

NORTH DEVON COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

Minutes of a meeting of the NORTH DEVON COMMUNITY ALLIANCE held at the Cedars Inn, Bickington Road, Barnstaple on Monday, 26th January 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 Caldwell
Devon County Council: Councillor Spear
Devon Fire and Rescue Service: Mr P. Drew
Devon Health Forum: Mr I. Tearle
Exmoor National Park: Mr C. France
Ilfracombe Town Council: Councillor Thompson
Job Centre Plus: Ms J. Sinclair
Local Community Alliances: Mr Taylor, Councillors Pearson, Ridd-Jones,
Mrs Sewell, Mrs Sim and Mrs Webber.
North Devon College: Mr D. Trueman
North Devon Homes: Mr J. Davies
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 Lucas, Prowse and Mrs
Shapland (Chairman)
North Devon Economic Partnership: Mr D. Whiteley
North Devon Primary Care Trust: Mr S. Pearce and Ms E. Plastow
Partnership NHS Trust: Mr S. Polak
Voluntary Sector: Mr W. Allen, Ms W. Butler and Mrs D. Bracher

Officers:

Devon County Council

I. Hobbs - County Community Strategy Officer, A. Bell - Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty/Countryside Development Officer and E. Farwell - Devon Strategic Partnership 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, M. Isaac and Miss H. Streatfield - Community Development Co-ordinators, Ms J. Watson - Funding Officer and Miss B. Greenslade - Member Services Co-ordinator.

Also Present

Mr G. Sherburn Devon and Cornwall Housing Association

33 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 20th October 2003 (circulated previously) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

34 MATTERS ARISING

(a) Social Inclusion and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy: Implementation Group

Councillor Mrs Shapland reported that a letter had been sent to all organisations during December 2003 requesting the nomination of a representative to attend a meeting of the Implementation Group on 27th January 2004. Many organisations had not responded to the letter, therefore a list would be circulated to Members of the Alliance during the meeting and she requested that Members complete the list to indicate whether or not they would be attending the Implementation Group meeting.

(b) Trans-send - Conference on Financing Community Renewables Projects

Councillor Mrs Shapland reported the receipt of notification from Trans-send of a conference on Financing Community Renewables Projects which would be held on 22nd March 2004 at the Landmark Theatre, Ilfracombe.

A copy of the notice regarding the conference would be circulated with the minutes.

35 VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR
INFRASTRUCTURE

E. Farwell informed the Alliance of the aims of the Voluntary and Community Sector Devon Compact and how it had been produced. The aim of the Compact was to improve relationships between the voluntary and community sectors and the statutory organisations. The Working Together for Devon Task Group had made four recommendations regarding the Compact. He informed the Alliance of those recommendations. These reinforced the importance of working through local networks and according to local conditions but also saw merit in co-operating county wide. One of the recommendations of the Group was to invite the Alliance to nominate a representative to serve on the "hub", which could identify where joint action or external lobby could help the sector. A further recommendation of the Group sought a financial contribution from Local Strategic Partnerships. Some statutory organisations are required by Government to be signatories to the Compact – for others it is voluntary.

J. Talbot outlined the contents of the letter from the Community Council of Devon (circulated previously), which had been sent to all Chairs of Local Strategic Partnerships in Devon, and the concerns of the Community Council of Devon on the new Compact for Devon.

I. Hobbs reported that the Torridge Local Strategic Partnership had considered the Compact at its meeting in September 2003. It had welcomed the joint approach and nominated a voluntary sector representative to serve on the "hub". It had also

recommended that the Torridge and North Devon representatives work together to promote the issues and extend the voice of northern Devon. The agreement with the North Devon Voluntary Action Forum also provided a vehicle for taking the Compact work forward.

Mrs Jackson reported that the North Devon Voluntary Action Forum (NDVAF) was now developing to respond to the needs of the sector and to meet the objectives of the Service Level Agreement and would be beneficial to the whole of the Alliance. She stated that she would like to nominate a champion to serve on the "hub", however as the Voluntary Action Forum only consisted of one post it would be difficult for her to attend every meeting.

Councillor Mrs Webber stated that it was important that the voluntary sector became involved in the work of the local community alliances. It was pointed out in discussion that the Service Level Agreement does require this of the NDVAF.

Ms W. Butler endorsed and supported the Devon Compact and stated that it was important for the Alliance to endorse the Compact which would indicate to the voluntary sector that they were valued.

The Alliance agreed the following:

- (a) that the Devon Compact be endorsed and that it be tailored to meet local needs and that a further report be brought to the Alliance on how this would be achieved;
- (b) that the North Devon Voluntary Action Forum be requested to nominate a representative to serve on the Devon wide "hub";
- (c) that a report be brought to a future meeting of the Alliance outlining details of the financial contribution being sought for the Devon Compact.

36 PROGRESSING THE REVIEW OF COMMUNITY STRATEGY

I. Hobbs and B. Holme briefly outlined the process for reviewing the Community Strategy and explained the format of the workshop session.

The meeting adjourned to workshops to enable Members to indicate their first, second and third priorities for their individual organisations over the next 2-3 years against the four themes contained within the Community Strategy.

It was agreed that the results of the workshop session would be reported to a future meeting of the Alliance.

37 HOUSING - WORK IN PROGRESS

Ms B. Venn updated the Alliance on progress made on issues which had been raised at a meeting of the North Devon Assembly, on the decisions made at the meeting of the Alliance held on 17th June 2002 and since the last meeting of the Alliance held in October 2003 (papers tabled).

Ms B. Venn further reported that North Devon District Council had now agreed to charge 90% Council Tax for second homes. At the last meeting of the Alliance, it had agreed that the principal authorities in Devon be recommended to agree the ring fencing of Council Tax on second homes in Devon, for housing purposes only and top slicing a percentage for revenue support for supporting housing. She outlined a paper (tabled) on how the additional funds raised from increasing the level of Council Tax on second homes might be spent. Devon County Council had indicated that it would wish to determine arrangements with other precepting authorities about how this new money would be spent. If the Alliance supported the proposals, a paper would be presented to the next meeting of the Devon District Forum.

It was reinforced that this was an indicative set of proposals and that the Alliance was not committing itself to this set of actions. There would be opportunity (depending on the final agreement regarding the process for allocating new money) for further consideration.

J. Davies reported that North Devon Homes was currently in discussion with the Ministry of Defence regarding the possibility of having first refusal on 14 dwellings at Chivenor at a lower than market value price.

Councillor Mrs Webber stated that the Government should be lobbied on producing a policy on financing properties. Such a policy should reduce the amount of income being spent on housing. She stated that a large percentage of people's income was being spent on the provision of housing.

The Alliance agreed the following:

- (a) that the proposals be used as a basis for discussions with Devon County Council, the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary and the Fire Authority for how the additional funding received as a result of increasing Council Tax for second homes might be spent in North Devon (as tabled).
- (b) that a Housing Sub Group of the Alliance be established and that members of the Alliance be requested to inform Beverley Greenslade if they wished to become a member of the Sub Group.

38 NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT

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

Councillor Thompson requested that a member of the Interim Management Board be invited to attend a meeting of the Ilfracombe Town Council to inform the Council of how the funding would be used in the Ilfracombe area. He suggested that a member of the Interim Management Board should also attend meetings of the Combe Martin Parish Council and Bratton Fleming Parish Council to explain how the funding would be spent in those areas.

The Alliance agreed the following:

- (a) that the success in securing this programme be welcomed;
- (b) that it be noted that the Alliance would be asked to consider a nomination to join an Interim Management Board to be formed in April/May to ensure service provider input;
- (c) that members of the Alliance ensure that their organisation stand ready to work with the programme and local managers be encouraged to attend meetings (to be arranged during February 2004) to explain the programme and ways that it can benefit their services;
- (d) that members of the Alliance be requested to identify any other service developments or programmes that could integrate with the Neighbourhood Management Programme;
- (e) that Officers involved in preparing the bid be congratulated;
- (f) that a further report be brought to a future meeting of the Alliance after the first meeting of the Interim Management Board has been held.

39 CHILDREN'S SERVICES PLANNING

The Alliance considered a joint paper by I Hobbs and Ms L. Hitchins (circulated previously) regarding Children's Services Planning.

The Alliance agreed the following:

- (a) that the formation of the Locality Planning and Implementation Group for Children and Young People (L.P.I.G.) in northern Devon be noted;
- (b) that the Locality Planning and Implementation Group for Children and Young People be endorsed as a sub group of the North Devon Community Alliance.

40 SOCIAL SERVICES/HEALTH REORGANISATION OF SOCIAL CARE MANAGEMENT

The consideration of this item was deferred owing to Richard Money being unable to attend owing to sickness.

41 BIOSPHERE AND AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY MANAGEMENT PLAN

- (a) Introduction by Councillor Derrick Spear

Councillor Derrick Spear briefly introduced the item.

- (b) Presentation by Andy Bell

The Alliance received a presentation by Andy Bell regarding the Biosphere and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan.

The Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan had to be completed and submitted to D.E.F.R.A. by 31st March 2004.

42 **REPORTS FROM LOCAL COMMUNITY ALLIANCES**

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

The Alliance endorsed the recommendation of the Barnstaple Alliance that "The Alliance agreed to request the L.S.P. to lobby Nick Harvey M.P. to seek continued funding after the initial 2 year period for the Children's Centre in Barnstaple".

43 **NORTH DEVON ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP**

The Alliance noted that the North Devon Economic Partnership would be holding a visioning day on the Economic Strategy on 28th January 2004.

44 **CLIMATE CHANGE**

The Alliance noted a paper by Linda Blanchard (circulated previously) regarding Climate Change.

45 **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

The Alliance noted the dates of future meetings of the Alliance during 2004/05:

- Monday 19th April 2004 at 10.00 a.m.
- Monday 26th July 2004 at 10.00 a.m.
- Monday 18th October 2004 at 10.00 a.m.
- Monday 24th January 2005 at 10.00 a.m.

Chairman

The meeting ended at 1.00 p.m.