



Steering Group Open Meeting Minutes
Tuesday 5th July 2011
10am – 12 noon
GVOC
John Haswell House
Gladstone Terrace

Present

Joan Moon (Chair)	Individual
Ray Venus	Individual
Alan Withrington	Friends of Chopwell Wood
Tracey Wallace	Social Opportunities For Art
Dave Morton	Gateshead/Newcastle TUC
Valerie Ender	Gateshead Youth Council
Irene Soulsby	Individual
Bob Watson	Individual
George Bell	Tyneside RMS
Sharon Hallett	Gateshead Autism Group

In Attendance:

Annie Murphy	GCN
Ian Blake	GCN
Diane Allan	GCN
Mark Shilcock	GCN

1. Welcome and Apologies:

Chair welcomed everyone and began the meeting with introductions and apologies (listed below).

Richard Taylor	Individual
Trevor Underwood	Pathhead Mill
Dennis Healy	CAB
Brenda Cawton	The Whinnies
Joanne Willis	Hallgarth TRA
Andrew Moore	Sight Services

2. Minutes from last meeting: Agreed with amendment on page one Chopwell Woods should read Chopwell Wood.

3. Matters arising:

Pg2 Dave Morton: Public Toilets in Town Centre, Dave has not received any further information from the Council. Dave will bring this item up again at next Central Forum meeting.

Pg3 Ray Venus:

- Gave information at the Inner West Area Forum with regard to queries raised by the Network on the impending changes with partnership review. This will be discussed as agenda item.
- Jane Robson to read Jane Robinson.

Pg5 Steering Group All information gathered from the last Steering group meeting which was workshop based has been typed up. Annie is currently compiling a report which will be circulated to members for comments. At a future Steering group meeting we will discuss ways forward.

4. Members Feedback: Chair explained that this was an opportunity for all members in attendance to update or feedback on any meetings they have attended. This would also be an opportunity for new members to share information.

Ray: Inner West Area Forum, concerns over the shopping precinct in Whickham as shops close and are boarded up this can lead to vandalism also concerns raised on parking fees around the shopping precinct which will come into place in September. This will impact on local shopping as it's free to go to Metro Centre.

PPI Board Member, concerns that all services which were due to take place at the new Centre in Blaydon are not happening. Annie suggested that Ray inform Gateshead Link who could monitor this situation.

Dave: Central Area Forum, Jeff Wilkinson from Fire Service gave a Powerpoint presentation on stats, he also circulated a flyer which gave information on their Open Day which was due to take place on Sunday 10th July. Dave noted that our logo was not included on the flyer plus there was no acknowledgement of our involvement. Jeff did

mention help from Diane who represented GVOC. Chair explained our key role to help set up activities/stalls on the day and have always been acknowledged in the past. As concerns were raised to the lack of acknowledgement Chair will mention this to Peter Mudie at the GSP Meeting.

Chair gave a brief summary of our involvement with partnership working and how we help with the community element of the Fire Service Open Day. Discussed concerns that Jeff did not have a partnership understanding, and felt that we may need to go along to discuss this further.

A DVD was shown 'A day in the life of a Muslim' this DVD is available on U Tube. Both Annie and Chair have seen this DVD and suggested that maybe we could contact this group to invite them along to a future Steering Group meeting to show DVD.

Dave raised concerns around a paper circulated at Area Forum meeting which gave information on Area Neighborhoods Review (circulated).

Chair gave a brief summary on the transition of the Strategic Partnership, (diagramme was shown of current format plus a diagram of the new transition arrangements). Joan, Hugh, Annie and Gev will attend a meeting with Jane Robinson (Assistant Chief Executive) to discuss our concerns.

Break 11.10am

George Tyneside RMS, George gave a brief summary of his immense voluntary work with various organizations. George represented pensioners and spoke about the perception that OAP's are a burden to society. George gave information on socio-economic contribution of older people to the British economy, copies of the full report are available on www.goldagepensioners.com. Tracey reiterated that in her experience intergenerational work carried out in the past at both Whickham Hermitage Garden and Kateragina TRA has always been successful.

Tracey SOFA: Birtley Hub is looking to pull together all local groups, in Birtley. Tracey asked for ideas/suggestions on how to she could do this. Suggestions that GVOC database, GCN's database and Ourgateshead website could be of help. Suggestion that Ian and Victoria from GVOC could come along to the Hub to help with funding issues, Mark could also come along to talk about Our Gateshead.

Ray: Re Newcastle Foundation Trust members who signed up (from this group) had received papers and were asked to vote however, voting papers were out of date. Ray apologized on their behalf and said that this situation was being looked in to.

Alan Friends of Chopwell Wood: FOCW has taken on a new partner which is Groundwork NE. GCN were mentioned in the dispatches of Friends of Red Kites. Alan has stepped down as secretary of this group but will continue to attend the meetings.

Sharon Gateshead Autism Group: Sharon and Maria Hall are looking to set up a one stop shop around Autism in Gateshead making Gateshead autism friendly. They are currently looking at funding and premises.

Dave Newcastle/GatesheadTUC: Information on reduction to services due to funding, discussed this issue further. Ian to contact Stuart Corker Transport Partnership Officer at Gateshead Council to set date for next Transport Forum. This issue to be on future agenda.

Valerie Gateshead Youth Council: The youth council has attended a couple of events recently unfortunately they were poorly attended.

Bob Individual: Continues to receive requests/ complaints from local residents Bob may look to re start Bleach Green Residents Association in the near future.

5. Junior Network: Mark gave an update on this year's Junior Conference which will take place on Friday 4th November at the Baltic. The theme is based around Gateshead Culture Turner prize. Due to future funding implications this could be our last conference, this will be discussed further at a future meeting. We

are also looking to further develop the link with Gateshead Youth Council. We are also looking to set up a portal for school councils to network on Our Gateshead website. Members will be asked to come along to help on the day nearer the time.

6. Staff Update:

Ian

Currently conducting health checks with groups/organisations around the first phase of the Community Capacity Building fund.
Currently conducting consultations for community development community cohesion refresh strategy.
Supporting groups constitution/funding on daily basis
Attend Big Lottery Trust Meetings
Attend Community Payback Meetings
Co-ordinates Transport Forum
Working in partnership re Gateshead Together week
Community Linking Project
Helping to co-ordinate Fire Service Open Day
Attend the Bensham & Saltwell Festival

Diane

Continues to support team
Monitors and updates website
Helping to co-ordinate Fire Service Open Day
Helping to co-ordinate Transport Focus Group
Helping to organize Junior Network

Annie

Strategically Annie is involved in discussions with council and partners re “what’s the future is for Gateshead” Mick Henry is determined to carry on with community development and engagement despite cuts.
We are involved in current reviews of council services eg: libraries “critical friend” concern re pending budget cuts next year.
GVOC took 12% cut this year and are expecting to take a further 12% cut next year. Possible same situation for GCN therefore we are consequently looking for alternative sources of funding.

We are currently undertaking consultation for PCT on review of diabetes services. We have discussed the continuation to charge for consultation work with GSP family consensus that we do but possibly at reduced rate.

Mark

Junior Network

Our Gateshead conference very interesting good workshops and networking

SSC Partnership with libraries presentation on the website.

New site up and running there are still some small problems with room for improvement.

1000 visitors last month who looked at 4700 pages.

7. AOB: None

8. Date & time of next meetings: Dates agreed on the day 6th September, 4th October and 8th November. However GVOC did not have any rooms available on those days therefore the dates have been changed to, Tuesday 13th September, Tuesday 11th October and Wednesday 9th November. The meetings are all 10 – 12 with lunch to follow.

Meeting ended 12.05pm