

Portland Community Partnership

Notes of Meeting of 6th April 2011 The Boat That Rocks, Osprey Quay

In Attendance (per attendance sheets)

Phil Laming (Chair), Andy Matthews (Acting Secretary), Andrew Harvey (Treasurer), Myra Laming, Sandra Pepperell, Roy Pepperell, Ray Tout, Margaret Tout, Tim Munro, Liz Duckworth, Julia Willoughby, Jim Hart, Jo Pearce, Busty Pearce, Katy Pascoe, Karen Griffiths, Scott Irvine, Mr and Mrs Luff, Lyn Cooch, Rob Hughes, Jill Davis, Jean Taylor, Mary Denley, Brian Lynch, Amanda Buchanan- Munro, Ian Beckett, Neil Wood, Shirley Deeney, Colin Deeney, Bary Gambles, Geoff Smith

1) Apologies

Jane Fooks, Gary Fooks, Julia Lunn, Nigel Williams, Jean Charnock, Peter Pitman, Lesley Chandler, Gillian Phillips

2) Minutes of the Meeting 11th January 2011

These were accepted as correct

3) Matters Arising

None that were not on the current agenda

4) Chairman's Update

Phil thanked Linda Rodunor for allowing the use of the Boat That Rocks.

Phil updated the meeting about the Fairfield Project. The decking had been completed and there was to be a formal opening on the 20th with one of the residents cutting the ribbon. He was however deeply upset about the fact that the work had been vandalised shortly after being completed and was at a loss to understand the thinking behind this. Thanks to the generosity of Mike Reeves this damage had been repaired.

Jo Pearce Portland Carers asked if her petition against the closure of the centre could be communicated to the partnership (attached as Annex A).

Phil advised the meeting that the PCP, as a formal consult tee for the NHS, had received notification concerning the establishment of a second pharmacy in Easton and asking for comments. There had been petition signed by 700 residents asking for this and the proposal had already received support from the GP practice. Phil proposed that the PCP respond in support of the proposal and this was agreed (attached as Annex B). The proposal for Boots in Fortuneswell to move to Osprey Quay had also been closed.

5) Sergeant Neil Wood Dorset Police Update

Neil advised that the recent Public Meeting in Easton had been well attended. Representatives from Crown Prosecution service, Magistrates and others had spoken about the criminal justice process. Neil would supply the secretary with notes of this meeting which could then be circulated. Neil went on to advise that since January there had been 70 arrests linked to anti social behaviour but violent crime was falling with 48 less incidents to the same period last year. There were now to be more officers on foot patrol in Easton and Fortuneswell as a result of a new shift system.

Specifically in regard to anti social behaviour there had been 2 arrests and 5 more in process. There is a small group of about 10 individuals all of whom are subject to some form of control measure. One individual accounted for 16 arrests. The Police were committed to using the arrest process in a vigorous manner.

Shirley Deeney asked whether these individuals were made to confront their victims and required to put right their damage. Neil responded by advising that this idea of Restorative Justice was used where it was felt that it would have an impact with lower scale damage and first time offenders.

Stuart Morris said that he felt encouraged but asked how Portland compared with other areas in the Borough. Neil replied that the numbers were relatively low but it was more a question of public confidence. Stuart commented that the press had the habit of prefacing articles with 'Portland' which did not help. Neil reminded everyone of the various ways that the Police could be contacted. He also confirmed that he was committed for the Police to attend PCP meetings and if he couldn't then he would arrange for an officer to cover. Phil thanked Neil for this and he appreciated this commitment.

6) Lyn Cooch Island Ranger- Update

The Wild about Weymouth and Portland Project (WAWAP) is developing with a number of groups utilising the branding on activities. There had been an inaugural partnership event with community groups at Lorton Meadows. This had discussed access barriers and how both locals and visitors don't appreciate the local environment. Activities had been organised with Iplay involving bushcraft with teenagers and with the Ridgeway centre.

Lyn also outlined that the WAWAP project also included the development of a Legacy Trail which would run from Lorton via Radipole and the Rodwell Trail to Portland where it would take in new sections of the South West coast path (linked to the Coastal Access Bill) and the Quarry Trails. The way marking at the bottom of the incline and information on New Ground needed improving. There would also be improvements at Cheyne Weares, Church Ope cove and Portland Bill.

Lyn went on to explain that there was now a pack of 8 leaflets which covered Portland Fauna and Flora and this had created a lot of interest. Lyn advised that these were being distributed to outlets at a cost of £1 to retail at £2. The leaflets are also available on the WAWAP website.

The project has RSPB as a partner and there is now a presence at Portland Bill with the intention of providing signposting information not only about the birdlife but other attractions on the Island.

Lyn apologised that the traffic lights at Wide Street, due to the work being undertaken on the Tunnel between Tout and Inmosthay Quarries, were still there! The work was taking longer than anticipated due to the need to adhere to the requirements of English Heritage who are treating the tunnel as if it were classified as an ancient monument. Tout and King Barrow Quarries are due to be scheduled. It is hoped that the work will be completed by the end of May.

Work was also going on in Tout (Lano's Arch and gully to the Coast Path)) and at the High Angle Battery which will be one of the venues for art installations for the Cultural Olympiad Quest events. English Heritage was particularly keen to see improvements here. There were to be new interpretation panels. Royal Manor and the YOI were involved and there were proposals for Open Heritage days in September.

Collingwood wing and resettlement at the YOI are helping with scrub management and other projects. Prison Officers had received training which would enable ongoing support.

Volunteer activity occurred every other Friday. There was still the opportunity for volunteers to receive training to become Volunteer Rangers. This allowed Lyn to delegate tasks in confidence.

Liz Duckworth then asked about the Goat Project and how that was going. Lyn advised that there were currently discussions about the project it was generally agreed that the British Primitive Goat had adapted well. There were disease and high mortality rates with some other herds which have meant sourcing more British primitives difficult. It was generally felt that to move to a breeding flock would create too many problems currently. There was some thought around a goat/sheep rotation.

Lyn finalised by outlining her concerns about the ability to fund projects. There was what is known as the High Level Scheme which may fund some land management but other sources, such as the Aggregate Levy Sustainability Fund, used for habitat management and new projects was no longer in existence.

7) Katy Pascoe – Island Community Action

Katy explained that she had been recently appointed as co-ordinator following a successful Reaching Communities bid which provided funding for five years. The Helping Hands project was to assist those who faced isolation particularly the elderly. Katy was employed for three days a week. And Jackie Carpenter one day a week. The funding had also allowed the purchase of an additional 8 seater vehicle which volunteer drivers could use.

Katy then went on to explain the wider services that ICA was providing.

Signposting. The new offices were in a more prominent position and there had been an increase in enquiries. ICA was planning on producing a directory of services and activities. They would also support community consultations and have your say opportunities.

Delivering services. Helping Hands was about helping older people maintain their independence. One development was a befriending service to help with shopping and gardening. Also we run social activities such as the Get Together club which offers seated exercise. Volunteer drivers to help with hospital and legal appointments as well as shopping.

Promoting Health. ICA was looking to start Healthy Walking Groups, a memory cafe and support nutritional promotion.

ICA was also a volunteer bureau and had made links with Volunteer Dorset.

Katy then handed over to Jim Hart from Volunteer Dorset to explain more about their work.

The Volunteer Bureau was based in Dorchester and now having the whole of Dorset allowed it to provide a comprehensive service matching volunteers to volunteer opportunities. The service used the Volunteer England database and this would allow Katy to keep information up to date.

Jim went on to explain that he needed to know about organisations and their work so they can develop an understanding of volunteering needs. The volunteer opportunities for the Olympics had closed but there were still opportunities around the cultural Olympic associated events and activities.

Volunteers registering could receive a free CRB check and access to training and development. For instance a number had received event management training and could offer support if considering a larger event.

Lyn Cooch commented as an example that the a number of Ambassador Volunteers had been created who would be stationed on the coast between Lulworth Cove and Church Ope to offer advice and information to walkers and visitors.

8) AGM Notices and Information

Phil reminded everybody that the next meeting in June would include the AGM. It had been considered helpful to set out a paper which set out thoughts and issues about the future role of the PCP. It was intended that these 'open questions' would allow members to consider how best to take the PCP forward if it was felt that it had a role. Andy Matthews went on to explain that the PCP had started this process last autumn when we invited a number of groups to provide information about their work and aspirations. The PCP could provide a flexible overarching role and support Island wide issues but it could only do so with the majority feeling that this was appropriate. The PCP was vulnerable as it was structured as a voluntary group as against other statutory community partnerships. On the other hand it may be a model for the future. The closing date for nominations was the end of day 14th June.

9) AOB

The meeting confirmed that information could be continued to be circulated via an 'open' email list as this facilitated networking. The secretary however reminded this did require everyone to be circumspect when they used the 'all' email function.

10) Date of Next Meeting

7pm 28th June at Portland Heights

