strategy Officer and 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, A. Millie - Assistant Environmental Health Manager and Miss B. Greenslade - Member Services Co-ordinator.

Also Present:

Ms F. Swan	Devon Local Authority Support Programme
M. Eibl	National Energy Action - Devon Affordable Warmth Strategy Officer
A. Bell	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty/Countryside Development Officer

Councillor G. Fowler
R. Kane
J. Fletcher-Cullum
H. Thompson

North Devon District Council
North Devon Hospice
North Devon Hospice
North Devon Hospice

49 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 18th October 2004 (circulated previously) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

50 **CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE/MATTERS ARISING**

(a) Devon Strategic Partnership Document on Social Inclusion

Councillor Mrs Shapland reported that the Devon Strategic Partnership had now produced a document on Social Inclusion which had been circulated. She stated that if any Member required a copy of this document to contact Miss B. Greenslade who would arrange for a copy to be sent to them.

(b) Lynmouth Marine Current Turbine Project

Councillor Geoff Fowler, North Devon District Council gave an update on the progress being made on the Lynmouth Marine Current Turbine Project.

He reported that he had attended a presentation given by Martin Wright, Managing Director of Marine Current Turbines Ltd during December 2004. He stated that the presentation was very upbeat and gave very encouraging statistics that had been produced. The turbines were 25% more efficient than expected and four times more efficient than wind. The overall cost effectiveness was approximately the same as for a wind turbine.

He further reported that the next steps for the company was to produce a working model quickly consisting of twin rotors and prove that they could interface with the grid before the company could obtain any of the £50million that the Government was offering potential marine energy providers. He stated that there were two issues that were against the present site which were that the turbines were over 3 kilometres from the nearest grid point which resulted in there being tremendous power loss in the cables and the company was having difficulties in obtaining any decisions out of the Crown Estates whom owned the sea bed. Therefore, the company would probably move outside the Crown Estates jurisdiction and find a more accessible site for their working model.

He further stated that in respect of Lynmouth, Martin Wright stated that the company was keen to put one of their farms off of Foreland Point and that the existing structure at Lynmouth would remain for another winter to obtain further data. Martin Wright also reported that there were some other marine projects which were being trialled by other syndicates. The Government would assess all of the projects and then select a couple of them to support financially.

Councillor Fowler stated that North Devon District Council had agreed to include the Marine Current Turbine project in its latest Renewable Energy Action Plan.

The Alliance agreed the following:

- (i) that the Marine Current Turbine project be supported;
- (ii) that the Marine Current Turbines Ltd be requested to give a presentation to the Alliance at the appropriate time.
- (c) Consultation on the Hub: Update

Mrs Jackson reported that the document on the "Compact Hub" was currently being finalised and the final document would be presented to the meeting of the Alliance in April 2005.

- (d) Devon Hub

Councillor Mrs Shapland reported that Ms A. Boyd was no longer able to be the statutory representative on the Devon Hub and there would be a need for the statutory agencies to formally appoint a representative to the Devon Hub.

- (e) Joint LSP Environment Workshop - 3rd February 2005

Councillor Mrs Shapland reminded Members that a Joint Local Strategic Partnership Workshop on the environment would be held on 3rd February 2005 at the Durrant House Hotel, Northam.

She also reported that the Support Groups for the Alliance and the Torridge Local Strategic Partnership had met to consider the possibility of merging the two Partnerships together in the future. She stated that there were arguments in favour and against the proposal. She stated that the two Support Groups would continue to consider the proposal and report back to a future meeting of the Alliance.

- (f) Proposed Threat to the Provision of the Ambulance Service in Lynton and Lynmouth

Councillor Mrs Shapland reported the concerns of a fellow Councillor, who represented the Lynton and Lynmouth area, that there was a proposal to remove the provision of the ambulance service in Lynton and Lynmouth.

N. Harvey reported that the Westcountry Ambulance Trust was under financial pressure and would be re-configuring its services in the area and would therefore be reducing its services in some areas. He stated that he was very concerned at the number of services that had been reduced in the Lynton and Lynmouth areas over the years. Lynton and Lynmouth previously had a proper ambulance service located at the hospital, this was then reduced to a Rapid Response Service staffed by a paramedic. The paramedic had now been informed that as from 1st April 2005 he would be relocated to Ilfracombe. Therefore an ambulance would need to travel from either Barnstaple or Ilfracombe to Lynton and Lynmouth which was a 25 minute drive. The Government's target response time was 8 minutes. He stated that the residents of Lynton and Lynmouth deserved the

same service as those that lived within other town centres. He stated that he had spoken to both the Primary Care Trust and the Westcountry Ambulance Trust and asked them to justify the reasons for removing the Rapid Response Service from Lynton and Lynmouth. The Primary Care Trust had stated that it was a matter for the Westcountry Ambulance Trust. The Westcountry Ambulance Trust had stated that they had not yet made a decision on this issue.

Councillor Mrs Bowden stated that the Lynton and Lynmouth Town Council had invited a representative of the Westcountry Ambulance Trust to attend a meeting of the Town Council on 27th January 2005, however, they had declined to attend. The Town Council had been informed that it would be consulted on any proposals after consultation had been carried out with the statutory services.

Councillor Mrs Shapland stated that the issue would be raised at the North Devon District Council's meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 27th January 2005. She stated that she had also requested that the issue be placed on the agenda for a meeting of the Devon County Council's Health Scrutiny.

Councillor Spear stated that the Government had always promised that there would be "rural proofing". The Government needed to be reminded of their promise.

Dr. Roberts stated that the Government's target to treat a person suffering from a heart attack was 20 minutes. She stated that the Westcountry Ambulance Trust delivered this target on behalf of the Hospital. She stated that the Westcountry Ambulance Trust should be asked how it would deliver this Government target in the areas of Lynton and Lynmouth.

Councillor Mrs Webber raised concern that whilst an ambulance was travelling to and from Lynton and Lynmouth it would not be able to go to other areas, therefore other areas of North Devon would suffer.

Inspector Nutt stated that by removing the Rapid Response Service in Lynton and Lynmouth, the services that remained in the area such as the Police were not qualified paramedics and therefore it was likely that there would be a significant number of deaths.

The Alliance agreed the following:

- (i) that a letter be sent to the Primary Care Trust and the Westcountry Ambulance Trust to inform them of the Alliance's concerns regarding their proposals to remove the provision of the Rapid Response Service in Lynton and Lynmouth and requesting that they provide an immediate response;
- (ii) that a copy of the letter be sent to Nick Harvey MP.
- (g) Northern Devon Healthcare Trust: Application for Foundation Status

Dr. Roberts reported that the Northern Devon Healthcare Trust had made a preliminary application for foundation trust status. There was a need for the Trust to assess its own capacity for applying for foundation trust status. If the Trust progressed with the

application, it would carry out a consultation period which would commence during September 2005. She stated that the Alliance would be kept informed of progress made with the application.

51 NORTH DEVON HOUSING STRATEGY

Councillor Mrs Webber reported that the North Devon Housing Strategy had been submitted to the Government Office for the South West and had been assessed as "fit for purpose".

The Alliance received a joint presentation by S. Pitcher and Ms. B. Venn regarding the North Devon Housing Strategy. The solutions to the Strategy needed to be delivered in partnership with other organisations.

Ms B. Venn requested Members to provide her with any feedback on the Strategy to assist with the review of the Strategy.

N. Harvey reported that every surgery he held, at least one third of the people that attended were young people who were unable to purchase a house due to the increase in house prices.

In response to questions from N. Harvey, Ms B. Venn reported that the definition for "affordable" contained within the Housing Strategy was taken from the North Devon Local Plan and that North Devon District Council would be considering including restrictions on planning applications granted regarding the future sale of affordable housing.

In response to a question from N. Harvey, S. Pitcher reported that a table detailing how the receipts from the housing stock had been spent would be circulated to Members of the Alliance with the minutes.

Councillor Prowse stated that North Devon District Council had made a commitment to spend the proceeds from the sale of the Council's housing stock when the Housing Strategy had been produced. However, it would use the proceeds to obtain funding from other sources. There was a need for the Council to work together with the private sector to resolve the housing issues.

The Alliance agreed that a meeting of the Housing Sub-Group be convened as soon as possible and that representatives from other appropriate organisations be invited to attend to consider the issue of how to work together to deliver the outcomes of the North Devon Housing Strategy.

52 AFFORDABLE WARMTH HANDBOOK

The Alliance received a presentation by Ms. F. Swan regarding fuel poverty and the Affordable Warmth Handbook (circulated previously).

In response to a question, A. Millie reported that if any Member was concerned regarding the condition of a privately rented property to contact the Environmental Health Unit of North Devon District Council.

The Alliance agreed that the issues raised regarding fuel poverty be considered by the Housing Sub-Group.

53 LOSS OF SERVICES IN NORTH DEVON

N. Harvey raised concern regarding financial pressures which would be facing public services providers in the next financial year which included the North Devon Primary Care Trust, the Northern Devon Healthcare Trust, the Mental Health Partnership Trust, the Westcountry Ambulance Trust, the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary, Devon County Council and the Victim Support office in Barnstaple.

He further stated that the Victim Support office located in Barnstaple would be closing as a result of financial pressures.

Inspector Nutt also raised concern regarding the closure of the Victim Support office as this organisation also provided a witness support service. The Witness Support Manager post had already been withdrawn and the volunteers had also withdrawn their services. Therefore there would be no witness support provided in North Devon.

S. Mulberry raised concern regarding the provision of lifeguard services on beaches in North Devon. Councillor Prowse explained the Council's position regarding this issue and stated that a lifeguard service would be provided on the beaches at Woolacombe and Croyde during the summer of 2005 as an interim arrangement.

54 NORTH DEVON PRIMARY CARE TRUST

This item was not discussed as Jac Kelly was not in attendance.

55 NEW BEDDED UNIT AT THE NORTH DEVON HOSPICE

The Alliance received a presentation by R. Kane and J. Fletcher-Cullum regarding the new bedded unit at the North Devon Hospice. A copy of the presentation slides and a copy of the Annual Review 2003/04 were tabled.

Councillor Mrs Shapland advised R. Kane to inform Miss B. Greenslade of the dates of the public open days at the North Devon Hospice and these could then be reported at the next meeting of the Alliance in April 2005.

56 SUPPORTING LOCAL COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIPS

The Alliance considered a paper by the North Devon Community Alliance Support Group (circulated previously) regarding Supporting Local Community Planning Partnerships.

The Alliance agreed the following:

- (a) that the investment by partners in a programme to support the Local Community Alliances and improve integration with the North Devon Community Alliance be welcomed;

- (b) that the Support Group establish the project steering group and that regular reports of progress being made be reported to the Alliance;
- (c) that a representative for the programme steering group be identified.

**57 LOCAL COMMUNITY ALLIANCES/MCTi GROUPS -
OUTCOMES OF THE WORKSHOP HELD ON 17TH JANUARY
2005**

The Alliance considered a paper by B. Holme (tabled) regarding the Local Community Alliances/MCTi Groups - Outcomes of the Workshop held on 17th January 2005.

The Alliance agreed the following:

- (a) that a standing item be included on the agenda of the Alliance to enable Local Alliance Members to raise matters of importance or urgency;
- (b) that the Community Alliance Support Group be engaged as the conduit to process issues raised by Local Alliances/MCTi groups;
- (c) that the Community Alliance Support Group identify those issues to be discussed by the Alliance that require input from the Local Alliances and refer them to the Local Alliance/MCTi group workshop (meeting of all representatives from all local alliances);
- (d) that twice yearly workshops be held between all members of the Alliance and Local Alliances/MCTi groups to debate major policy/strategy issues and receive reports from service providers on their key objectives and projects for 2005/06;
- (e) that meeting dates of Alliances, MCTi groups, the Alliance and the Community Alliance Support Group be reviewed as far as possible to establish clear communication/communication links.

**58 DEVON LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT AND LOCAL PUBLIC
SERVICE AGREEMENTS**

The Alliance considered and noted a joint paper by Ian Hobbs and Steve Pitcher (circulated previously) regarding the Devon Local Area Agreement and Local Public Service Agreements.

59 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The Alliance noted the dates of future meetings of the Alliance during 2005/06:

- Monday, 18th April 2005 at 10:00 a.m.
- Monday, 11th July 2005 at 10:00 a.m.
- Monday, 10th October 2005 at 10:00 a.m.
- Monday, 23rd January 2006 at 10:00 a.m.

Chairman

The meeting ended at 1.18 p.m.