

Bude Partnership

Theme Groups: Education, Children and Young Families



Minutes of a Meeting held on Thursday 8th November 2007.

Present: Sharon Ham (NCDC), Nicky Chopak, David Barton, Jane Greatbatch, Vicky Morrison and Ali Rowe: facilitator.

Agenda:

- 1 What (if anything needs changing in preparation for the second public consultation event on 10th Nov?
- 2 What can be pulled out from the comments so far, and what research can we be carrying out now?
- 3 How and when will this group meet next?

1 Further Consultation Event(s)

The comments etc on the subject of Education had been circulated before the meeting. It was agreed that since no comments had been received on the schools, comments should be sought in age groups: 0-4, 5-11, 11-16, 16- 19 and Adult Education. (Action: Ali)

- 2 **Discussion Based on the Comments Received so far** (To be read in conjunction with the précis of comments previously circulated.)

Training and Skills

The comments received about the schools 'doing a great job' were welcomed.

The school is seen to be aiming well at 'A' levels but needs to put more focus onto vocational training at level 1 and 2, and for better access to ¹NVQs. David reported that he is seeking to develop workshops for the school similar to those at the Holsworthy School, but was having difficulty securing the funding, because of the perceived proximity to Holsworthy.

Ali reported on the discussion at the Economy, Employment and Skills Theme Group around the need to encourage the universities and colleges to become involved in the town. She also explained that the ²CUC are reported to be eager to have a centre in Bude (and one in Bodmin). They do not wish to have new-build but would welcome a building that could be up-dated or up-graded using the best modern technology. The Economy Group has suggested that the CUC should be encouraged to use the empty space at Tripos. This was welcomed and David Chadwick and Ali have agreed to work on this together, talking to Tripos and the CUC.

Devon/Cornwall

It was noted that young people from Bude do not look south to Cornwall with regards to training and education, and it is difficult to explain this to people outside Bude. Neither do people appreciate how remote Bude is. Bude looks to look to Bideford, Barnstaple etc and not to Bodmin

¹ NVQ National Vocational Qualification

² CUC Combined Universities of Cornwall

and certainly not Truro. When the sixth Form closes in Camelford, there will not be a movement of sixth formers to Bude (Camelford does not look north any more than Bude looks south) but if Cornwall College takes over the Camelford sixth Form premises, Bude Students may be persuaded to access the college there.

Connexions

Comments on Connexions were noted. It was a cause of regret that Connexions do not have a base in Bude, but Vicky reported that they may soon be based with her at Neetside.

Integrated Health Centre (Pilot Scheme)

David reported that the school has been awarded a £250k grant by the Duchy Health Charity towards the development of the old Caretaker's Bungalow as a pilot Integrated Health Centre. This will provide education on sexual health, drug abuse, obesity etc and will also be aimed at citizenship issues, linking to police, CAB etc. There are questions about revenue funding e.g. money from the PCT to pay for the health staff, but David is addressing these. It was agreed that Ali would mention this at her meeting with the PCT next week. (Action: Ali)

Extended Services (previously 'Extended Schools')

Jane and David reported on this scheme, which provides wrap around care between 8 am to 6 pm for Children aged 0 to 19. It was reported that the new children's worker, Liam Dart is a real boon and Bude is seen to be leading the way in many aspects at the NCAN (North Cornwall Activities Network) of which Jane is Chair. 'Every Child Matters'

The overall aim is to ensure that every child is safe and healthy, ensuring enjoyment and achievement, with providing a positive contribution and ensuring their economic wellbeing.

Community Use of Schools

David reported that the school does take this seriously and many groups use schools premises. Unfortunately it can be costly for the school because so many community groups qualify for concessionary rates, and caretaker's pay, lighting etc is more expensive than the charge that can be levied. But more use by the community would be welcome – for example, the school car park could be used for Park and Ride in the summer holidays.

Communication

It was agreed that there is a need to inform people about what is available – and Ali reported that this is a conclusion that has been reached by all the other groups.

3 Future Meetings:

It was agreed that Ali should send copies of the minutes to all those on the Education Theme Group who had not managed to attend today, for their comments and information. All members will communicate with each other on their actions etc between now and the next meeting.

The next meeting of the Theme Group was penciled in for **Monday 14th January (9.30)**: provided everyone can make that date and it is agreed that a meeting is needed.