

Holmes Chapel Partnership Meeting

Held on Wednesday 29th June 2011 at 7.00 p.m.
at the Victoria Club, Holmes Chapel

- Present:** Jacqui Barton (JB), Glyn Chambers (GC), Jessica Cragg (JC), Alison Dale (AD), Stuart Gammon (SG), Les Gilbert (LG), Phil Hargreaves (PH), Heather Jones (HJ), Hazel Sutcliffe (HS).
- In Attendance:** David McGifford (D Mc), Hannah Trubshaw (HT), Craig Wallace (CW), Regeneration Officers from Cheshire East Council
- Apologies:** David Savage (DS), Nancy May (NM).
- Resignation:** The Chairman reported that he had received a resignation from Denis Eborall.

1. Previous Minutes/Matters Arising

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 25th May were approved.

2. Presentation from David McGifford

DMc gave a presentation on the regeneration of the 14 towns within Cheshire East's Sustainable Towns network together with a presentation on the Love Local Life Scheme.

DMc advised that quarterly network meetings are currently held to discuss key initiatives e.g. car parking charges, possible workshops and awareness of other towns' projects. He reported that 100 questionnaires had been sent out to ascertain how the meetings could further benefit the towns, at present 8 had been returned.

Each town within the network has a document entitled Cheshire East Sustainable towns Framework – *Holmes Chapel* – this document can be accessed via Sharepoint and can be used as a communication tool between Cheshire East and the towns concerned. This document is a “two way” document and updates/alterations can be made on line via sharepoint by appointed persons within the Partnership/Cheshire East Regeneration Team.

Access to information regarding Planning issues is available, including S 106 Agreements (monies from the Aventis and Fine Arts site will be available for local use), updates on significant new housing and commercial applications, local development framework process etc., and it was pointed out that the Parish Plan would be the document to work to when considering development.

The Regeneration Team are able to help out as far as funding awareness is concerned e.g. Heritage Funding and Awards for All (this is a lottery based fund up to £10,000, 50% of all applications are approved), the Cheshire East area is the lowest attractor for these funds in the North of England.

The next step is to create a Formal Engagement Team consisting of a member from Economy Focus Group, PC, Partnership Officer, Business Representative.

SG, AD and GC had already had a meeting with DmC to discuss this, and it was agreed that HT would send out the document to SG and a group would be formed to read it through.

Love Local Life Loyalty Card

As mentioned in the previous Minutes this is a scheme to promote local shopping and was introduced initially in Crewe and Macclesfield to try and find a project to support independent businesses throughout Cheshire East.

Cardholders received electronic updates and have access to discount and rewards, hopefully there is a feel-good factor in supporting the local community and an awareness of local activities. Middlewich had launched the scheme in mid June, Congleton is due to launch in July and Disley in August and discussions are ongoing with 5 other Cheshire East towns. At the present time 15,000 cards are in circulation. CW reported that there was an "app" available for use by smart phones, this hopefully encouraging young people to use the facility.

The objectives for 2011/2012 are to have 10 town operating with 400 business involved and 70,000 cards in circulation. In 2012/2013 it is hoped that 16 towns will be taking part, 700 businesses will be involved and that 140,000 cards will be in circulation.

It is hoped that the benefits can be expanded into the health, leisure and transport areas.

The Macclesfield and Wilmslow schemes are privately funded, the Town Council in Middlewich paid for 20 business and agreed to fund a quantity of cards. Congleton and Disley are part Town Council and part business funded at a cost of £50.00 per business.

It is anticipated that the cost for Holmes Chapel in Year 1 would be £2,187 and £1,500 in year 2 and that up to 15 business need to be involved. It was suggested that 1145 cards (50% of the dwellings in Holmes Chapel) ideally could be issued, this based on other towns.

There are 4 questions to be answered:

- Is there a business demand?
- What is affordable?
- If required, would there be Parish Council support?
- Is there private sector support?

2. Group Reports

Children and Young People – JC attended as AB had a prior engagement. JC is to be AB's replacement when he steps down.

Economic

Alison Dale reported that she had made contact with Mandy Fazelynian (Love Local Life Co-ordinator) who is prepared to work with Alison visiting the businesses. AD/HJ had made contact with several of the independent traders already (35 had been identified as possibles with a further 15 to visit). Positive interest had been shown to the scheme with only one negative response. AD to complete the visits and then decide on the next steps. It was suggested that a meeting could be arranged with the traders and Mandy Fazelynia and possibly invite people from other areas who are currently involved in the scheme. AD to contact MF in this respect. £50 is available from the Partnership to cover the cost of a meeting. It was also suggested that if the scheme goes ahead, the best time to launch would be the Christmas period. It is proposed to contact Cheshire East to ascertain if posters and leaflets are available.

Action: AD to liaise with MF in connection with proposed meeting and to ascertain if leaflets/posters are available for distribution ahead of meeting.

Health and Wellbeing

HS tabled a draft of the cycling map, there were a few alterations to be made including a change of font and the Partnership to have more prominence – SG to send HS suitable wording. Once the alterations have been carried out, printing will take place. It was agreed that 5,000 would be printed at a cost of £625. Once printed they will be distributed to the sponsors, the library, U3A community newsdesk, George & Dragon, railway station and the schools. It was suggested that the map could be also produced in a pdf format so it can be available via the website.

GC reported that he had had negotiations with the cycle shelter supplier as regards costs on the cheaper of the 2 shelters. However it was agreed that the more expensive shelter would be the better option as it was of stronger construction. GC to re-negotiate.

Action: SG to send HS suitable wording for map
GC to negotiate with shelter supplier and to continue to liaise with Cheshire East in respect of the erection of same

3. Project Updates

Play Areas

A meeting had recently been held to decide on the next steps. 4 – 5 of the ladies involved are to take PMD's design round to the schools and intend reporting back early/mid July with comments/refinements. NG will then revert to PMD to negotiate price etc, which currently stands at £160,000. It is expected that the work will be

carried out in 2 phases. The Parish Council have set aside £18,000 for this current year and £15,000 for next year in respect of the project. It is hoped that Nich Guthrie would still like to be involved with the project together to the recently recruited 4-5 additional ladies.

Traffic Management

LG reported that a public meeting is to be held on the 9th July at the community room in the Library at which Fiona Bruce MP is due to attend. LG asked if SG would make a presentation on behalf of the Partnership at this event to set out issues raised in the Parish Plan, e.g. HGV's in village, pinch points by Mandevilles and the Church etc.

Action: SG to attend public meeting and give presentation on behalf of Partnership

Dane Valley Project (New)

GC reported that he had been investigating funding in this connection but that this project is taking a back seat at present.

4. Treasurer's Report

PH had left the meeting but had previously reported to SG that £8,000 had been received from CEC and that there had been a few incidental expenses of £25 - £30 in connection with the Mission and Vision event, but apart from that there was very little change.

5. Review of Mission and Vision Event

GC had organised a half day seminar on 26th June which had been a great success. The Group had come up with The Vision – *Holmes Chapel is a village of perfect partners with a beating heart and vibrant local economy. It's a village with huge spirit and an attractive place to be with places to meet and socialise, somewhere where there is something for all ages....and it's on the map. It's a recognised cultural centre and model of environmental sustainability with the countryside still firmly on its doorstep.*

7. Publicity/Newsletter

Newsletter – SG suggested that thought should be given to the second newsletter to contain Love Local Life etc.

Website/e-mail – SG reported that e-mail addresses had been set up for all Partnership members.

8. Any Other Business

SG tabled a letter he had received from Fiona Bruce MP in connection with *Revitalising the High Street – Mary Portas*, this asking the Partnership to submit any evidence we have about High Street issues. SG to circulate letter.

Action: SG to circulate letter

There was a discussion regarding the meeting held in connection with the Youth Club. The Youth Club will close on the 31st July due to lack of funds. Subject to final agreement the property is to be transferred to the Scouts who are proposing to carry out some redevelopment subject to raising necessary funding. They will continue to let the building out to local organisations

Action: SG to circulate letter from Fiona Bruce MP

9. Date of Next Meeting The next Meeting is due to be held on 27th July at 7.00 p.m. in the School Room at The Victoria Club.