

Sedgefield Together Community Partnership

The Annual General Meeting of the Sedgefield Together Steering Group was held at 7.00 pm on Monday November 22nd, 2010 in the Fletcher Room of the Parish Hall.

Present

Sue Hannan (Chair)

DCC

Health

Dr. Christine Hearmon

Education

Police

Sgt Brian O'Connor

Community Groups:

Pat Buckley-Atkins, Judith King,

Sedgefield Town Council:

Ian Sutherland, Sheila Sutherland, May Brown, Allan Blakemore

Officer:

Lesley Swinbank

1. Apologies

Cllrs. John Robinson (DCC) Cllr. Maxine Robinson, Claire Budd (Harriers), Rev Michael Gobbitt, Jane Bellis (EDRC AAP)

2. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair, Sue Hannan, welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave her report on the past year.

Firstly I would like to say a big thank you to everyone involved in Sedgefield Together Community Partnership, both on the wider Forum, and particularly the Steering Group, for making this, our first full year, a big success and our meetings very enjoyable. I would particularly like to thank Lesley for doing such a great job of keeping us all in order, for providing secretariat and also a great deal of enthusiasm for the partnership and support for me personally as Chair.

Sedgefield Together is a 'Community Partnership' – not a group of individuals, not a talking shop, but an active network of existing organisations, all currently working with and for, the community of Sedgefield, and 'Together' we are making this such a great place to live, work or even just to visit.

In addition to our Steering Group meetings we have held full Partnership meetings throughout the year and have used these opportunities to bring community groups together to:

- **Decide on the priorities for Sedgefield** – following a series of smaller working group meetings we held a full Partnership meeting in **September**

2009, to discuss and consult on the major things that matter to us all, as a result of which we identified priorities and developed our new 'Town Plan' which was then launched in March 2010.

- **Shared information on major services and heard from key players, in March we heard from** Dave Davies, Head Teacher at the Community College, Dr Hearmon from our Doctors' surgery, Sgt O'Connor from the police, Pat Buckley Akins from the SCA, John and David our County Councillors, Jane Bellis and May Brown from the AAP and members of Sedgfield in Bloom who were leading our efforts in the national competition.
- **Gained knowledge on how to apply for funding – in July we brought in** the experts to help partners apply for funds to keep our community organisations functioning – CAVOS, Co Durham Foundation, Sedgfield Borough Homes, the EDRC Area Action Partnership, County Councillor Neighbourhood budgets and Sedgfield Charities
- **Linking in to the County Durham EDRC AAP** – through myself, May Brown and by their co-ordinator regularly attending our meetings
- **Find out about new developments – our next full meeting in March 2011, will be held in the new Community College and will include a tour of the fabulous new facilities**

When we started this Partnership our key priority was to develop the Town Plan. We had a few 'round the houses' discussions on who should be on the Steering Group and what the numbers/ balance should be, but we've moved on from that and gathered momentum and credibility. However we don't want our full partnership meetings to just be another talking shop and we don't want the Steering Group to meet too regularly so that it becomes just another meeting to go to. We must stay focussed and relevant, and not wander off into areas where we don't need to go – because all of us already meet as part of other groups – that's why we're here to represent them!

I believe that our strength is in the wider network and we need to use this to share (on a virtual basis) as much information as we can to build the capacity of our

members. We also need to continue to use them to consult widely on changes and new developments. Our virtual network of partners now covers 25 groups in addition to those who are connected through other partnerships such as the SCA (with another 40+ organisations). I hope we can grow even more in the next 12 months, consolidate our roles and responsibilities, and that all members can feel connected to this true Community Partnership.

Thank you

Cllr Sue Hannan,

Chair of Sedgefield Together Community Partnership

3. Elections

a) Confirmation of the Steering Group

The steering group as over was confirmed

b) Chair

Sue Hannan was re-elected as Chairman of the Partnership

c) Vice-Chairman

Allan Blakemore was elected as Vice Chairman

d) Secretary

Lesley Swinbank was re-elected.

e) Treasurer

Pat Buckley Atkins was elected.

f) Assistant Treasurer

To be elected

4. Constitution

There were no changes to the constitution.

5. Bank Account

It was agreed to set up an independent bank account for the Partnership, with 2 from 3 signatories including the treasurer, vice chairman and secretary.

The treasurer, pat Buckley-Atkins to coordinate this with the secretary.

6. Any other Business

None

Sedgefield Together : Current Representatives on the Steering Group

Representing		Nominated Representative	Contact Details	Umbrella Groups / Organisations
Community & Voluntary	4	Brian Mutch	b.mutch@btinternet.com	Residents Forum Development Trust Crimewatch/Nbhd Watch Civic Trust Citizen's Advice Rotary /Round Table
		Pat Buckley - Atkins	pbuckley@hotmail.com	SCA Lyrics Veterans Group Twinning Group History Group
		Rev Michael Gobbett	michael.gobbett@btinternet.com	Sedgefield Churches Together Sedgefield Charities
		Claire Budd	clair@cbudd1.wanadoo.co.uk	Sedgefield Harriers Sedgefield Youth FC Sedgefield Tennis Club
Police	1	Sgt Brian O'Connor	brian.oconnor@durham.pnn.police.uk	Local police
Local businesses	1	Cassandra Jackson	cjackson@sedgefield-racecourse.co.uk	Racecourse Beauty Angels Sfd Farmers market
Education	1	Paul Fleming	p.fleming100@durhamlearning.net	Community College
Health	1	Dr Chris Hearmon	Christine.Hearmon@gp-A83054.nhs.uk	Health facilities
Youth	2	Michael King Vacant	king.42@tiscali.co.uk	Youth Council Scouts / Guides Youth Groups
Town Council	5(6)*	Cllr. M. Brown Cllr. S. Sutherland Cllr. I. Sutherland Cllr. M. Robinson, Cllr. S. Hannan, Cllr. A. Blakemore	flo.m.brown@hotmail.com ISsutherland@aol.com ISsutherland@aol.com john@robinson644.freereserve.co.uk sue_hannan@yahoo.com allan.blakemore@sky.com	* 5 from the nominated 6 may attend
Durham Unitary	2	Cllrs. D. Brown Cllr. J. Robinson	David.brown@sedgefield.net john@robinson644.freereserve.co.uk	

