

Leicestershire Stronger Communities Board

Meeting of the Leicestershire Stronger Communities Board held on Wednesday 12th September 2007 at 10.30am at the Church of Christ the King, Beaumont Leys.

MINUTES

Present

Neil Lambert
Lynn Aisbett

Sue Cavill
Diana Cook
Louise Driver
Greg Drozd
Kerrie Fletcher
Martin Gage
Joanna Hamilton
Andrew Ingles
Alyson Oliver

Voluntary Action Charnwood (Chair)
Chief Executive - Melton Borough Council, representing District Councils
Leicestershire County and Rutland Primary Care Trust
Leicestershire and Rutland Rural Community Council
Leicestershire County Council
Voluntary Action Hinckley & Bosworth
Leicestershire Volunteer Centre Network
North West Leicestershire CVS
Voluntary Action South Leicestershire
Voluntary Action Blaby District
Voluntary Action Oadby & Wigston

In Attendance

Joanne Cheney
Mark Rymer

CVS Community Partnership (Minute-taker)
Government Office East Midlands

Apologies

Paul Hackwood
Kathy McKinley
Ian Neale
Lesley Pendleton
Jeremy Prescott
Nicole Rickard
Bob Scott
Richard Tobin

Diocese of Leicester
Voluntary Action Melton
Leicestershire County Council
Leicestershire Rural Partnership
Leicestershire and Rutland Rural Community Council
Leicestershire County Council
Leicestershire Police
Leicestershire and Rutland Association of Parish and Local Councils

1. Welcome and Introductions

Neil Lambert welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Minutes of the last meeting of the Stronger Communities Board held on 13th June 2006

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record.

3. Matters arising

3.1 Community Cohesion in the County

Andy Robinson (Leicestershire County Council) has agreed that the County Council will be working with the Stronger Communities Board on the Leicestershire Community Cohesion Strategy.

- 3.2 Joint Meeting with Safer and Stronger Communities Block
Members of the Board met with the Safer Communities Block on Monday 2nd July. This was a useful opportunity to explore different forms of partnership work.

4. Stronger Communities Update

- 4.1 Further questions arising from Paper 1 'Stronger Communities Board Update'
Martin Gage confirmed that funding requirements have been met for Voluntary Action Neighbourhood Workers until the end of March 2008. The County Council has agreed to underwrite the last quarter, until either external funding or funding from the new Local Area Agreement is secured.

- 4.2 District Council and Parish Council election indicators
The target of 33.30% for Voter turnout at District Council elections in Leicestershire has been exceeded at 37.73%. A figure for Parish Councils has been received by the Association of Parish and Local Councils and is being verified before reporting.

- Jo Cheney to enquire about further work by the Association of Parish and Local Councils

5. Community Consultation

Diana Cook introduced Paper 2 'RCC Projects in Support of Stronger Communities'. Further to this paper, Community Development Officers have now been trained in 'Planning for Real' exercises. This could be used as a resource in the form of training meetings and consultation. It was said that the projects run by the Rural Community Council are very important in the Stronger Communities Block and another conversation would need to be had for discussion if the request is for the Board to totally support them.

- Jo Cheney to circulate the evaluation of the Rural Community Council's Community Consultation.

6. Stronger Communities Strategy for Leicestershire

Members of the Board spent time editing the draft Stronger Communities Strategy Leaflet (Paper 3). Suggestions were also made during further discussion, including:

- The inclusion or removal of the word "Members" of a community
- Inclusion of a definition of the scope of a "community"
- Ensuring the language is 'Outcome focused'
- Clarifying the delivery agent categories

(Latest version available by visiting

<http://www.ccp.org.uk/strongercommunitiesstrategy2008-.html>)

It was agreed by the Board that work of the Stronger Communities Block should cover the whole of Leicestershire, but particular work be concentrated in Local Area Agreement Priority Areas.

7. Any other business

There was no other business raised.

8. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting is to be held at Leicestershire & Rutland Rural Community Council, from 9.30-11.30am, on Wednesday 12th December.