

**Minutes of the Meeting of the  
EAST GRINSTEAD COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP  
Held in the Maud Barclay Room, Queen Victoria Hospital  
On Tuesday 8/1/08at 7.30 pm**

**Present:**

**EGCP Members:**

Bobby Hamilton	(BH)	Chairman
Alan Lord	(AL)	Vice-Chairman
Christine Hardisty	(CH)	EG CVS (Secretary)
Roger Martell	(RM)	Chamber of Commerce
Mary Goode	(MG)	Queen Victoria Hospital
Paul Johnson (PJ)		East Grinstead Town Council
Annette Weatherald	(AW)	Community Development – Ashplatts
Chris Parker	(CP)	EG Business Parks
Jackie Cooper	(JC)	Youth Worker (Wallis Centre)
Jo Hodgkinson	(JH)	PCSO, Sussex Police
Derek Wall	(DW)	PCSO, Sussex Police
Carole Weighill	(CaroleW)	East Grinstead Traders

**1 Apologies for Absence**

Andrew Brock	(AB)	Co-Opted
Pat Strong	(PS)	WSCC (Education)
Jon Ford	(JF)	Imberhorne School
Ginnie Waddingham	(GW)	Co-Opted

Members warmly welcomed AL on his return to their meetings.

**2 Minutes of EGCP Steering Group Meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> November 2007**

MG proposed, RM seconded, and it was agreed unanimously to accept the Minutes of the Meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> November 2007.

**3 Matters Arising from the Minutes of Meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> November 2007**

There were no matters arising which were not covered elsewhere

**4 Report Back on EGCP Presentation to EGTC**

BH summarised the presentation to EGTC (see EGCP Presentation to EGTC). EGTC raised the issue of the possible duplication of work carried out by EGCP and EGTC – in particular that associated with the Business Association. Meetings are to be convened by the leader of the Town Council with a view to ensuring maximum collaboration.

**5 Reports from Working Groups**

### **Social and Community Working Group**

AW reported that the Parents' Advice leaflet was launched in November with a photoshoot outside the War Memorial in EG. It has now been delivered to 50% of households in EG. CH told the Steering Group that there was going to be a second mass deliver on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> January, with deliverers meeting in the Courier offices at 10.30am. She reminded the Steering Group of the commitment made to deliver to every household in EG. AW said that the intergenerational project was launched in September working with 14 year olds in Sackville School, and elderly people at Spring Copse. The initial meeting a "Living History" session was very successful with both the elderly and the young people overcoming the stereotypical views of each other. The next stage is for young people to record and video these sessions. AW reported that she is still trying to set up a group "The Friends of Dart Court" with elderly and young people undertaking gardening projects.

JH reported on crime in EG area with particular reference to young people (see report). 171 forms were issued to young people for underage drinking (this does not include those taken home directly), and 82 forms were issued for anti-social behaviour, or which 39 forms were issued to young people under 18. Crime generally in EG is down, but vehicle crime is up.

WS PCT Lifestyle of 14-15 year olds Summary. The Steering Group discussed this briefly, but felt that a local breakdown would be useful. JC to try to obtain a breakdown from local schools.

### **Environment and Transport**

RM reported on the Bluebell Railway. EGCP is pushing for a combined Bluebell, Network Rail and Bus terminus. Bluebell are still concerned about restrictions placed on them by MSDC with regard to operating times. It is important that Bluebell reaches EG and is viable. PJ expressed an interest in this issue as a Bluebell shareholder, and said that EGTC were happy to extend the times, but not to agree to an unlimited extension. RM to let CH have a note of the discussions between Bluebell and MSDC.

RM reported that WSCC had appointed Highways Rangers to sort out signs and roads and to do simple repairs quickly.

Area Action Plan - EGCP Steering Group members were asked to attend one of the presentations by MSDC staff on the Area Action Plan to be held in East Grinstead Library and Chequer Mead. Staffed exhibitions were to take place in East Grinstead Library on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> Jan 3pm – 7pm, Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb. 10am – 1pm and Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> Feb. 3pm – 7pm and at Copthorne Village Hall on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> Feb, 3pm – 7pm. Unstaffed exhibitions would take place at East Grinstead Library, between Monday 4<sup>th</sup> Feb. and Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March, and at Chequer Mead between Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> January and Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March. BH said that EGCP should put forward one paper with representing community views on infrastructure requirements bearing in mind future development in the East Grinstead area, and also past neglect. All Working Groups should address this issue and feed their ideas into the EGCP document. AL asked that EGCP encouraged input from members of the public. MG asked that health requirements be included in the EGCP document.

Cycle Routes – AL had received complaints about the conditions of the Forest Way.

### **Town Centre Revitalisation**

**The Rural Area Manager of Seeda had seen at first hand the state of Railway Approach and had been invited to attend the conference on Planning for the Bluebell convened by the Town Clerk on 18<sup>th</sup> April. Meanwhile it had been proposed that a project be developed for presentation at that conference**

## **6 Age Concern**

Discussions between Age Concern and EGTC were proceeding concerning the refurbishment of the Parish Halls and the use by Age Concern of the central portion of the buildings. BH said that Age Concern was becoming a Company Limited by Guarantee.

## **7 Voluntary Sector Issues**

CH said that negotiations between Mid Sussex District Council and East Grinstead CVS concerning the funding of the Volunteer Bureau were continuing. East Grinstead CVS together with Mid Sussex (South) CVS had submitted a budget to MSDC for the Volunteer Bureau, which was being considered at present. EG CVS Volunteer Bureau would work the other Volunteer Bureaus and Volunteer Centres in West Sussex to ensure consistent high standards and value for money. Grants from WSCC and the PCT was hoped to fund the countywide service, together with a grant from MSDC for the local service.

## **8 Any Other Business**

AL proposed, RM seconded and it was agreed unanimously that Don Cooper and Andrew Brock become signatories on EGCP cheques. AL proposed, JH seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that an honorarium of £1,000 be paid to East Grinstead Council for Voluntary Service for secretarial work carried out for EGCP.

AL reminded Steering Group members that the funding for Annette Weatherald's work in Stone Quarry finishes in March. Steering Group members recognised the work that Annette had done. AL said that he would have liked to see Annette continue in her post, but with a wider community development role.

MG said that QVH were moving the QVH Museum and were working with EG Town Museum to refurbish and then relaunch it. It was being moved to an old ward which would be more accessible to the public. It was already important nationally and she hoped to attract external sponsorship to increase its role as a tourist attraction.

BH reminded all Working Groups to put forward their ideas concerning the Infrastructure Audit.

## **9 a) Meeting Schedule of Working Groups**

The next Environment and Transport Working Group is at 9.30am on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2008 at Martells in Charwoods Road.

The next Social and Community Working Group is at 2pm on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2008 in EG Library.

## **b) Date of Next Partnership Meeting**

The next Partnership Steering Group meeting will be held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> march 2008 at 7.30pm in the Maud Barclay Room, Queen Victoria Hospital.

The dates for succeeding meetings are:

Tuesday 13th May 2008 7.30pm, Maud Barclay Room, Queen Victoria Hospital

Tuesday 8th July 2008 7.30pm, Maud Barclay Room, Queen Victoria Hospital

Tuesday 2nd Sept. 2008 7.30pm, Maud Barclay Room, Queen Victoria Hospital

**EGCP AGM ? Date and Venue TBA**

Tuesday 11th Nov. 2008 7.30pm, Maud Barclay Room, Queen Victoria Hospital