



Event: IDeA & 5 Towns Network 'Effective Democracy for Sustainable Communities'

Date: Wednesday 25th June 2008

Location: Hilton Avisford Park Hotel, Arundel

This day long event aimed to:

- Raise awareness of the place shaping agenda and a clear knowledge of the policy framework for place shaping
- To learn about best practice in cross boundary working to build sustainable communities
- To share priorities and begin to develop a shared understanding of the potential next steps in collaborative working in this agenda
- To develop a shared understanding of the next steps in cross boundary working in this agenda
- Networking and partnership building opportunity

The last session of the day was an interactive workshop to:

- Identify options for partnership working
- Identify priorities
- Action planning and Next Steps

Outcomes of the Interactive Workshop

Split into 3 groups, the attendees were asked to come up with the issues and problems they felt were currently facing in Coastal West Sussex. These were gathered together and grouped together into the following headlines:

Infrastructure
Regeneration
Investment, Finance & Governance
Planning
Transport
Tourism
Education/Skills
Affordable Housing
Economy
Community Issues

The 3 groups were then asked to prioritise these according to their importance. The following came out as the most significant:

1. Regeneration
2. Education/Skills
3. Transport
4. Affordable Housing
5. Investment, Finance & Investment
6. Planning

The 3 groups were then asked to look at the barriers they felt were standing in their way to resolving these issues and to then assess what need to be done to overcome these.

Group 1

- Barriers

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| General – | Lack of resources
Lack of power/responsibility
Workforce – lack of planners
Members – short termism |
| Regeneration – | Each LA has own policy, planning framework
Different LA's have different starting points e.g heritage
Lack of time to step back and develop a common approach – busy firefighting/reactive
Lack of sound evidence base in some cases
Where it does exist may not be used!
Too much time developing policies and new strategies instead of delivering them
Trying to do everything – Should we concentrate on things within our control?
Are we spending too long on the 'wrong' issue (e.g. A27) – may be overtaken by events, e.g. oil prices |
| Skills/Learning - | Changes to Cabinet portfolios/Govt depts
14 – 19 reforms – Lots of changes all at once
LA's chasing Govt funding – new policies, changes to funding available
Getting the balance right between emphasis on schools and young people/adults and upskilling workforce
Businesses may not see the value |

- What can be done?

Needs to be more trust between partners
Less formal accountability
Tension between WSCC/districts and boroughs needs to be resolved

Group 2

- Barriers

Lack of common vision for 5 towns and the role that each area can play
Infrastructure: Capacity & Congestion
Lack of Skills to start up businesses
Lack of allocated commercial land (Local Plan or LDF)

Reactive not Proactive
Sea/Coastline Flooding
Competition from Brighton & Hove and Portsmouth

- **What can be done?**

Generate vision with right democratic representatives with scrutiny role in place
Infrastructure – Develop Transport strategy for 5 towns area and push for funding
Compact in place with developers for vocational training
Look at LDF's to ensure adequate land allocation
Think outside the box
Make Sea an USP/Coast Defence
Work with the competition

Group 3

- **Barriers**

Regeneration – Silo approach/not joined up agencies
Social – lack of understanding
Land ownership/multiple ownership
Lack of shared/common vision
Resources lacking for infrastructure – transport, water. Deficit gap and need for evidence
Long term – takes a long time – community dissatisfaction
Joined up LDF's (silo planning)

Education/Skills - Accepting it as an issue by agencies
Starting from a lower time line
Better off families send the kids to private schools outside the area
Lack of vocational training
Lack of further education including adults
Transport and lack of accessibility
Early years - families

- **What needs to be done?**

Regeneration - Joint Vision & Joint Working
More training – officers and members
Delivery – identifying our assets including land
Bringing community along in the process
Planning – more proactive approach and better links to LDF's
Measured risks
More partnerships with private sector – greater understanding of private sector/market

Education - 'Banging of Heads'
Communication and ownership between partners
Secure vocational training by public and private means
Improving reputation of schools
Community education
Distance learning
Family responsibility
Flexible buildings owned by local community

Next Steps for the 5 Towns Network

1. Structure – formal governance/high level buy in
 - Merge the 5 Towns Network and Coastal West Sussex Partnership or new body
 - Approach CWS Partnership Board/Chair before the summer (Action: WSCC)
 - Consult with 5 Towns Steering Group (Action: GW)
2. Take forward vision, priorities and delivery
3. Engagement
 - Be inclusive and sensitive
 - Links to Planning Policy
 - Connect into existing groups that exist county wider
4. Invest in Resources for the long term

In Attendance

Cllr Jim Funnell – Adur DC
Cllr Julie Searle – Adur DC
Cllr Angie Mills – Adur DC
Cllr Brian Coomber – Adur DC
Natalie Brahma-Pearl – Adur DC
Colette Blackett – Adur DC
Cllr Norman Dingemans – Arun DC
Cllr Keith Sunderland – Worthing BC
Cllr Bob Smytherman – Worthing BC
Cllr Simon McDougall – West Sussex CC
Nick Rae – West Sussex CC
Duncan Barratt – West Sussex CC
Anne Carnegie – West Sussex CC
Jane Zacharzewski - LSC
Ed Dickinson – West Sussex CC
Cllr Frank Wilkinson – West Sussex CC
Michael Johnson – Worthing BC

Facilitators;

Kelvin MacDonald
Caroline Bosdet
Vincent Goodstadt
Janice Morphet