



WELLINGBOROUGH PARTNERSHIP

the Local Strategic Partnership for Wellingborough

www.wellingboroughpartnership.org

SUSTAINABILITY FORUM

held on 21st February 2008 at 7pm
at the Tithe Barn, Wellingborough

DRAFT – subject to confirmation at the next meeting.

ATTENDING

Jenny Dixon	Resident - Chair
Cllr Allan Bailey	Borough Council of Wellingborough (BCW)
Bob Entwistle	Executive Director – Stronger Communities, BCW
Hugh Fenton	Wellingborough Partnership Chair
Habib Khan	Council for Ethnic minority Communities
Julie Knighton	Borough Resident
Cllr Graham Lawman	BCW
Cllr Lora Lawman	BCW
Mady Prescod	Wellingborough Afro- Caribbean Association
Cllr Maureen Shram	BCW and Northamptonshire County Council (NCC)
Keith Smith	Amenity Services – BCW
Carole Stephenson	Head of Community Development – BCW
Anne Toms	Daylight Centre
Patrick Verco	Daylight Centre
Terry Wright	Corporate Manager – Community Cohesion
James Wilson	Corporate Manager – Sustainable Development, BCW, Scribe
Amanda	Wellingborough & East Northamptonshire Womens Aid (WENWA)
Jackie	WENWA

APOLOGIES

Cllr Tim Allebone	BCW
Andy Bailey	Environment Agency
Gill Chapman	BCW
Jane Deamer	Service Six
Jon Groombridge	Mayday Trust
Cllr Eileen Higgins	BCW
Peter Loake	Earls Barton Help Scheme
Linda Ross	Clerk to Mears Ashby Parish Council
Christine Thomas	Volunteer Reading Help
Judith Thompson	Civic Society
R G Swann	Resident
Paul Thompson	BCW
Roger Wolens	The Green Organisation

Welcomes / Introductions / Apologies

The Chair welcomed the delegates to the meeting. Apologies were noted.

Approval of notes of last meeting – 25th October 2007.

The notes of the last meeting were approved.

Matters Arising

Waste Strategy – The Borough Council of Wellingborough have formally adopted the Strategy

Chester House Farm Update – Still “on market”. BCW have expressed an interest in any partnership that may be mooted.

Environmental Task Group update

Transport Issues – Bus use (Connect2) has increased by 70%.

Minerals and Waste Consultation – Concerns expressed about proposed workings in the Nene Valley near Earls Barton.

Sustainable Communities Strategy for Northamptonshire 2008/2031

Hugh Fenton gave a presentation on the above topic, following which discussions ensued.

The following summarises the comments received during the evening.

1: A Northamptonshire with a clear infrastructure investment framework

Needs to be a more aspirational strategy

Increase funding for all public services for Northamptonshire.

Why does Wellingborough need a NEW railway station.

Most people would expect Framework to be in place from day 1.

Infrastructure funding from Government up front and sufficient for the growth.

Need to make clearer

Try asking residents “What do you think about creating a framework for public and private collaboration”. Keep it simple.

Attractive environment would make certain areas more likely for investment.

Think beyond Town centre around shops

Support infrastructure rail and road.

Make sure towns are attractive to encourage business and residents to come to the area.

2: A Northamptonshire with a strong and distinct identity.

Lack of regard for protection of heritage of centres.

Tourism – Economy. Build on local heritage to encourage tourism.

Take visual effects of bins and litter and graffiti seriously.

A Northamptonshire Day should celebrate both sides of the Civil War and the traditions that have built our nation.

3: A Northamptonshire with a vibrant and dynamic economy.

No mention of innovation and enterprise.

Not ambitious enough.

More immigration of high-skilled workers to drive vibrant economy.

Encourage “sustainable materials/goods/businesses” e.g. alternatives.

Aspire to build/develop excellent shopping/leisure facilities to encourage people wanting to live in Wellingborough.

Too Northampton-centric but Wellingborough is Gateway to the East Midlands!

Aspire to build a hospital in Wellingborough.

Rejuvenation of Wellingborough Market Place.

4: A Northamptonshire where all can share in our success and growing prosperity.

Example – Single parent in University not working. Where is funding going to come from for affordable childcare? Not entitled to childcare assistance.

Definition of “affordable” and “social housing” not clearly understood.

Need to define “affordable” and “more and equal”.

VERY important, but “accessibility” of services including the consultations, such as this one, must be enhanced – the language is off-putting.

Affordable housing – more support to prevent homelessness before it happens, “intentional” or not!

Affordable housing – problem anticipated with HB payment procedure. Change to pay not to landlords but to tenants.

Services...more “equal” – but please make the eligibility rules less complex and easier to understand.

Retraining of local Housing Officer – Promote that communities are getting safer not keep yourself to yourself. Families become isolated within their community.

5: A Northamptonshire where we have strong, safe and cohesive communities.

Increase Police Force activity – to make communities safer.

6: A Northamptonshire that looks after and optimises its natural resources and assets.

Access and services needs elaboration

Continue to work on Arboretum Trail for biodiversity and reduce carbon footprint and encourage community ownership of areas.

Continue to deliver quality Green Infrastructure through the River Nene Regional Park.

Preserve visual aspects of historic areas.

Ban plastic bags.

Kerbside collection of glass, especially for those with no car.

Ensure new-build harmonises with surroundings.

Let's make a name as an eco-borough.

Competition to develop/design camouflage bins.

Encourage social responsibility to deal with litter.

7: A Northamptonshire that people can readily move around in.

Second person on bus for assistance purposes, where these are serving people with special requirements i.e. young mothers, older people.

Buses from Kingsway to Queensway.

Put bus numbers larger on bus stops + where buses go + times to spread awareness.

Lots more buses for villages now that shops and post offices have gone.

Buses around town on Sunday

More timetables at bus stops.

Adapt small buses to take more buggies if needed.

Ensure public made aware that disabled have priority for wheelchair over unfolded buggies.

Buses to out of town shopping centres.

Clearer indication of direction of buses and bus stops.

More subsidies for voluntary car schemes.

Car pooling schemes by employers.

Need to make routes easier to understand and timetables on bus stops clearer.

8: A Northamptonshire where people are healthy, have a good quality of life and the most vulnerable are supported to access appropriate services according to need.

Cost of free sports facilities would have to be met by District Councils.

Get GP's on side. Take them an offer to listen to their views.

Less emphasis on "free" than on accessible – taking account of travel distance.

More focus on alcohol problems than simply smoking.

More help with obesity due to thyroid or medication.

9: A Northamptonshire where every child and young person matters.

Employers to be added to lead partners list.

Support principle in general BUT some groups need support. RESOURCES must be provided.

What is the Silverstone Development?

Objective should give more emphasis on support

Apprenticeship workshop for post 16-18 or more.

Don't know what Silverstone Development is.

Make use of the Community Perspectives in Northamptonshire. Northamptonshire Agreed Syllabus

Health and Education – need to co-ordinate and give better service to young people.

Cultural Olympiad?

10: A Northamptonshire with a thriving cultural economy.

Waendel Weekend is a major event bringing visitors to the County.

Not enough mention here or elsewhere of what happens outside Northampton e.g. The Castle Theatre, the Museum, cultural quarter in Wellingborough.

To include at affordable cost outdoor leisure facilities – sailing etc.

No mention of heritage.

Sporting heritage, county culture – needs a motorsport museum.

Conference centre, Rushden and Diamonds, Sixfields, Saints Rugby Club – Why are we not using the facilities we have?

Suggestions for future topics

None suggested

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.