

Minutes (DRAFT)
The Western Area Partnership Board (WAPB)
Monday 26^h September 2011, 6pm, Clairville Hotel, Yarm Road, Eaglescliffe

Chair: Members:

Cllr Maureen Rigg (MR) – Chair and Local Ward Councillor
 Fiona Chesters (FC) – Tees Valley Rural Community Council, Geoff Turner (GT) – Eaglescliffe and Egglecliffe Parish Council, Marjorie Simpson (MS) – Yarm Youth and Community Centre, Cllr Phil Denis – Local Ward Councillor, Philip Addison (PA) – Yarm Fellowship Committee, John Rosser (JR) – Long Newton Parish Council, Doug Nicholson (DN) Friends of Tees Heritage Park, Alan Lewis (AL) - Local Ward Councillor, Maurice Snowdon (MS) – Over 50's Assembly, Jennifer Pinkney (JP) – Willey Flats Residents Group, Mark Chatburn (MC) – Local Ward Councillor, Steve McClaren (SM) – Cleveland Fire Brigade

Advisors:

Graham Clingan (GC) – SBC, Haleem Ghafoor (HG)

Apologies

Sophie Richardson (SR), Bill Johnson (BJ), Beccy Brown (BB), Tony Raine

ITEM/ISSUE	DOI	ACTION
1. Welcome and Introductions Members were introduced and welcomed to the Western Area Partnership.		None
2. Apologies Apologies were noted.		None
3. Declarations of Interest No declarations of interest were made.		None
4. Minutes of Last Meeting Minutes of previous meeting on 25 th July 2011 were agreed as an accurate and true record.		Noted

DOI – Declaration of Interest

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<p>5. Matters Arising</p> <p>It was noted that the Planning for Housing consultation deadline has been extended till the 30th September 2011.</p>		Noted
<p>6. Early intervention Grant Consultation – Beccy Brown</p> <p>Unfortunately BB was unable to attend however members were encouraged by MR to respond to the consultation and in particular encouraged members to respond to ensure that some Early year’s provision remains in the WAPB area.</p> <p>Members were asked to respond online or complete the questionnaire and return this via the envelope enclosed.</p> <p>If members had any specific queries or questions they can contact Beccy Brown on beccy.brown@stockton.gov.uk</p> <p>The deadline for the consultation is the 7th October 2011.</p>		Noted
<p>7. Spaces for Play – Tony Raine</p> <p>This item has been moved to a future meeting.</p>		Noted
<p>8. Green Infrastructure Strategy and Action Plan – Graham Clingan</p> <p>Graham Clingan (GC) circulated copies of the Green Infrastructure Strategy and copies of his powerpoint slides. GC explained that the economic climate has changed over the years and the nature of how we deliver things from 3 to 4 years ago. The strategy circulated will be presented to cabinet on the 3rd November 2011 and will be part of a series of strategies which will support the Local Development Framework (LDF). GC explained that during 2009 they had met with a range of partners during its development to ensure that all views are incorporated and considered which have now been fed into this strategy. The steering group members have supported the strategies development which includes members from the Environment Agency,</p>		Noted

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Groundwork North East, Tees Valley Wildlife Trust etc;

GC explained what green infrastructure meant which incorporates all types of open spaces, Water bodies and environmental features within and between our towns and cities. GC stated that the benefits of all green infrastructure and the vision.

GC went onto explain the ten strategic objectives and explained the maps in the strategy in terms of what we need to do to improve the boroughs green infrastructure.

The main strand is the development of the borough's green infrastructure network which picks up the Tees Valleys Green Infrastructure Corridors. This includes some of the key corridors in the area for example Long Newton to Allen West across to Ingleby South and Yarm which links together some of the wildlife sites. GC did state however that we need to develop and enhance these further through this strategy and consider the grids in all communities which link habitats together. GC explained how the strategy explains that through partnership working and working with local communities that we hope to access funding opportunities in the future.

GC stated that the next phase is the development of action plans to deliver the strategy, however we will also need to consider how we link in with the cycle links, the wetlands site, Tees Heritage Park and the A66 interchange to say the least. As a Council we are also making sense of feedback on a number of issues i.e. parks, cycleways etc which KM is pulling together to see what's proposed and what we would like the partnership to be involved and engaged. These will also form the delivery plans of the strategy.

GC also noted that the Principles Environmental Development Document will also need to be considered. Other aspects which are currently be worked up are things such as the term 'Green infrastructure' GC is having discussion with communication teams to have a more easy term to work with which everyone including local communities can understand.

GC asked members for any questions and queries which they may have. Some of the questions and comments raised included:

It would be useful to see the strategy on an area by area basis;
Has the strategy considered the green audit in this? GC explained this has been considered

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and approximately 22 consultation sessions were held and feedback was provided.

How does the housing planning development impact on this strategy? Does it impinge on this?
 GC explained that this strategy is not about protecting all green areas but rather it's about delivering quality green infrastructure as part of that. It's also about how we can enhance landscapes, improve wildlife habitat, and as part of any housing development consider the green infrastructure in the borough.

Is there any provision as part of the strategy to clean up the becks?
 GC explained that they would work closely in partnership with the Environment Agency whose aims are to reduce flood risk and improve water quality to improve any becks and also work to improve the Tees Heritage corridors.

It was queried about whether the old river tees will be improved?
 GC informed members that Northumbria Water are improving some areas relating to this and working to make it better.

MS queried some of the work taking place around Teesdale park. HG agreed to get SR to update him.

There was question on what the next phase will be for the strategy once it has been approved in particular in relation to planning?

GC explained that it is hoped that this strategy will influence and be incorporated into wider policies. For example it will be considered alongside an incorporated into the Regeneration and Environment DPD. This will help ensure for example if a company is going to develop a scheme that they consider partially what they can do to support the green infrastructure in the borough.

What if developers do not co-operate? GC explained that they would get a balance and work in partnership with developers so that there some recognised mutual benefits.

It was noted that work should take place with the parishes to improve green sites in the

SR to update MS to progress in Teesdale Park.

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<p>Western area as there are quite a few parishes in the area.</p> <p>It was queried whether the strategy will support local groups to protect green spaces, as it was felt at present that there is nothing to protect village green spaces? GC explained that the Environmental Development Plan Document will be critical in ensuring that we protect the green spaces valued by our communities.</p> <p>Finally GC commented that the strategy is going to cabinet for approval in Nov 11, following which there will be lots of opportunities for the Area Partnerships to work alongside his team on the action plans, which will deliver the strategy.</p>		Noted
<p>9. Communities Fund Update</p> <p>In SR's absence HG informed the partnership that SR is currently liaising with Connexions and Tees Achieve to finalise the project. SR will organise a small sub group meeting to finalise and agree the applications. It is hoped that the deliverers will be able to begin Oct 11.</p>		SR to arrange a sub group meeting to discuss and agree the application.
<p>9. Thematic Partnership Update</p> <p>PA circulated with the papers an update from the last Stockton Renaissance meeting. MR thanked PA for his report.</p> <p>MR provided an update on the Environment Partnership and updated members on Housing consultation taking place.</p> <p>PA gave an update on the ERTTP meeting where he updated members on discussions around the Department of Skills and Education and how this will affect small businesses.</p> <p>MC declared an interest at this point as he is employed by an Executive Agency of the Business, Innovation & Skills Department.</p>	DOI	Noted Noted Noted

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<p>10. External Funding</p> <p>There were no external funding opportunities discussed.</p>		<p>Noted</p>
<p>11. Any Other Business</p> <p>FC informed members that Tees Valley Rural Community Council (TVRCC) is holding an event on the 17th October 2011, 6-8pm at Stillington Youth and Community Centre. The event will have speakers and presentations by Simon Robertson, Regional Partnership Director for BT and Doff Pollard, Chief Officer at TVRCC. Members were asked to register their attendance if they wish to attend.</p> <p>FC updated members that the TVRCC AGM is being held on the 5th October 2011 at 2pm at the Wilson Centre.</p> <p>FC also updated members of an event which they are organising in partnership with Village SOS. They are hosting a series of free events to bring the benefits of community enterprise directly to communities. At this free event there is the opportunity to hear expert hands on advice from rural and enterprise specialists. This event will be taking place on the 30th November 2011, all day at Darlington Football Club. Members were requested to register with either Village SOS or TVRCC if they wish to attend.</p>		<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
<p>12. Date and Time of Next Meeting</p> <p>31st October 2011, at 6pm. (Venue tbc)</p>		<p>Noted</p>