

Local Voices Local Choices

Lewes District Local Strategic Partnership



Report to Lewes District Council Scrutiny Committee, August 2008

Since around 2004 the Lewes District LSP developed five area partnerships in Lewes district: Rural Voices Rural Choices for the rural parishes; Newhaven Strategic Network, Peacehaven/ Telscombe REGEN, Lewes Town Partnership and Seaford Community Partnership. These provide a mechanism by which the Lewes district community strategy and its 7 themes can be interpreted and responded to at a local level identifying community solutions from the bottom up. See Lewes District Council Community Strategy at www.lvlc.info for more details

The following reports cover the work of the 5 partnerships from Jan 2006- August 2008 supported by South Downs CVS development officers



The role of the Lewes Area Partnership is to act as a link between the residents of Lewes, the business sector in Lewes, the voluntary sector in Lewes, and local government. Its aim is to take issues raised by the community and find ways of addressing those issues. http://www.lvlc.info/members_lewes.htm

Areas of work

The Market Town Health Check Jan 2006 – Apr 2007

The objective of the health check was 'to gather all the raw facts and figures about Lewes Town and surrounding areas providing a holistic template with which to integrate local community opinions and issues.' This was done during 2006 via a comprehensive questionnaire, widely distributed within the town and in the surrounding villages, covering ten main areas:

- Employment
- Transport
- Shopping
- Environment
- Training and Education
- Health and Social Services
- Sport and Leisure
- Crime
- Community Involvement
- Demographics.



The Development Officer's role was to devise and arrange for the distribution of the questionnaire. The Development Officer was responsible for the analysis of the data and for the writing of the document which was presented to the partnership.

The results were analysed and presented in a 54-page document in early 2007. The intention was to enable the town to apply for funding from SEEDA. The partnership was advised that more work needed to be done before the application would be robust enough to comply with the requirements of the scheme.

Next phase May 2007 – Aug 2008

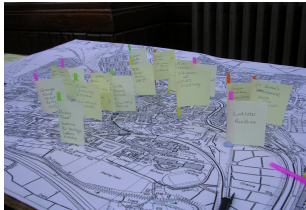
The document continued to be refined and strengthened, using information from the original but incorporating new material where appropriate.

The Development Officer carried out this work. When her contract terminated in April 2008 (because of the reduced LDC grant), she had revised four of the original sections of the health check.

Work undertaken since the Health Check

The existence of the Town Partnership is not well-known in Lewes and it was decided to have a stall at the Societies' Fair in July 2007.

The Development Officer provided a large map of Lewes and the surrounding district, and invited the public to place a flag showing where they lived and any projects they were aware of, at the same time talking about the Partnership and its role. This helped add data to the health check on local initiatives in the town.



At the same time however the Partnership needed some small scale projects to show results. It also needed strengthening, both in terms of directors as some long serving members retired, and also in terms of new member organisations.

The new board members, now numbering seven, agreed on the following projects, and shared the work between them as shown below:

Projects

- LTP gave a grant of £500 to Common Cause to establish Tree Pruning Courses. These have proved popular and effective, often leading to follow up work. Common Cause is hoping to find grants from elsewhere to repeat the programme.
Link director – Katherine Rayner
- The Partnership drew the attention of the District Council to the need for improved Car Park Signs. This has led to ongoing work on signage in general.
Link director – Robert Cheesman
- A well-advanced plan for shops to display in their windows a 'Potted History' of past uses was put on hold when it was found that three other related projects were being developed. One of these, a map outlining a Town Trail, is being supported by the LTP.

Link directors – Ruth O’Keeffe (potted histories), David Glen (town trail)

- A meeting was arranged by LTP to bring together all those providing Youth Services in the town, to see where LTP support could usefully be offered. Further meetings about the use of the Nutty Wizard are continuing.

Link director – John Webber

- A Youth Awareness Event at Priory School is being supported jointly by LTP and Rural Voices Rural Choices. A series of planning meetings have already started, and the event is planned take place in the autumn.

Link director – John Webber

- Concern over the changes in the use of the Bus Station and alternative facilities provided led to LTP calling a meeting of the developer and representatives of the District and County Councils. Further meetings have taken place.

Link director – John Webber

- LTP is seeking funding from SEEDA’s Small Rural Towns programme for training purposes.

Link director – Rik Child

- LTP is supporting a history project – The Lost Parish of St Mary in the Market – with a view to improving ultimately the condition of Station Street, around which the parish once existed.

Link director – Rosey Eggar

- LTP is actively seeking to establish, in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce, a cardboard recycling programme in the town which would be available to both residents and businesses.

Link director – John Webber

The Development Officer’s role is to support individual Directors as and when she is needed, setting up/attending meetings, gathering information, recording progress. Her main priority recently has been the setting up of the Youth Awareness Event.

Once this list of projects was available to show prospective members, a recruiting campaign was launched, and membership increased from seven to thirty at the last count. This includes all the major residents’ associations in the town, the Chamber of Commerce, CVS and many clubs and societies. We have conducted two surveys, one in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce and Lewes District Council relating to commercial waste, the other concerning transport issues in and around the town.

The Development Officer set up a Stall at the 2008 Societies’ Fair in the Town Hall, backed by a display showing the work of the LTP. She made contact with other organisations represented there and invited them to join the partnership. She distributed traffic surveys for the public to fill in there and then or take away.

The results identified concern over local bus services, both within the town and

connecting services with the villages. The partnership is engaged in developing more accessible information, with smaller, more easily understood timetables relevant to particular areas of the town. The other survey has led to the imminent establishment of the cardboard recycling scheme referred to above, as well as a parallel scheme to be run by LDC.

The development officer has applied for grants to support the history project, the youth awareness event, and one of the town trails, as well as for the tree pruning course referred to above.

Successful grant applications amount to £1500, but those in the pipeline amount to a further £2,970. It is sad to report that the time and effort put into the Market Town Health Check looks to have been in vain, as the available money from SEEDA is much reduced and the possible rewards would not justify the work still required for an application with a reasonable chance of success.

Our present development officer, Valerie Biggs, who also works for one day a week for Rural Voices Rural Choices, is therefore engaged in seeking elsewhere for funding. Her dual role is valuable as the two partnerships are working ever closer together. It is clear that some grants are likely to be more successful if applied for jointly.



The role of the Area Partnership Rural Voices Rural Choices, is to provide a voice for the views and interests of the rural communities in the Lewes District and aims to identify priorities for action that will bring benefits to the quality of life for people in rural areas. Total grants awarded for projects:- £25,550

http://www.lvlc.info/members_rural.htm

Jan 2006 – Aug 2008

Transport & Traffic -

- Lewes District Transport Group

As a result of Parish survey (undertaken Dec 2005), a Lewes District Transport group started up in May 2006, to address and resolve transport issues that had been identified by young people and the Parishes. This group has subsequently met twice a year and has included representation from various ESCC transport departments, Coach and Bus Transport operators, Lewes District Senior's Forum and Chailey School Council. This project is on-going. (See notes of some issues raised at the last meeting held 19 May)

- **Minibus Audit**

A minibus audit was carried out and the Rural Transport Partnership directory was distributed to Lewes District Parishes.

- **SID Machine**

In order to have safer roads and slower traffic, RVRC purchased a Speed Indicator Device which is being shared by the villages and is being used more regularly once volunteers in relevant villages have been trained.

- **Community Transport Scheme**

RVRC applied to the Seedcorn Fund to fund a Community Transport Scheme in the areas of Iford, Swanborough & Kingston for the amount of £5000. The aim of this scheme is to reduce dependency on private car usage and provide people in Kingston, Iford and Swanborough alternative access to main public transport routes during out of bus service hours. £5000 was awarded in June 2008

Children & Young People

- **Chailey School – transport event**

Worked with students of Chailey School to 1) identify transport issues that young people confront in rural areas and 2) to host an event to present the questionnaire findings. The event was held at Chailey School in March 2006. This was a very good example of young people's full participation in the consultation process and in planning/hosting the event. The issues raised at this event were linked into the Lewes District Transport Group (see above).

- **Barcombe Youth Shelter**

A youth shelter was installed in Barcombe village so that young people have an independent place where they can socialise together, unsupervised. With support from development worker, Barcombe Parish Council received funding for this project from Viridor Credits, the Sussex Police Joint Initiative Fund and Lewes District Council Rural Local Action Team, coming to a fund of around £7000. Kingston also initially applied to Awards for all (£3500) to install a youth shelter however returned the money as decided not to go ahead with the youth shelter.

- **Mapping Exercise – of existing Children's Activities**

The development worker worked with individual parishes in Lewes District and carried out a mapping exercise to identify existing activities for children and young people in Lewes District.



- **Consultation Exercise – South Heighton**

As a result of the above exercise, South Heighton was identified as an area where there were gaps in childrens' activities. So undertook a survey and consulted with young people in Denton School (who live in South Heighton) to identify need. Feedback results of survey to Parish Council and youth worker in S. Heighton.

- **Youth Awareness Events**

Youth awareness events were held at Ringmer Community College Nov 2007 and Chailey School March 2008 (Priory School Nov 2008) aiming to 1) promote awareness about the services of organisations that work with young people 2) consult with young people about what activities they would like and 3) promote awareness around specific health issues e.g alcohol and drug misuse. Grants awarded to RVRC for Ringmer event were:- Social Inclusion grant £550 and Rural Lats grant £500 and for Chailey event:- ESDWPCT grant £500 and Rural Lats grant £500.

- RVRC distributed 200 questionnaires (153 responses) at Chailey school to find out if there is a need to hold any after-school activities that are not already in place and if there are any transport requirements that are preventing students from participating in after-school activities. Majority students were keen to see more sports, drama, art and music after school. 50% of students said that lack of transport prevented them from participating in after-school activities, two thirds of these live in Lewes District. This information was made available to members attending the Transport Issues meeting on 19 May e.g ESCC Passenger Transport, Local Partnerships for children and Countryliner. Consequently, ESCC passenger transport are thinking of putting an extra journey of the 121 bus on to meet the needs of students appropriately.

Communication and promotion

- **RVRC Logo**

Worked with Hrs Graphics designers to create a recognisable logo for RVRC.

- **Extend Membership**

Widened Rural Voices Rural Choices membership to Youth Parliament, Rural Villages Project and Bluebird Community Transport.

Environment

- **Identifying Funding**

Worked with Westmeston Jubilee Trust to try and identify funding for the third stage of a footpath project between Westmeston/Ditchling.

- **Applause Rural Touring Project**

Worked in partnership with Applause Rural Touring and applied for Awards for All Funding (£8000) to support a community arts project in the villages of Lewes District. Grant of £8000 awarded in August 2008.



Seaford Community Partnership are working towards achieving their vision of enhancing Seaford as a comfortable and interesting town for families to live and work in, for people to visit, and to improve business opportunities leading to better employment prospects. http://www.lvlc.info/members_seaford.htm The partnership embraces many different pieces of work. The following have benefited from input of the development officer

Priority area: Young People

- The Base Project

Working with YDS, Town & District Council to renovate disused tennis ticket hut on the Salts in small young people's safe indoor space.

Funding obtained: £2,000 Prevent & Deter Group; £1,000 Crime Reduction Partnership; £500 B&Q Better Neighbourhood Grant; £14,000 Seaford Town Council (for necessary exterior repairs); £1,100 Rotary Club of Seaford (for exterior seating); £2,500 Seaford Town Council for security gates; £4,000 from ESCC Youth Opportunity Fund (interior refurbishment). In kind help from GW Ironworks, Community Pay-back Volunteers.

Building completed: November 2007

Ongoing Action: Support for Management Committee for the Base

Currently used by 4 regular young people's groups per week



Priority area: Healthy Living

- Healthy Walk Trail

Consultation on Awards for All application for the Seafront Group towards the creation of a healthy walk trail

Funding obtained: £7,100 Awards for All

Trail completed: 2007

Priority area: Environment & Community

- Visioning Consultation Events for the Salts and Crouch Gardens

Series of 4 community consultation/visioning events held in partnership with Seaford Town Council specifically focussing on two open spaces in Seaford: the Salts Recreation Ground & the Crouch Gardens. The first two events invited Stakeholders to share their visions for the areas; visioning reports were compiled and distributed. The second two events were for the public to make comments and feedback on visions – further report compiled and distributed.

Events: Sept 2007 – March 2008

Ongoing actions: Friends of Crouch Gardens being established; planning advice given to Stakeholders wishing for development; funding advice given to small groups.

- Monthly Cinema Club

Present: Negotiations to set up a monthly cinema club for older people at Seaford



Newhaven Strategic Network aim to ensure the community of Newhaven owns the vision of the town's future; to make Newhaven an attractive place to live, work and visit, and one in which local people can take pride; and to develop a vision that guides the statutory, voluntary and business sectors to ensure Newhaven becomes a sustainable, thriving town with a commercial centre reflecting that vitality. www.newhaven-regeneration.org. The following projects received direct development officer support via SDCVS.

Priority area: Children & Young People

- Sculpture Project

In partnership with Newhaven Town Council, YDS, Tideway School and NCDA, creation of a young person designed sculpture for the town in Fort Road, to include mosaic workshops; mini festival to unveil sculpture.

Funding obtained:- £5,000 Awards for All; £1,000 GW Ironworks, in kind support from Travis Perkins.

Project completed: July 2007

Ongoing action: working with Newhaven in Bloom

- Positive Contribution Event – Tideway School

In partnership with Tideway School & NCDA a youth awareness/ participation day is planned where young people can find out what opportunities are available in the town. The event will include workshops and consultations on open spaces, NCDA's youth strategy & Tideway School's after school provision.

Event date: October 14th 2008

Priority area: Improving Community Health & Wellbeing

- Our Newhaven Project

Development of Our Newhaven; an interactive, intergenerational website project in partnership with Tideway School, Maritime Museum, Newhaven Fort, Newhaven Town Council, WRVS & Chamber of Commerce. Project involved volunteer training in web-based skills. Project also involved a drama performance based on life stories of local people. Our Newhaven Community Day held at Newhaven Fort in March 2008, which included performance and community stalls. www.ournewhaven.org.uk

Funding obtained: £8450 Awards for All; £7,360 Global Grants; £300 Newhaven Town Council; £100 WRVS; £100 Chamber of Commerce.

Project ongoing: Regular training sessions and support for volunteers to become a company limited by guarantee. Website has over 100 visitors per day.

Our Newhaven

- Community Sustainability Day

Early development of an awareness raising event to be held at Newhaven Fort in March 2009.



“to promote and develop the social, economic and environmental well being of the communities and residents of the towns of Peacehaven, Telscombe and their environs”

REGEN works to a set of priorities arrived at after extensive consultation with the communities of East Saltdean, Telscombe and Peacehaven: this is the basis for the Your Town Your Say document. This document has recently been reviewed by the Partnership and in the coming months it is planned to hold consultation events in both towns to allow the communities to have their say on the document.

Over the past four years REGEN partnership has brought in grants of approx. £40,000, organised and delivered the following:

Events:

Random Freefest: Youth Festival and fringe, Peacehaven 2005
The Circle: sustainability fair, Telscombe 2004 & 05
Cool Yule: ethical Christmas market, Telscombe 2005,06,07
Glow in the Park: Festival of light, Telscombe 2006
Midsummer sensations: sustainability fair Telscombe 2006
An Inconvenient Truth: film screening, Peacehaven 2006
Random Freefest 0.5: mini youth festival at shelter launch, Peacehaven 2007
Do Domething Now! : climate change week Oct 2008 – events held throughout the week in both Towns.

Equipment:

Basketball hoop: Telscombe 2003
Sound and lighting equipment (contribution): Meridian Hall Peacehaven 2005
Youth shelter: Meridian Park Peacehaven 2007



Other:

Commissioned youth survey: East Saltdean, Telscombe & Peacehaven 2005
Samba classes for young people: Joff Peacehaven and Civic Centre Telscombe 2005
Zero Degrees: Young People’s listing magazine: Peacehaven Community School 2006
- a youth magazine & webzine project giving young people training in journalism, photography and editorial and featuring events happening in the local area
Hot Fuzz: film screening for young people Peacehaven 2007
Act On It!: drama workshop for young people Peacehaven 2007
Rugby taster session: Peacehaven 2007

Currently Regen has been working with young people and architects, BBM sustainable design, to provide a parkour/performance area in the area. This is a very innovative project and came from the first Youth Festival when parkour workshops were run.

http://www.lvlc.info/members_peacehaven.htm

LEWES DISTRICT AREA PARTNERSHIPS financial report 2005 - 2009

South Downs CVS	2005-06	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09
Staff		£	£	£	£	£
Budget for staffing to support the 5 area partnerships		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget*
Area Development Workers (original budget for 54 hrs/wk, actual hrs/wk =53) equivalent to ~11hrs per partnership in practice RVRC has more, LTP less		39103	37275	39697	37973	29636
*lower budget 08/09 amended to 1 day each ie 37.5 hrs/wk: as grant reduced						
Budgets assumed 3% cost of living + pension taken						
		39103	37275	39697	37973	29636
b. Other Staff Costs						
- Travel		1000	1059	1000	899	750
- Training 07/08		300	64	500	56	150
- Redundancy/recruitment						3000
c. Contribution to Central Management Costs, 10% covers line management, insurance, audit, admin, newsletter		4000	3888	4500	4500	3750
Total Management & Staff Costs		44403	42286	45697	43428	37286
Support Costs		£		£		
a. Stationery		400	419	400	392	400
b. Duplication & Printing		800	482	800	229	800
c. Postage		100	58	100	43	100
d. Telephone +IT (broadband)		500	861	500	892	500
e. Meeting Support			109		260	
g. Other (please specify) - monitors Pubs/subs/sundry		200	47	200	237 222	200
Total Support Costs		2000	1976	2000	2275	2000
Overheads		£		£		
a. Premises		3000	2700	3000	3000	2000
b. Utilities (please specify): includes heat, light, gas						
Total Overheads		3000	2700	3000	3000	2000
Total Costs	35274	49403	46962	50697	48703	41286
Grant Income received	40500		46222		50697	35000
Balance for year	5226		-740		1994	-6286
Balance b/f from previous year			5226		4486	6480
Balance c/f to following year	5226		4486		6480	194