

Portland Community Partnership Meeting 11 January 2011

At Weymouth and Portland Sailing Academy

Apologies

David Hawkins, Rachel Barton, Lesley Chandler, Julia Lunn, Neil Wood, Mr Charnock, Mr Edwards, Ray Tout, Rob Hughes

In attendance Phil Laming (Chair), Gillian Phillips (Secretary), Andrew Harvey (Treasurer), Andy Matthews (Projects), P Philips, M Laming, Lecia Trent, Jean Charnock, Margaret Tout, Peter Pitman, Rowland Reynolds, John Tweed, Jo Pearce, Mr B Pearce, Debbie Smith, Rachelle Smith, David Symes, Hannah Sofaer, Paul Crabtree, Sandra Pepperell, Roy Pepperell, Nigel Williams, Ian Beckett, Wilma Butler

Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were approved

Introduction

Phil opened the meeting by thanking John Tweed for use of the venue. He was anticipating the Police item to be delayed due to an operation currently occurring. Sergeant Neil Wood had sent his apologies and Steve Morris would be taking the Police agenda item. Ian Beckett advised that if the Police could not attend then he was happy to take any concerns expressed to the next PACT meeting which was due to be held shortly.

Fairfield Project Update

Phil was pleased to report that 2 further donations had been received from the Lions Club for £500 and the Rotary club £200. Contrary to rumours circulating the centre would not close but may convert to more of a community based operation. Jo Pearce would however be presenting a petition against the closure. The garden, which had now taken over 3 years to progress, is to proceed. Works orders will soon be issued to be completed in the spring. This will provide a wonderful amenity and we are currently talking to a garden centre to provide planting boxes for residents to also use.

Police Question and Answer Session

Steve Morris from the Safer Neighbourhood Team apologised for their late arrival which had been due to attending a reported incident which fortunately had turned out to be a false alarm.

Steve updated the meeting on the recent 'riot' in Easton Square involving a number of youths. This incident had been exaggerated but there had been some unfortunate behaviour by 4 or 5 youths who had damaged Police Cars and kicked out at the Police and who had consequently either been arrested or were being looked for. This incident had been fuelled by alcohol but the majority were behaved. It had started at the Grove Playing Field when youths were seen drinking. They were dispersed from there but then congregated in Easton Gardens where some flower beds were damaged. When Police attended a

small number reacted but the situation was soon brought under control. There will be an additional police presence over the next few days and as stated there is likely to be about 4 arrests. Following a query Steve went on to say that applied correctly and followed up an ABSO was an effective tool for the Police

Phil raised concerns about underage drinking and the source of this, particularly as the culprits appear to be getting younger. Steve said that unfortunately a number were getting their drink from home. He reported a recent incident where a mother had gone into the Co-op to buy drink for her children. Fortunately the manager had spotted this and had refused to sell it to her. The manager could have lost the store its licence if he had not intervened. The Police subsequently interviewed the mother who accepted that she had been foolish. Many parents though were supportive of the Police and the Police were advising them to check amongst each other if a youngster says they are stopping over at a friend's house.

Andrew Harvey raised the issue that many of the schools could help where the Police had images of culprits they were trying to find. There was a debate about Data Protection issues but Tim Munroe confirmed that this did not apply if it would help in identification and indeed anyone was duty bound to pass on information about criminal activity.

Roy Pepperell raised concern about the establishment of a house of multiple occupancy (HMO) in Channel View Rd and the impact this was already having on the surrounding area. Steve reported that the Police had already spoken to the owner who in turn had spoken to the tenants about eviction if they continued. Sandra Pepperell said how difficult it had been to explain to a 92 year old relative, who had been advised by someone connected to the local Police force, that it was no longer safe to leave her doors unlocked. It was eroding the culture of trustworthiness.

Steve finished by reminding the groups of the contact numbers for the safer neighbourhood team.

Group Updates

Jo Pearce (Portland Carers) updated the group on her campaign to keep the Fairfield centre open. She had met with Richard Drax and the Head of Adult and Community Services at DCC. She had come away from that meeting fairly hopeful as it seems that closures would more likely happen in conurbation areas where there are two or three centres in close proximity and where it would be easy to amalgamate these. She did have a petition which she felt was still important for the community to show their support and she would circulate this.

Rachelle Smith (Dorset Community Action)

Rachelle had been asked by the Home Office to undertake research into the support for the Integrated Offender Management scheme in Dorset and the willingness for the voluntary and community sector to become involved. Rachelle went on to outline details of this project (attached as Annex A). She was interested in obtaining some initial feedback from the meeting and set out a number of questions about whether there would be interest and involvement. Debbie Smith said there would be a need for proper training for any volunteers. Jo Pearce commented that it was a statistic that there was a ratio of 20 to 1 of groups supporting criminals as against the victim of crime and Roy Pepperell felt that another level of support would take away further resources from those victimised. Tim Munro said that risk

management of offenders by joint working by the Police and Probation service was not new. It was also important to understand the numbers being dealt with which were about 5 or 6 in the immediate area.

Hannah Sofaer said that the PSQT worked regularly with offenders and it was where there was not a support structure problems occurred. Ian Beckett advised the group that the Reverend Chris Briggs already offered a drop in advice centre and it may be that its role could be widened. Ian generally felt however that an effective way forward was a system of earlier intervention using Community Justice Panels where perpetrators of crime would be required to face members of the community and also their victims and explain their actions. This had had a positive impact on the level of re-offending rates in other parts of the country.

Rachelle thanked the group for their comments. If anyone wanted to comment further please contact her at Dorset Community Action in Dorchester.

Debbie Smith – Iplay updated the meeting. On the 22 January in conjunction with Lyn Cooch the Island Ranger there was an Iplay wild event in Tout quarry. Also a bid had been submitted to the BBC /Lottery Community Wildlife scheme to finance the restoration of the picnic area just off the middle of New Ground and above the Merchants Railway. The bid was for £10k and it should be known by the 28 January if this had been successful and it would be good for members of the community to get involved with this. There were further planned events at February ½ term involving the museum which Julia Lunn from the Rotary club was assisting with. Iplay had applied to become a charity and the charity commissioners that this would be approved subject to some minor adjustments to the group's governance paperwork.

Roy Pepperell- Rights Respecting Community advised the group that an LCD screen had been installed at the new ICA offices in Easton (in the Easton centre next to the Zebra crossing). The purpose of this was to display good news about the Island and our young people. He requested contributions which he could take two or three images from to include in the rolling display. It was envisaged that this would be changed every two or three weeks. Hopefully other areas in the Island may also have a display. Roy also advised the meeting of an event on the 4th Feb at the Royal Manor School which will be celebrating the UNICEF's Day of the Change by considering what makes a good citizen. Karen Griffiths from DCC's extended services team is organising this event and further details will be circulated to representatives from the various community groups.

Hannah Sofaer- Portland Sculpture and Quarry Trust

Hannah advised of three projects.

ITV fixers - an open exhibition at the Drill Hall opening on the 1st March run by young people, showing creative talent on the island involving people from all age groups through art, music, painting, sculpture, geology- there will be work inspired by the quarry landscape. ITV Fixers are helping to publicise the project and a competition for the island to name the exhibition - involving local schools including the Royal Manor Arts School.

Tout Quarry with improvement work to a new car park area and a permanent exhibition of Pathways through Time extending over 600 metres with each step representing 250,000 years. Each step holding a record of the environment and fossil archive. It was envisaged that there would be celebrations of science and art by processions along the pathway. Also the cultural Olympiad is to be celebrated by a

performance using a stone Lithophone by musician Evelyn Glennie.

The Drill Hall is being refurbished (opening in May) with 2nd stage refurbishment works as a centre for the quarry Park with 11 contrasting quarry environments within half a mile radius of the drill Hall - connected by public footpaths. The project has been funded by Natural England ALSF, EU leader programme Chalk and Cheese, Dorset County Council and Arts Council South West. This includes a new part time job post for the community stone workspace and Clay Kiln for local artists stone masons, crafts people and makers to make and exhibit work.

Treasurer's Report

Andrew confirmed the receipt of the two grants towards the Fairfield project. In addition the Charity night at the Heights had registered a profit of £930. On the expenditure side 10,000 Portland maps had been printed at a cost of £1,320. This left a balance of £8,320 but this was not a free balance as funds had been committed to projects. Following a question about the use of funds Phil confirmed that the PCP normally raises funds for specific appeals or projects.

Secretary's Report

Gill advised that Boots at Fortuneswell were still appealing against the decision preventing them moving. Due to pressure of her work Andy Matthews would also be helping her with PCP activities.

A query was raised about the current status of the Academy. It was confirmed that it was now likely that it would be April before any decision was made. There would be a full consultation with the community. Information was being circulated to parents.

AOB - None

Date of Next Meeting

This is proposed for the 6th April 2011 at the Boat that Rocks but this venue has yet to be confirmed. Formal confirmation will be sent by email.