

Links are printed in red

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Sent: 05 February 2003 15:41
Attach: [Baseline info wshop results.doc](#); [Seniorstakeholder event notes 24.1.03.doc](#); [LSP Dialogue Day programme.doc](#); [LSP Dialogue Day - Invitation.doc](#)
Subject: Details of next MSP Board meeting and General Update

Dear MSP Board Member

This message is just a general update, prior to the next Board meeting.

First of all, please can I introduce myself as the new officer support for Community Planning - leading and co-ordinating Mendip DC's contribution to the Community Planning process and providing support to the Board. My contact details are at the end of this message.

The next Board meeting is to be held on **4th March 2003 at 3pm** in the Indictment Room at Wells Town Hall. The agenda and reports will be circulated electronically in the preceding week.

Attached for information are the results of Baseline Information workshop held in December 2002, where Board members identified some key issues. Also attached are the notes of a Public Agency Senior Stakeholders Event held on 24th January, where the key issues were further discussed. The recommendations in these notes are for consideration on 4th March.

Lastly, a final reminder about the Countywide LSP dialogue day on 20th February 2003 (details attached) If you would like to attend and haven't already let me /Jane Tromans know, please can you do so as soon as possible. The following MSP members have already accepted the invitation:

CLlr	Cathy	Bakewell	Somerset County Council
Mr	Ron	Ballantine	Mendip Primary Care Trust
Mr	Ian	Bennett	Strode College
Mr	Richard	Dixon	Mendip Environment Forum
Ms	Jilly	Edwards	Voluntary Action Mendip
CLlr	Stephen	Harrison	Mendip District Council
Mr	Graham	Livings	Victim Support
Mr	Ian	Wallace	Young Somerset
Mr	Malcolm	Lythgo	Environment Agency

I look forward to seeing you on 20th February / 4th March

Regards
Sara

Sara Skirton
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 Mendip District Council
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 Shepton Mallet
 BA4 5BT
 01749 341340

MENDIP STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Paper A - Priorities identified at the “*Sharpening the Issues for the Mendip Strategic Partnership*” workshop, held at Wells Town Hall on Friday 13th December 2002

Participants agreed that the main aims of the Partnership were enhancing social inclusion, community well-being and healthy living through more ‘joined-up’ working.

The Board members present identified four principles that they agreed should inform and influence all work towards the priorities identified. These principles were:

- Young people as the future generation
- Economic regeneration
- Social inclusion
- Sustainable development

Priorities

In defining the list of priorities below, the Board members present acknowledged the quality and value of numerous existing plans and strategies.

They agreed that actions within these strategies were already achieving or working towards a number of priorities and that the MSP were not in a position currently to ‘add value’ to these.

Particular examples of ‘good work’ were cited as:

- Better Homes Better Lives – deals with (amongst other things) affordable housing and recognises its role in social inclusion
- The Health Improvement and Modernisation Plan (HIMP) – deals with many of the health issues identified by the MSP, particularly coronary heart disease, stress-related illness, mental health and access to health information/services
- Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy – deals with issues of concern identified such as burglaries, substance misuse, community safety, crime prevention and fear of crime
- Waste management and Mendip’s ecological and geological distinctiveness are dealt with in several plans, and issues such as climate change and flooding will be addressed indirectly through the agreed list of priorities below

The group therefore agreed the following as priorities that the MSP can work on over the next 12-18 months:

1. Matching local skills to local jobs. This includes several areas of work:
 - Re-skilling and retraining of local workers to match the local industry base
 - Attracting inward investment that matches local skills base
 - Focusing on small and medium enterprises, farm diversification and tourism as sustainable options for economic regeneration
2. Improving public and community transport links. This includes out-of-district links, and creative provision for specific target groups, for example, young people and people with disabilities
3. Addressing long term unemployment (LTU). To develop an improved understanding of the causes of LTU, and awareness of the barriers to re-entry into the job market
4. Encouraging and enhancing access to post-16 education provision and take up in Mendip, particularly Higher Education
5. Improving road safety, particularly casualties involving young men
6. Developing a better understanding of the links between employment, education/skills and housing, particularly in relation to why/when young people leave the district, and what would attract them to return, for example, after studying away from home
7. Strategic planning focused on the after-use of quarries. This would involve developing an improved knowledge and understanding of the relationship between issues, especially the balance between the economic and environmental needs of the area

The report "Voluntary Sector Development in Somerset", by Hannah Reynolds Associates, commissioned by Somerset County Council, was commended to the Board. Members agreed that, if possible, a summary of this report should be presented to the Partnership for information. Copies are available from Voluntary Action Mendip.

Notes from Senior Public Agency Stakeholder Event 24th January 2003

Introduction and Welcome

Cllr. Stephen Harrison welcomed everyone to the meeting and expressed his gratitude that all partners were willing to meet on a Friday evening, saying that this in itself shows commitment for working together on Community Planning. He went on to express that he saw this meeting as 'crunch time' for key stakeholders in the Public Sector to decide together, how they want to move forward and how this needs to be resourced.

Aims of the meeting

- Discuss emerging strategic issues as a result of the work done by the Data Baseline Task Group
- Discuss and agree approach for taking forward the Community Planning process
- Agree the resources needed for the management and implementation of the agreed way forward

Context

Cllr Stephen Harrison related the following key stages that had taken place in setting up the Mendip Strategic Partnership (MSP):

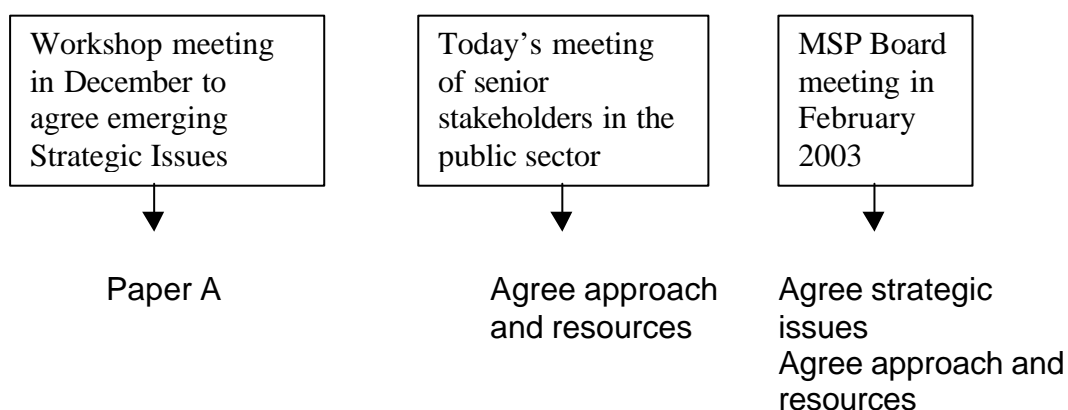
- Mendip District Council initiated the process by holding a meeting on 12 December 2001 of key stakeholders from the public, private and voluntary sectors
- Two working groups were set up as a result of this meeting – one to develop a structure for the MSP and the other to develop a project plan for the first two years of the MSP's work
- These two groups worked between January and March 2002 and their work was pulled together in April 2002 when a document was produced entitled 'Mendip Local Strategic Partnership and Community Planning Process
- This was used to recruit members for the MSP Board and these people came together for the first time in June 2002 for an Away Day where they met each other and discussed in more detail both the structure and project plan

Ron Ballantine, the Chairperson of the Mendip Strategic Partnership explained the main activities that the MSP had been involved since July 2002. This included:

- Setting up 4 Task Groups looking at Communications, Data Baseline, Partnerships and Sub district pilot
- The Communications Group has drafted a Communications Strategy for both internal and external communications
- The Partnerships Group has mapped out existing partnerships both within the District and County wide
- The Sub district pilot Group has recommended Shepton Mallet as the area for exploring a sub district community planning process
- The Data Baseline Group has researched existing information from across agencies and the distilled version of this research is Paper A

He reinforced the need for partners to now discuss the emerging issues and more importantly agree how to take this forward so that a difference is achieved.

Lynn Wetenhall completed the Context session by explaining where this meeting fit into the wider picture by referring to the following diagram:



What is my one hope for this process?

Each person was asked to introduce himself or herself and share what their one hope was for the Community Planning process.

Ian Bennett (Strode College) – to provide the impetus for attracting more money into Mendip

Nigel Farrow (Somerset County Council)– to not become a bureaucratic exercise and that it adds to the sustainable development of the area

Cllr Cathy Bakewell (Somerset County Councillor) – that the Community of Mendip has ownership of what we are doing and that the Mendip Strategic Partnership links in with the Somerset Strategic Partnership

Sara Skirton (Mendip District Council)– existing commitment is revived and from this tangible results are manifested

Graham Jeffs (Mendip District Council)– try and resolve the dilemma that District Councils are in, i.e. show leadership but also be part of a team

Malcolm Lythgo (Environment Agency)– better involvement with local people, especially in terms of the Environment Agency’s work

Andy Gardiner (Environment Agency)– better information on what the community wants

Peter Chapman (Mendip Housing Limited)– make a difference in terms of improving existing activity as well as new projects.

Jim Shearer (Somerset Constabulary)– developing and making changes especially in terms of making Mendip a safe place to live and work

Beatrice Beer (Learning and Skills Council)– we are in a climate of expanding agendas with many targets to meet – this process can help us do this by better understanding each other’s agendas and how we can work together to achieve the targets that we cannot meet other than by working together.

Robin Smith (Mendip Primary Care Trust)– we need to be careful to not aspire too high then achieve far less than we hoped. We need to align our individual agendas so that they work for Mendip and we need to create new corporate knowledge within the partnership, which will impact our individual organisational objectives so that we can begin to really plan together

Ron (Mendip Primary Care Trust and Chair person of MSP) – to pull together what is already happening and not chase some new strategy

Stephen (Mendip District Councillor)– to gain clarity on what we take to the MSP and to make a real difference that people can see, e.g. Shepton Mallet

Emerging Strategic Issues

Paper A- priorities identified at the “Sharpening the Issues for the Mendip Strategic Partnership” workshop held on 13.12.02,

Paper A, containing the priorities or issues that had emerged through evaluation of social, economic and environmental baseline data was considered in order to gain understanding on whether partners felt these issues were the right ones for the Community Strategy and if so how they should be taken forward

Issues 1-6 were considered to be in line with most organisations' priorities, although they were seen to be less immediately relevant for the Environment Agency. It was acknowledged that new priorities would emerge over time and that some agencies would be more involved than others at various stages.

With regard to issue 7 – Quarrying - the ability to have an impact was less clear cut and it was acknowledged that conflicting views about the quarrying industry in Mendip existed amongst the community. Therefore it was recommended that:

The MSP has a strategic watching brief on quarrying, i.e. keep an eye open for any threats /changes

It was also recommended that:

The Shepton Mallet pilot area be added to the list of priority areas for action

Whole Systems Approach

Paper B – Briefing Note on the Guiding Principles of a “Whole Systems” approach

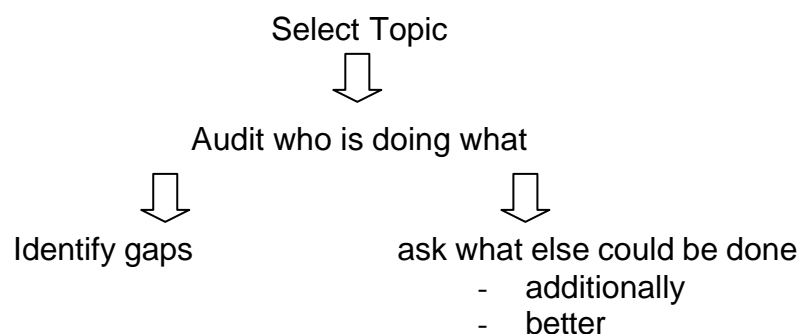
A Whole System Approach was explained using the example of joint training and development amongst partners; (this was used as a 'live' example, because the desire for more joined up training had been expressed at the first Community Planning stakeholder meeting in December 2001 but no action has been taken)

Options for taking the Community Planning process forward

Paper C – Different process approaches to developing an implementable Community Strategy and Action Plan

A number of possible processes for taking the Community Planning process forward, including whole systems events, were considered. In addition to the approaches identified in Paper C, the following approaches were also suggested:

1.



2. Look at what is working well and build on it. 'Re-badge' / align with MSP if appropriate.
3. **Product champions:** an approach whereby agencies put conscious effort into enabling local 'activists' who are keen to do things towards the LSP's priorities, to get on and do things from the 'bottom up'.

As a result of discussions, it was concluded that a different approach would be appropriate, depending on the strategic issue being taken forward. For example it was suggested (but not agreed), that developing a Community Plan for Shepton Mallet could use a Whole Systems approach, whilst matching local skills to local jobs could be progressed through a working groups approach.

Lynn & Maria suggested to the group that once agreement has been reached on the issues which are to be worked on, it will be important for a dedicated small group (this could be the Support Group or a special task-focused group) to come together in order to pay real attention to process – to how things will be done, who will do them, by when and so on. They referred to this as 'designing' process.

Commitment

The need to have multi agency commitment to taking the Community Planning process forward and making it work was acknowledged. It was generally agreed that the MSP Support Group membership should be multi agency rather than just Mendip District Council Officers.

Agreed action:

Graham Jeffs, Robin Smith, Beatrice Beer and Ian Bennett to meet before the next MSP meeting in March in order to:

Rewrite and regroup Paper A issues 1-6, making them more defined - in doing this, consider how to best pick up on the cross-cutting nature of the issue i.e. avoid falling back into 'silo thinking'

- *give consideration to how these issues can be taken forward (i.e. process)*
- *draw out resource and commitment implications, or at least begin the process*
- *consider how to engage wider community*

This should be circulated to the MSP Board for discussion at the 4 March 2003.

Key messages from this meeting to the MSP

- Look at the agreed priorities and focus down further e.g. what are we trying to achieve in the next 12.-18 months?
- New issues will arise, to which MSP must remain open to
- MSP needs to look for issues, which:
 - Dovetail with SSP
 - Will attract extra funding
 - Have a joint Mendip angle (i.e. SSP and MSP)
- The Support group role is essential and should continue – but with multi agency membership and with more emphasis on process i.e. *how* things will be done.

LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS IN SOMERSET WORKSHOP

20 FEBRUARY 2003

Lyngford House Conference Centre, Selworthy Road,
Priorswood, Taunton

Aims for the day

To bring together members of Somerset's 6 Local Strategic Partnerships to:

- Build shared knowledge and understanding of the Community Planning process and the role/priorities of each LSP
- Build links and relationships between the LSPs in Somerset
- Build a shared commitment to on-going dialogue to ensure the best level of co-ordination and agreement between the different partnerships
- To agree on future key areas for discussion and action/solutions to perceived issues
- To agree how the next stage of the dialogue process should be taken forward

DRAFT PROGRAMME

10.00 Arrival and refreshments

10.15 Welcome, introductions and aims for the day

10.30 Presentation from each LSP Group

Each LSP is invited to make a 10-minute presentation on the make-up, style and key priorities of your Partnership. You are asked to be as innovative, colourful and lively as possible within the time constraints. Key points to include are:

- Your LSP, including Chair, membership, Terms of reference etc, budget/pooled funds etc
- Work-programme priorities (both now and for the future)
- Emerging key themes from community strategies

12.00 Presentation from members of successful LSPs in a two tier area – details to be confirmed

12.30 Lunch and networking opportunity

13.30 Group work sessions based in mixed LSP groups looking at key issues for LSPs. Each group is asked to consider the questions below and develop a list of principles/further issues.

Questions for discussion:

1. What is the split of responsibilities between the district LSPs and the county SSP?
2. How should the SSP or the LSP's be run?
 - Should it rely on member organisations?
 - Should it have dedicated resources or its own budget?
 - Should it initiate new initiatives?
3. Should the Chairs of the LSPs be the representatives on the SSP?
4. Should there be any connectivity between the LSPs and SSP? Are they autonomous bodies or should the work together?
5. How should the SSP set out its deliverables for the year?

14.15 Feedback from each group with plenary discussion opportunity after each topic

15.00 General discussion on future action

15.15 Close

Invitation

Dear LSP Member

Local Strategic Partnerships In Somerset - Workshop

You are cordially invited to attend a workshop on Local Strategic Partnerships in Somerset on Thursday 20th February, starting at 10.00 am at the Lyngford House Conference Centre in Taunton. Lyngford House has been selected for its central position as one of the most accessible venues for all attendees. **Please note that there is no charge for attendance at this event.**

Since the publication of Government guidance in 2000, each of the 5 district councils and the county council have developed Local Strategic Partnerships. Although these are still at the early stages of development all partners have shown great commitment in working together for the benefit of their communities. However there has been relatively little dialogue between the different partnerships and particularly between the different tiers.

Each LSP has agreed that it would be helpful to spend some time working together to learn from each other's experience and best practice and also identifying any issues for future discussion or resolution.

The overall aims of the workshop are:

To bring together members of Somerset's 6 Local Strategic Partnerships in order to:

- Build shared knowledge and understanding of the Community Planning process and the role/priorities of each LSP
- Build links and relationships between the LSPs in Somerset
- Build a shared commitment to on-going dialogue to ensure the best level of co-ordination and agreement between the different partnerships
- To agree on future key areas for discussion and action/solutions to perceived issues
- To agree how the next stage of the dialogue process should be taken forward

Please could you complete and return the attached reply slip. In the meantime if you should have any queries please don't hesitate to contact me on 01823 355400.

Yours sincerely

Jane Tromans

on behalf of the workshop coordinating group

Response Form

I **will/will not** (delete as appropriate) be able to attend the LSP workshop on 20th February 2003.

Name

Organisation

Address

.....

Contact details (email/phone)

I am a member of the following LSP(s)

- Sedgemoor in Somerset
- The Taunton Deane Partnership
- South Somerset Together
- The Mendip Strategic Partnership
- Exmoor Coast & Countryside Partnership
- The Somerset Strategic Partnership

I have the following special needs or dietary requirements:

.....

Please return to:

Jane Tromans
Policy Manager
Somerset County Council
County Hall
Taunton
TA1 4DY