

## DT11 Forum minutes

Date: 16 June 2010

Venue: Milborne St Andrew Village Hall

1. Apologies: Bob Brannigan, Dave Astin, Sara Loch, Chris Tomlinson

Attending: Scott Norman, Peter Slocombe, Dianne Cooper, Steve Adamson, Carrie Lewis, Keith Yarwood, Susan Bennett, Richard James, Pam Eaton, Doc Addison, Nicci Brown, Graham Rains, Barrie Cooper, Jacquie Bolton, Dave Aitchison, Mike Jones.

Guests: Hilary Ritchie (NDDC), Robert Leenderts (Cable & Wireless), Roger Lanary (Broadband project), Richard James (Broadband project)

In Attendance: Pauline Figg, Hannah Solloway (Community Resource Workers)

Agenda item	Discussion points	Action
1. Minutes of meeting held 3 February 2010 at Tarrant Gunville Village Hall	Minutes agreed. No discussion points	
2. Matters arising, not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda	None	

Treasurers Report	Balance at bank as at 16 June 2010 is £14,079.64. Expenditure since 1 April £982.59. The rent bill is still outstanding and some funds will be spent on publicity, in particular displays for DT11.	
5. Additional item: Update from Hilary Ritchie	<p>Hilary gave a resume of a meeting this week with the DCLG (Department of Communities and Local Government). The key messages were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*There will be a fundamental and systemic change in the look of local government.</li> <li>*In advance of the budget, it's estimated that there will be a reduction of around 30% in funding available at the local government level.</li> <li>*In the future it will be about Local Strategic Partnerships and communities deciding how to spend money, finding local solutions and close working between public, private and voluntary sector. Approach is about 'place' and organising rather than organisations.</li> <li>* There will be no new funding to support this new approach.</li> <li>*The state's powers will be reduced to around 20% of present levels, with around 80% at the local level (currently the percentages are approximately the reverse of this).</li> <li>*Localism, localism, localism and the 3 F's, Freedom, Fairness and Flexibility.</li> </ul> <p>Hilary sees this change as an exciting opportunity for Community Partnerships - using community planning to decide how services should be provided in our area. She recommends the website <a href="http://Localis.org.uk">Localis.org.uk</a> for debate over these ideas.</p> <p>It was clarified that Sowing Seeds money will not be affected by current cuts as it's European money.</p> <p>The Dorset County WAM (Wide Area Network) will not be affected either as far as Hilary knows. As a result of the cuts, there will be a 22% reduction in funding to CAB.</p> <p>Hilary is to meet DCLG again after the emergency budget announcement on 22<sup>nd</sup> June, after which there will be more detail on impacts in NDDC.</p>	
5. Chairman's Report/Next Steps for DT11 Partnership	The report had been distributed prior to the meeting. All aspects dealt with under projects, below	

<p>6. Questions on Projects</p>	<p>Community Resource Centre (including Volunteer Centre) - A meeting has been arranged for 17 June to visit the vacant former Three Choughs pub, which has a large amount of ground floor space to rent. There could be potential for housing other local charities there including CAB, Age UK and the Volunteer Centre, as well as the DT11 Forum office.</p> <p>The Trailway - Graham Rain informed the meeting that the bridge near Stourpaine is officially due to open by the end of September, but there may well be delays. Work is currently going on to prepare for access to the site.</p> <p>The Trailway Network Committee continues to do much fundraising and involve volunteers. A huge quantity of manure was recently dumped by Hinton Estates, and the NDDC rangers have arranged for its removal but cost will probably have to come out of the Trailway budget. Next stage for Trailway will be to complete the route into Blandford. Graham has already produced a report on this section.</p> <p>Scott reported that Sturminster now has a rep on the Trailway committee through CPEND. He also proposed that money from the Liveability Fund (which has to be spent in our area) be ringfenced for the Trailway, especially as the project includes so many parishes. There is at least £20,000 left. Graham proposed that this be voted through, and Susan Bennet seconded the proposal. It was agreed that Scott should inform Hugh de long of DT11's proposal.</p> <p>There was a discussion around how the section would continue on the other side of the 'Tesco roundabout', where bridging would be too expensive.</p> <p>Arts Centre - Scott reported that Blandford Town Council is putting together a feasibility study for the conversion of the Corn Exchange, which would include a space for performance arts. It's estimated that this would cost in excess of £7 million, and would not commence for at least 7 years. Scott met Trevor Savage and informed him about the Fording Point paper by John Ivay (acquaintance of Keith Yarwood with much experience in arts centre management). His proposal is for the development of a temporary arts centre, with community development work involving the groups that may use a centre. This could provide evidence of the need for a longer term facility eg at the Corn Exchange. Scott proposed that John Ivay be invited to come along to our next partnership meeting.</p> <p>Barry Cooper reported that he had met the Project Manager of the Blandford Middle School site, and discussed the proposal that the hall, which is due for demolition, could be retained, and developed</p>	<p>Scott to write to Hugh de long.</p>

	<p>as an arts centre by DT11. However, the planning condition is that the old Milldown School has to be demolished, as the new Milldown Primary School was built on playing fields. It's also a 1950s building with low energy efficiency, and its not a 'stand alone' building, so further work would be needed to retain the hall if other buildings were demolished.</p> <p>Peter Slocombe thinks it will be very difficult to push this proposal through as there are so many obstacles.</p> <p>Scott is concerned about the apparent lack of will from the County Council to actually get together and discuss options. He asked Barry to take this back to the county.</p> <p>Environment /Trailway Centre - Scott is still waiting for a response from the County Council about future use of the Milldown Infants / Primary School, which could house an environment centre. It was pointed out that the delays are due to the involvement of the church (owners of the land).</p> <p>Susan Bennet pointed out that the small play area outside the infants school should be retained and asked Scott to take this up.</p> <p>Scott asked Barry to report to DCC that the option of an environment / Trailway Centre be given full consideration. Barry acknowledged that there are few appropriate buildings for community projects, so the site should not be offered to developers. It was suggested that this is put in writing. Sowing Seeds could potentially fund this project.</p> <p>The NDDC rangers are also interested in using the site as a base.</p> <p>Barrie Cooper asked whether facilities at both schools could be used by the community outside school hours, and it was pointed out that their charges are high.</p>	<p>Barrie to report back to DCC.</p> <p>Barrie to report back to DCC</p> <p>Scott to write to Peter Scarlett at DCC</p>
<p>7. Green week update and Green Card</p>	<p>The new leaflets and posters for Green Week were distributed. Carrie Lewis asked everyone to help distribute them, and said they will also be available in the TIC, library, Town Hall and Council offices, and other venues.</p>	<p>All to publicise the Green Week,</p>

<p>Loyalty Scheme</p>	<p>She thanked Paul McIntosh at DT11 for getting them printed, all those organising events for their work, the DT11 staff for putting the leaflets together, and NDDC for their support. She also thanked Nicci in advance for any publicity she can give.</p> <p>A Green Fair is to be held on Friday 9 July, when the Dorset Market Towns Forum will also meet and launch the Green Map, and there will be a Farmers Market. There will be around 20 stalls. It was noted that the North Dorset rangers had agreed to attend but confirmation is still needed, and adequate notice needs to be given if they do not plan to attend.</p> <p>Carrie wants to hold the Green Week annually and is interested in ideas for 2011.</p> <p>The Green Group's next project will be development of a Green Card Loyalty Scheme for North Dorset. Scott asked that this proposal be taken to CPEND.</p>	<p>and Green Fair</p>
<p>8. Guest Speaker Robert Leenderts - Broadband project</p>	<p>Steve Adamson explained that a technical group has been set up with the aim of improving internet access across North Dorset. He introduced Robert Leenderts from Cable and Wireless (and a Sturminster resident). Robert explained that the project is across the whole of North Dorset, which has around 26,000 homes, 3,000 businesses and 67,000 people. One of first tasks will be to establish the scale of the problem of broadband speed by sending out a questionnaire.</p> <p>They will be looking at using a range of alternative technologies to improve broadband where it's poor, or enable access to it where this is none now. These will include wireless technology and the use of new equipment in existing BT exchanges.</p> <p>Roger Lanary explained that the production of a business plan will be necessary for funding. This should get across the 3 main concerns:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That some existing businesses, especially those in rural areas, are disadvantaged</li> <li>2. New businesses are currently discouraged from setting up in rural areas here.</li> <li>3. Social exclusion can result from lack of access to reasonable speed internet connection.</li> </ol> <p>Phase A will be to get the area 'up to date' with reasonable broadband access. Phase B will be to lobby for super-fast broadband, which will be going first to cities, but we should be on the case with getting it in North Dorset too.</p>	

	<p>The Broadband group proposed that a funding bid be made to Sowing Seeds in July. This would be for £10,000 for a consultant to produce a review of the current situation, and identify potential funders for the programme of work. There was unanimous agreement that the group should proceed with this funding request.</p> <p>Hilary was asked for her input, and she acknowledged that the technology is all available, and it's now a case of changing policy and minds. Her role can be to link with what is happening elsewhere in the County, for example through planning for the Olympics. It is important to make sure that rural areas don't get left out, and that homes and businesses as well as public buildings benefit from new high speed technology. It is important that this need is identified on all relevant documents at a county and regional level, so that it gets into policies, for example the Local Development Framework. There is also potential for bringing in private sector funding through Section 106 funding.</p> <p>There was some discussion around whether a fibre optic cable could go down the Trailway.</p> <p>A straw poll of partnership members showed that many have very poor broadband service. Scott thanked the Broadband group for their work and presentation, and requested that everyone help distribute the questionnaire, which will need to be emailed back.</p>	
<p>9. Any other business/ Questions from floor</p>	<p>Event at Angus Wood - Steve Adamson reported that a ceremonial event will take place at 4pm on 1 July. Rotary Club, museum and schools pyramid are all involved in this outdoor classroom project, and all are welcome.</p> <p>Voting at CPEND meetings: Scott reported that a CPEND meeting had been held on the previous day. He needs a mandate to be able to vote on behalf of the DT11 Partnership at CPEND meetings. This was proposed by Steve Adamson, seconded by Dave Aitchison and passed. Carrie requested that DT11 partners get minutes from the CPEND meetings.</p> <p>POPP events: Jacquie Bolson reported that there will be a Falls event on 1 July at the Corn Exchange, and the Blandford 50 Plus Forum meets on 6 July at Durweston Village Hall to consider road safety and advanced driving skills.</p>	<p>Scott / DT11 staff to distribute CPEND minutes</p>
<p>10. Date of</p>	<p>Tuesday 10 August 2010 at Child Okeford Village Hall starting at 7pm</p>	

next Meeting		
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