



WELLINGBOROUGH PARTNERSHIP

the Local Strategic Partnership for Wellingborough

Better Task Group

Notes from the meeting held on the 15th September 2008

DRAFT – subject to confirmation at the next meeting

Present:	Hugh Fenton (Chair)	Business
	Carol Conway	Housing Strategy, Borough Council of Wellingborough (BCW)
	Kirsty Morris	Wrenn School
	Norman Robinson	Environment Agency
	Carole Stephenson	Head of Neighbourhood Development, BCW
	Paul Gosling (Secretariat)	Resource Conservation Manager, BCW
	Alan Smith	Northants Wildlife Trust
	Keith Smith	Amenity Services, BCW
	Judith Thompson	Civic Society
	John Wevill	Age Concern
Apologies:	David Cross	Town Centre Manager
	Rosemary Hadaway	Nene Valley Community Action
	Dorcus Mundy	Ability Northants

Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed the delegates to the meeting.

Items for AOB

There were two items for AOB.

Operation of group under new Community Plan

HF explained the new structure of the Group and its interrelation with the rest of the Partnership. Structure diagrams can be found at appendix 1.

New Community Plan Actions

The Action Plans for each Community Plan Outcome were run through by those responsible for delivery. As all plans are still under development, RAG status for all is Amber. All action plans, divided into "Environment" and "Community", can be found at appendix 2.

The division of Action Plans into Environment and Community will allow for flexibility of attendance, the intention being that meetings will be in two halves allowing later attendance or early departure of delegates (although all are welcome to attend the full meeting).

As time goes on only amber and red targets will be discussed at meetings when assistance may be required or group input needed.

Targets are all locally focussed although will recognise the importance of wider work.

Work on plan development will continue and progress will be reported at the next meeting.

Wellingborough Partnership News including good news stories from partners

PG – The Climate Change Toolkit has been nominated for a top Green Apple Environment Award, and BCW has been invited to join the National Green Heroes Scheme for 2009.

The submission to the Fairtrade Foundation for Fairtrade Borough Status has been submitted for a preliminary examination.

CC – Numerous housing schemes are reaching completion. Schemes in the pipeline include one for people with learning difficulties.

KS – Amenity Services now have a permanent Service Head following a number of months with temporary cover. This will allow the Service to move forward with greater confidence.

AS – Much management work has taken place at Summer Leys LNR including scrape reprofiling, water management controls, new hide.

The project to link the Embankment with Summer Leys with a Greenway (cycle and pedestrian route) is moving forward.

Finedon Pocket Park may join up with the Finedon Cally Banks nature reserve following the “retirement” of the pocket park management group.

Targeted site surveys funded by the Environment Agency are taking place in the Nene and Ise Valleys.

On a negative note, the highly invasive *Crassula* has been discovered at Summer Leys and plans to eradicate it are in prep.

CS – Improving Your Patch Awards – the winners from Wellingborough were the Queensway Youth Project / Alliance for Black Children and the Wellingborough Museum. The former being the Borough and County winner.

Hope Week was very successful with a web presence and good media coverage. A big tidy up took place as part of this event.

Green Flag status for Swanpool Gardens was not obtained. More work needs to be done such as business plans etc.

JW – People are living longer, which means that there is a need to ensure that they are adequately considered in the Community Planning process.

KM – Wrenn pupils have been making short films on environmental topics and working with primary school children on such issues as climate change.

One of the school sites is to have a solar hot water system installed shortly.

JT – Knuston Hall and the Victoria School have been Grade II listed and the Wellingborough Museum is going from strength to strength.

Housing Strategy 2009-2012

CC ran through the Action plan for the Housing Strategy. The full document is available by e-mail or as hard copy from CC. The Action Plan can be found as appendix 3.

There is a consultation day being run at Knuston Hall on the 12th November. Invitations are being sent out shortly. Consultation will run until the end of the year.

Approval of minutes of last meeting – 9th June 2008

The minutes were approved.

Matters arising (not elsewhere on the Agenda)

- Heritage Trail – Will be progressing over coming months.
- Chester Farm – latest position – Expression of interest put forward by BCW as a partner alongside Wildlife Trust.
- Biodiversity Action Plan – Successful launch event held at Fineshade Top Lodge. New BAP is web-based and habitat focussed. Much simplified. Can be found at www.northamptonshirebiodiversity.org.

AOB

JT asked if BCW could receive a paper written by Jenny Dixon on the possible future uses of Victoria Junior School. PG said he'd find out who best to pass to. *NOTE – following meeting PG spoke to James Wilson who will circulate paper to relevant officers.*

JT asked about signage to the Museum (both vehicular and pedestrian). PG said he'd find out who had responsibility and what was happening. *NOTE - following the meeting PG spoke to Paul Thompson. Whilst we don't have a statutory duty to put such signage in we are in the process of reviewing existing signage and "upgrading" it in the light of the various changes that have occurred in the town. This should be completed by the end of the financial year.*

Meeting dates for 2009 were as follows, all being Mondays at 4pm:

9 March
1 June
7 September
7 December

The meeting closed at 6.45pm.

Next meeting – Monday 8th December at the Tithe Barn, Wellingborough.