

**The Western Area Partnership Board Meeting  
Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2009  
Egglescliffe Youth Club, Egglescliffe School  
Minutes of the meeting**

**Partnership Board Members**

**Chair:** Cllr Maureen Rigg (**Stockton Borough Council**)

**Members:** Tony Hampton (**Kirklevington Parish Council**), Jennifer Pinkney (**Yarm & Willey Flats Residents Association**), Geoff Turner (**Egglescliffe & Egglescliffe Parish Council**), Doug Nicholson (**Friends of Tees Heritage Park**), Bill Johnson (**Yarm Residents Group**), Philip Addison (**Yarm Fellowship Committee**), Jennie Beaumont (**Stockton Borough Council**), Marjorie Simpson (**Yarm Town Council**), Alan Lewis (**Stockton Borough Council**), Nora Rosser (**Long Newton Wilson Centre**), John Rosser (**Long Newton Parish Council**),

**Advisers/Observers**

Zoe Rutter (**Stockton Borough Council**), Gareth Carson (**Stockton Borough Council**), Helen Trantor & Mark Cotton (**North East Ambulance Service**), Tracy Roberts (**SRCGA**), Alison Aguis (**Catalyst**), Stephen Shaw (**Stockton Borough Council**), Dawn Welsh (**Stockton Borough Council**), Anna Christie

**Apologies**

Ian Garrett  
Andy Whinnerah  
Elizabeth Benomran

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<b>ITEM/ISSUE</b>	<b>DOI</b>	<b>COMMENTS /DECISION</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>Does it need Council approval/ endorsement?</b>	<b>Are any other boards affected?</b>	<b>CONTACT</b>
<b>1. Welcome and Introductions</b>  Members of the WAPB were welcomed to the meeting.		Noted	No	No	No	Zoe Rutter SBC 01642 526025
<b>2. Apologies</b>  Apologies noted.		Noted	No	No	No	Zoe Rutter SBC 01642 526025
<b>3. Declarations of Interest</b>  Noted.		Noted	No	No	No	Zoe Rutter SBC 01642 526025
<b>4. Minutes of the Last Meeting</b>  Minutes of the meeting held on the 27 <sup>th</sup> April 09 were agreed as a true and accurate record.		Noted	No	No	No	Zoe Rutter SBC





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<p><b>7. Voluntary Sector Support Fund (VSSF) &amp; Community Empowerment Network (CEN) – Stephen Shaw &amp; Dawn Welsh</b></p> <p>Stephen introduced the VSSF item and brought members attention to the questionnaire which was tabled on the night. SS explained that the VSSF currently has a value of £550k and supports 10 organisations and has done since 2002. In 2009/10 the funding will be cut to £430k and may end up being distributed differently. Various sessions have been held across the Borough and an event for the Thematic Partnerships will be held on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June. SS informed the Board that the Council is keen to ensure that the VSSF money continues to be put to the very best use and has agreed three key objectives to shape the review:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Consolidate the Borough’s strategic infrastructure</li> <li>2. Create a more flexible support fund</li> <li>3. Measuring the contribution to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector</li> </ol> <p>Dawn explained the CEN to the Board and brought members attention to the table that was circulated.</p>		<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>	<p>No</p> <p>No</p> <p>No</p>	<p>No</p> <p>No</p> <p>No</p>		

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<p>Basically the CEN underpins Stockton's approach to engaging with residents across the Borough. This network was initially Government funded but this has now been withdrawn. The CEN is the route for residents to be empowered to participate in their area and thematic partnerships, and to become representatives on the Renaissance Partnership Board itself. No alternative funding to operate the CEN has been identified beyond March 2010 other than incorporating this into the VSSF. Historically this has cost £100k + annually. Objective 1 demonstrates that in Stockton and nationally that strong strategic infrastructure is key to creating an environment for a vibrant and thriving third sector. The principle of the 2009 review therefore must be to allocate adequate resources to fund the Borough's infrastructure organisations, namely Catalyst and SRCGA. This is likely to cost £115k annually. It could cost up to £215k of the £430k available to properly support the Borough's strategic infrastructure, leaving £215k to support activity. SS raised member's awareness with regards to the VSSF questionnaire and asked if members could complete the questionnaire and, if</p>		Noted	No	No		

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<p>applicable, supply any further feedback with regards to the VVSF questionnaire.            DW asked if members would please consider what service they currently receive and if this can be made any better. All of these views will be fed into the review and will be reported to Cabinet in the Autumn. There was some confusion around what was meant by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector to which Allison Agius replied that this covers the voluntary &amp; community sector and social enterprises. The same statement applied to the understanding of the CEN. It was felt that the current members who were elected via the CEN received very little support, as they hadn't asked for it, and the only connection they really have with the CEN is by way of mail outs and the election process. The Board felt that they don't receive much support from the CEN as they have historically only worked largely with areas of deprivation. It was noted that the representatives on the Board are from bodies / groups which do not have access to the VSSF so they do not recognise it.            The Board would like more support with youth engagement in the partnership, this is very</p>		<p>Noted</p> <p>Youth engagement</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>		

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<p>important to the Board.            Chair asked if members could take this issue back to their relevant groups / organisations and seek any views and feed them back to Stephen and Dawn as appropriate. Chair also asked if members could complete and return the VSSF questionnaire as soon as possible to Stephen Shaw.</p>		<p>is a priority for the Board.             Noted</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>		
<p><b>8. Review of Minutes Template</b></p> <p>As reported at the March meeting of the Western Area Partnership, a review of the Area Partnerships has been undertaken to strengthen their community leadership role and their supporting arrangements and an action plan implemented. These actions are now being implemented across the Area Partnerships. One of the actions arising from the review is to revise the minutes template for the Area Partnerships. It was noted during the review that the current minutes template has too much “white space” that is not used and a more appropriate template should be implemented. A number of options were put to the Area Partnerships and each Area Partnership are asked to agree which</p>		<p>The Western Area Partnership have chosen option 3 as their preferred minutes template.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>		



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<p>template they would prefer. Once a consensus template has been agreed by all the Area Partnerships, the revised minutes template will be adopted at the next meeting of the Partnership.</p> <p><b>9. Thematic Updates</b></p> <p>As no thematic updates were received, Chair asked for any updates to be sent direct to ZR and they will be forwarded on.</p> <p>Chair informed the Board that there is a meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> June with regards to the Myplace project and how it is going to be managed and what resources will be required to operate the building.</p> <p><b>a. Children &amp; Young People</b></p> <p>GC informed the Board that Kirklevington Youth Club is going really well and numbers have improved. Long Newton Youth Club have arranged several summer activities which include kayaking. Layfield Youth Club is still open despite building woks.</p>		<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>	<p>No</p> <p>No</p> <p>No</p>	<p>No</p> <p>No</p> <p>No</p>		

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<p>Anna informed the Board that the young people in Eggescliffe have nothing to do and the Youth Club needs to be open more than 2 nights per week. It was felt that most of the activities that are on offer are only available in Central Stockton and transport links in the Western Area are very poor on an evening so they cannot get to these activities. Chair asked the young people for suggestions on how we can interact more, as a Board, with the young people. It was suggested by the Chair that a meeting between the Chair, GC and the young people to discuss the way forward be arranged.</p>		Noted	Meeting to be arranged between MR, GC and young people.	No		
<p><b>10. External Funding Opportunities</b></p> <p>ZR informed the Board that the following funding opportunity was available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Targeted Support Fund</li> </ul>		Noted	No	No	No	
<p><b>11. Any Other Business</b></p> <p><b>a. Big Lunch</b></p> <p>Chair informed the Board of the Big Lunch event which is running activities on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July,</p>		Noted	No	No	No	

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would all members consider this event and feedback with any possible locations for this.						
<b>12. Date &amp; Time of Next Meeting</b>  Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> July, 6pm at Municipal Buildings, Conference Room 2		Noted				