

## DT11 Forum Community Partnership AGM minutes

Date: 6 April 2011

Venue: Blandford Parish Centre

1. **Apologies:** Georgina Morgan, Julie-Ann Foster, Dave Aitchison, Bob Brannigan, Malcolm Albery, H Fildes, Tony Gibb, Doc Addison

**Attending:** Scott Norman (Chair), Peter Slocombe (treasurer), Diane Cooper (Vice Chair / Volunteer Centre), Jacquie Bolson (POPPS / Winterbornes), Steve Adamson (CPEND broadband project), Mike Jones (Iwerne Minster PC), Carrie Lewis (Child Okeford PC), Nicci Brown (Western Gazette), Keith Yarwood (Stourpaine PC), Dave Astin (Milldowners), Sara Loch (BFTC), Simon Thompson (Dorset Community Action), Jo Rose (North Dorset Partnerships Development Worker), Hilary Ritchie (North Dorset District Council), Hugh de longh (North Dorset District Council), Mike Wills (Bryanston PC), Paul McIntosh (da21), Joe Hickish (North Dorset District Council),

**In Attendance:** Hannah Solloway (DT11 Community Resource Worker), Pauline Figg (DT11 Community Resource Worker)

Agenda item	Discussion points	Action
3. Minutes of the AGM held on 27 April 2010, Durweston Village Hall	Minutes agreed. No discussion points.	
4. Matters arising	None.	
5. Chairman's Annual Review	Scott Norman presented his report which had been distributed prior to the meeting.	
6. Treasurers Report	Peter Slocombe (DT11 Treasurer) thanked Pauline Figg for her work during the year, completing the accounts. He presented the figures for 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011. The current account balance is £14,659.69, and there is £63.02 in petty cash, giving a total of £14,722.71.	
7. Election of Officers	It was proposed by Joe Hickish that the three current officers be re-elected. Scott Norman was elected as Chair, Dianne Cooper as Vice Chair, and Peter Slocombe as Treasurer.	
8. Presentation on <b>The Broadband CPEND project</b> by Steve Adamson	Scott thanked Steve Adamson for heading the Broadband group and helping raise the profile of CPEND. Steve began by outlining the achievements of the project so far, which have included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Setting up a community-led project across North Dorset</li></ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Developing three teams - Technical, Business and Partnership</li> <li>▪ Making a successful bid to Sowing Seeds for initial funding for mapping/feasibility study</li> <li>▪ Creating and published a survey across the Sowing Seeds area, which had over 1100 responses</li> <li>▪ Working with Dorset County Council to make a more powerful bid to Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) for funding</li> </ul> <p>Steve presented maps of the CPEND area showing that significant rural areas currently have a service of less than 2 mb, which is very low. Blandford will benefit from the investment announced by BT, but the rural areas will not.</p> <p>The next steps for the Broadband group include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fully analysing the survey</li> <li>▪ Completing a feasibility study</li> <li>▪ Building a much closer relationship with DCC - and supporting the BDUK bid</li> <li>▪ Expanding community engagement, and sourcing local broadband ‘champions’</li> <li>▪ Increasing partnerships and outside interest</li> <li>▪ Developing innovative financing and delivery structures</li> <li>▪ Investigating solutions including digital village pumps, radio/microwave solutions, fibre if possible and other technologies</li> </ul> <p>The Broadband group is confident that the bid to BDUK will be successful, and wants to be ready to move quickly when funding is in place.</p> <p>Steve hopes that people will offer to act as champions for their communities. In response to a question from Jacquie Bolson, he confirmed that groups like computer clubs could act as champions.</p> <p>Hilary Ritchie emphasised that a business case needs to be fully developed, and Steve explained that if enough businesses sign up to take advantage of the new solutions, this will make it not just commercially viable for companies, but profitable.</p> <p>It was suggested that Parish Councils could consider setting up posts to lead on Broadband in their communities.</p>	<p>Hugh de longh to talk to DAPTC about having broadband officers on parish councils</p>
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<p>9. Presentation by Jacqueline Bolson on Dorset POPP</p>	<p>Jacqui Bolson gave a presentation about the Dorset Partnership for Older People Programme (POPP), which supports and runs services for the over fifties. The organisation has recently received international recognition and made presentations about their work in Germany, and awards have included winning the county's Pride Award.</p> <p>Jacqui's work as a Community Leader with POPP includes visiting parish councils to inform them about POPP's services, representing the interests of older people, and visiting activities for older people to hear their hopes and aspirations.</p> <p>POPP can fund new activities up to £2000, and has for example funded many computer clubs like the one in Winterborne Kingston, and many lunch clubs including Milborne St Andrew.</p> <p>Lunch clubs are a key service which tackle isolation as well as providing nutritious food. POPP is currently setting up lunch clubs in Blandford at the United Reformed Church, and with Signpost Housing. They also provide an opportunity to listen to peoples problems - POPP workers can then go away and talk to service providers such as the NHS, social services and transport providers about ways to improve their services.</p> <p>Other local projects include working with the Blandford Plus Forum and helping set up domiciliary care in Hazelbury Bryan.</p> <p>POPP also employs Wayfinders across the county, who give free one-to-one advice on anything from claiming benefits to training needs or problems with getting a carer.</p> <p>POPP is always looking for volunteers to help support services for older people.</p> <p>Jacqui confirmed that most of the service users are over 65, and many are considerably older (the over 85 age group is fast increasing).</p>	<p>Anyone interested in volunteering for POPP services to contact Jacqui Bolson</p>
<p>10. CPEND Review - presented by Jo Rose and Scott Norman</p>	<p>Jo Rose outlined the changing context in which CPEND (Community Partnerships Executive for North Dorset) is operating, including the Big Society, the localism bill and changes to local government financing. North Dorset District Council (NDDC) is very committed to the community partnership model and its development.</p> <p>The structure of CPEND is being looked at ahead of the Localism Bill which will be in the statute book next summer -it's important that the community partnerships have a sustainable financial back-up system.</p> <p>The Community Resource Workers (CRWs) and Jo's post will continue to be managed by Dorset Community Action (DCA) for the time being, and Simon Thompson is now managing the CRWs.</p> <p>The idea is to develop a North Dorset regeneration company which will bring together the four</p>	

	<p>partnerships. It is likely that a private members bill will be going through which will require local authorities to support social enterprise. A social enterprise model would enable trading, and investment of any surplus -and it would grow out of the grassroots partnership work.</p> <p>Scott explained the timescale - that a paper with details of the proposed structure will be produced by the summer. He said that the four partnerships won't lose their own identities, and that there is a need to be ready when and if opportunities arise to strengthen the community partnerships. Steve Adamson pointed out that identifying more community champions will be essential if this process is to work.</p>	
<p><b>11. DT11 Community Strategic Plan</b></p>	<p>The revised draft Community Strategic Plan (CSP) can be seen on DT11's website. Scott emphasised that this is a living document, and that comment is welcomed. He would like a number of people to get together to scrutinise it and help take it forward. Carrie Lewis and Sarah Loch volunteered.</p> <p>Hugh de longh pointed out that developing advice and support services at the Three Choughs should be identified as a priority</p>	<p>Anyone else interested in helping develop the CSP to contact the DT11 office</p>
<p><b>12. Action plan Priorities</b></p>	<p><b>a) Arts/community centre</b></p> <p>Keith Yarwood explained that the arts centre proposal (at a site behind the museum) is not in competition with the town council's proposals for the Corn Exchange.</p> <p>Jon Ivay (who was not able to get to the meeting until the end) and the architect have met NDDC planners at the site, which is owned by the William Williams Trust, and had a positive response. The museum trust is also supportive and would like to be able to use the space for changing displays.</p> <p>The next stage will be for a public meeting to be held, which will give people the chance to see the drawings of proposed designs and to be consulted on the proposals.</p> <p>Scott stressed the need to work with Blandford Forum Town Council (a meeting could be held to look at both the arts centre and Corn Exchange proposals). He also pointed out that Jon Ivay has the potential to draw in arts funding. He thanked Keith for his work on the project.</p> <p>Hugh de longh felt that any consultation process should give people the chance to say what uses they would like a new public building to be put to. Steve Adamson suggested that there could be an online element of the consultation as this worked well for the Broadband project.</p> <p><b>b) Trailway Enterprise Centre</b></p> <p>There have been no further developments but DT11 still retains an interest in the Milldown site.</p>	<p>Keith Yarwood to work with DT11 Forum and BFTC on public meeting</p>

**c) Community Resource Centre (the Three Choughs)**

A new draft of the lease has just been received by DT11 but it still needs tweaking. Nevertheless it shows that Hall and Woodhouse is still committed, and Scott is confident that the legal arrangements will soon be resolved.

Jo Rose explained that a meeting was held with other potential stakeholders. It is clear that economies of scale can be achieved by the project. Interested parties have included the police, for a surgery on market days, Spectrum Housing for a drop-in, the Credit Union, Job Centre Plus, and NDDC which may want to hold surgeries there. CAB and the Volunteer Centre are still interested in using the centre, but Age Concern does not feel it would suit them. The County is looking at it as a replicable project in these times of stretched resources.

It was clarified that whilst DT11 will have a permanent office, this will still be made available to other groups some of the time. Other organisations will 'hot desk' and use the filing room to keep their papers and equipment. There will also be meeting rooms and a shared reception area.

Jacqueline Bolson was concerned that some groups, like Age Concern, may be excluded as it doesn't meet their needs for permanent space. There was a discussion about the benefits of the flexible system, which would serve the community as a whole, and could include encouraging more service users (such as those who may be embarrassed to be seen going into a particular advice centre).

**d) CPEND broadband project (discussed earlier)**

**e) Green Group / Green Week**

Carrie thanked Paul for bringing new members to the group. He is in discussion with others which may lead to the development of a transition initiative.

A programme of events is being put together for Green week 3 - 9 July.

Scott said that Mike Farwell would be happy to open up his composting facility during the week.

An application for funding has been made.

**f) The Trailway**

The next stage is the Stourpaine to Blandford section, and discussions are well underway with the landowners.

Sustrans is now interested in the project and an application has been made to them for £250,000.

Discussions are taking place around a link to Stalbridge, and there is considerable interest in linking it to Sturminster.

Carrie to contact Mike Farwell.

	<p>East Dorset is also interested, and looking at the Spetisbury to Poole and Wareham section.</p> <p>A new stretch of cycleway is being opened of the former railway at Bath.</p> <p>The need now is to get more community groups interested - particularly between Sturminster Marshall and Spetisbury.</p> <p>Overall, the project shows the positive work that can come out of parishes, villages, community groups, county and district all working together.</p> <p>Suggestions included looking at developing car parks (Scott), publicising walking routes from the Trailway to villages, and having collection boxes at future events.</p> <p>Hugh de longh suggested that the Trailway project should also be identified in the CSP priorities.</p>	
<b>Any other business</b>	<p>DT11 Management Group - Scott would like Chairs of the working groups (or others) to join a DT11 management group. This would involve meetings around 6 times a year, and is necessary to bring more cohesion and community involvement to the partnership.</p> <p>Scott thanked Pauline and Hannah for their work over the year, and NDDC for their support and close work with the community. He also thanked the members for coming to the meeting.</p>	<p>Working group chair / others to contact Scott or DT11 office</p>
13. Date of next meeting	Tuesday 7 June 2011, Cedar Hall, Charlton Marshall	