



**Steering Group Open Meeting Minutes
Monday 9th May 2011
10am – 12 noon
GVOC
John Haswell House
Gladstone Terrace**

Present

Joan Moon (Chair)	Individual
Ray Venus	Individual
Andrew Moore	Sight Services
Alan Withrington	Friends of Chopwell Woods
Dave Wallace	Link Member
Tracey Wallace	Social Opportunities For Art
Dave Morton	Gateshead/Newcastle TUC
Joanne Willis	Hallgarth TRA
Valerie Ender	Gateshead Youth Council
Richard Taylor	Individual
Trevor Underwood	Pathhead Watermill
Brenda Cawton	SIGN
Irene Soulsby	Individual
Derek Carrott	NECA

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).

Bill Llewellyn	Moving On
Hugh Kelly	Swingbridge Video
Yvonne Murray	South Tyneside Foundation Trust

2. Minutes from last meeting: Agreed

3. Matters arising:

Pg2 Dave Morton: Public Toilets in Town Centre No further information from the Council. Dave will bring this item up again at next meeting. Memorial service was well attended unfortunately the Pastor was unavailable.

Pg2 Ray Venus: Queried security breach on Our Gateshead, Mark gave a brief explanation, a new host has been found. Mark has almost completed the transition. Mark will carry out weekly security checks.

Dave Wallace reiterated the need to give a presentation to the GP Consortia to ensure they are aware of the voluntary sector and what's available in their area. Brenda gave a brief summary of how her local GP was not aware of SIGN until a publicity drop. He has now referred people with mental health concerns on to Brenda they now go along to the gardens three times per week which has made a significant change to their lives. Annie explained that GCN/LINK has good links with Nora Stevens who is currently working with Gateshead Link re the transition to Health Watch.

Pg3: DVD's are now available, if any member would like a copy please see Mark or Diane.

Pg3: Budget – The offer letter for this financial year has arrived confirming the expected cut.

Pg4 Richard Taylor: Comments on use of Facebook and Twitter, Mark will be attending a training course in London re community sites and will disseminate information at July meeting.

Pg4 Trevor Underwood: Queried clarification on information on lack of applications to SITA and Community Foundation from the West Area Forum. Richard explained that there was a small percentage of groups/organisations from the West area applying, more groups should be encouraged to apply.

Tracey Wallace: Tracey attended her first South Area Forum meeting and found it very interesting. Concerns raised focused on the loss of the Neighborhood Warden Scheme. There was however positive feedback on the new builds in Kibblesworth.

Annie updated on the Bensham & Saltwell Festival which Catherine Donovan is trying to re-establish. Annie is the secretary of the planning group, and is helping to co-ordinate the Festival which is

due to take place this year on Sunday 26th June from 12 – 4 on Brighton Avenue School grounds. A dog warden will attend giving free micro chip offer before the festival starts. Chair asked members if anyone could volunteer their time to help man the stand.

Catherine Donovan has insisted that GCN be acknowledged as a sponsor of the festival in the advertising, this is due to the group receiving a grant from the small grants fund.

Pg5: Ian has arranged for 3 – 4 groups to take part in focus groups around the Community Development Review refresh. Members in attendance were asked if they would like to take part:

Agreed on the day: SIGN, Gateshead Youth Assembly, Hallgarth TRA, Turning Point, Friends of Chopwell Woods, SOFA.

Team members will contact with more details soon.

4. Partnership Review Paper:

On 12 April the GSP presented on the review of the partnerships, consensus was major restructuring. This paper was circulated to all SG members for comments. Comments were gathered, and presented in a report to take to the next GSP. Unfortunately Hugh did not have sufficient time to raise all of the issues at this meeting. Our report has been formally handed in by Chair to the GSP.

We have now been asked along with Gev to attend a meeting with Lyndsey Murray (Director of Policies) and Jane Robson (Assistant Chief Executive) to discuss this. Our major concerns were there did not seem to be a role for the voluntary sector as a partner. Discussed further the necessity to continue to remind them that we are here.

Agreed: Diane to re circulate GSP review papers to SG members.

Also discussed the changes which may take place next year to grant based funding from Gateshead Council. Groups/organisations will now need to show they are heading towards sustainability to retain funding. Gateshead Council has put together one million pounds to be disseminated between local Councilors' who receive £660.000 (£30.000 each). Groups who may loose their grant can apply to their local councilor. The remaining £440.000 will be capacity building focused. Ian will be part of the team (Neighborhood Management Team, GVOC, Economic Development Team and an External Funding Team) who will carry out **Health Checks** on 10 groups

ahead of these changes then form an action plan. GCN needs to demonstrate our role maybe a volunteer member could come along to attend one of these meeting to support team member.

GCN have been asked to be involved with PACE cross cutting review of the libraries. Meetings are taking place weekly until July, GCN's role is described as that of a "*critical friend*".

5. Members Feedback: - Opportunity for members to share information.

Trevor – Reported on successful funding for Pathhead Mill from PCT for 2 years plus funding from Gateshead Council for one year. There could also be the possibility of funding for 2 years from Lloydstsb. This is excellent news well done Trevor.

Ray – Concerns with the Health & Social Care current changes, meetings are being cancelled at short notice plus meeting dates are also being changed. Annie reiterated the good link we have with Nora Stevens who is working closely with Gateshead LinK therefore we will hopefully be kept In loop.

Dave W – Dave attended an alcohol reduction meeting and was informed that there could be a alcohol free pub built near the Swing Bridge this is excellent news.

Andrew – Also concerned about Health & Social Care partnership meetings as cancelled at last minute reiterated the need to ensure engagement with voluntary sector.

Alan – Reported that Friends of Chopwell Woods are now a registered charity. Discussed Chopwell Wood festival which no longer takes place due to running at a loss.

Derek – NECA are holding an Open House on 4th June at their office on Gateshead High Street to promote NECA. This to be put onto both GCN and Our Gateshead websites.

Richard – Ryton Hirings Fair will take place this year on 28th May from 11 – 4pm on and around the Village Green. Information stalls are free however stalls which sell goods will be have £10.00 cover charge.

Irene - Gateshead Council has allocated four community raised beds at Satlwell Park, four groups have already taken up this offer. Gateshead Council News reported on GVOC's success in acquiring

funding for a 5 year supported volunteers project within the Volunteer Centre.

Discussed options to insert articles into GVOC mailing which is free and is circulated to over 600 groups/organizations. However there is a small cost to insert a flyer. Articles etc can also be put on both websites.

Chair - The project has received two tickets as a thank you from Low Fell Singers. The tickets are to attend a Concert on Saturday 14th.

6. Steering Group Away Day Report: Chair

The staff team has recently held a planning day in April, one outcome is for the project to work with a project management tool which will hopefully capture the work the project does in more detail.

At last years Steering Group away day we also discussed other ways for members to become more involved. One item on the sounding board was ***'what more can we do'***. Chair has looked at ways we could increase involvement of members. We need to bring expertise from groups, plus disseminate information. Chair suggested that some of the Steering Groups meetings change format. As we meet 10 times throughout the year maybe four meetings could be workshop focused with urgent SG business only at beginning.

The workshops will focus on how to be more active. Some new members may not know how Gateshead Community Network came about maybe we could update everyone and look to refresh our vision statements etc. Suggestion that other venues could be sourced, unfortunately this will have cost implications.

Agreed: Next Steering Group meeting on Monday 6th June to be workshop focused all members in attendance to bring along more information on their group/organization. Future dates will be set also at this meeting.

7.AOB:

Mark gave an update on this years Junior Conference. Mark and Annie have recently had discussion with Lucy Smith at Baltic. Lucy would like to become involved with the conference and is looking to see if we will be able to have free space to hold conference at Baltic.

Suggestions for agenda are Tours of Turner Prize exhibits, school art work competition based on theme of 'Our Gateshead', art workshops. Staff members from the Baltic have agreed to come along to the Junior Network meeting in July.

The survey results from March meeting will go onto GCN website. Chair has submitted the results to Childrens Trust Board for inclusion on agenda. Discussed including Youth Council, query if same questionnaire would be used as members are older children. Ray mentioned the results from the survey at the West Area Forum. Hopefully Mark will be invited along to a future meeting to give a presentation. This will need to be followed up. The photographs taken at the meeting have been passed over to Diane. The next Junior Network meeting will now take place on July 8th at Dryden Centre.

Meeting ended 12.05pm

Confirmation that next meeting will take place on Monday 6th June at GVOC from 10 – 12 with lunch to follow.

Signature.....