



**Steering Group Open Meeting Minutes
Monday 4th April
10 – 12 noon
GVOC
John Haswell House
Gladstone Terrace**

Present:

Joan Moon (Chair)	Individual
Dave Morton	Gateshead/Ncle TUC
Alan Witherington	Friends of Chopwell Woods
Joanne Willis	Hallgarth Tenants & Res Assoc
Hugh Kelly	Swingbridge Video
Irene Soulsby	Individual
Christine McDarmont	St Chads Community Project
Derek Carrott	NECA

In attendance:

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

1. Welcome and apologies:

Chair welcomed everyone to meeting and received apologies were given (listed below)

Apologies:

Richard Taylor	Individual
Ray Venus	Individual
Maria Hall	Gateshead Autism Group
Dave Wallace	Turning Point
Tom Collins	Katregina & Portmeads TRA
Andrew Moore	Sight Services

2. Minutes from last meeting: Agreed

3. Matters arising:

Dave – Updated on the issue around the lack of public toilets in plans to regenerate the Town Centre. Information given was that the Council suggested going into partnership with businesses to agree to make their toilets open to the public. Dave has asked to be kept in the loop.

Members all agreed that they would like to continue to receive information from the Forums on a regular basis. Team will look at best way to do this as we do not always receive electronic copies.

Mark – Our Gateshead has undergone a security breach which Mark and Colin are working very hard to put right. A new host has been found which will take over from tomorrow. Annie was notified that the Overview Scrutiny Committee: Thriving Third Sector has been looking at Our Gateshead in relation to the types of groups/organisations that exist in Gateshead. Mark will give a presentation at the next Safer Stronger Communities Partnership meeting in June where he will demonstrate the use of the site

Dave - A Pastor has agreed to speak at the Memorial service in April

Annie – Apologised as work commitments has meant that she has not had time to contact Community Foundation to inform them that we no longer have the Small Grants Fund.

4. Junior Network Meeting Update – Mark Shilcock

19 Schools were in attendance (107 children & young people). As the event was held on Red Nose Day each child was given a giggler as a token of thanks. This gift helped to raise £200.00 for Red Nose Day. Chair thanked Mark and the team for an excellent day.

GCN were commissioned by Gateshead Council's Children and Young People's Service to conduct a survey via GCN'S School Council Network. This survey was designed to examine children and young people's use of the Internet outside of school hours. The results of this survey will feed into the revised Children and Young People's Plan for Gateshead and be presented to Gateshead's Children Trust Board by Joan and Mark.

Schools were asked to take questionnaires back to their schools to be completed by as many children as possible. Mark collected 750 completed forms last week. The team have input all the information which is currently being processed. Suggestions that all schools who

took part will receive a copy of the report plus a precis of their school feedback. Results show that 1% of 11year olds are using adult sites and are not monitored. At recent Child Protection training staff members mentioned some of the feedback results. Discussed the option to take a designed training package to schools to address issues of internet safety. Chair pleased that Children Trust Board wanted our involvement in this, with such an excellent 70% return rate. Another item on agenda was the suggestion that School Council would have a page on the Our Gateshead website. This will enable schools to be able to network with each other.

5. DVD – High Kelly

The DVD is now complete, Hugh gave a demonstration to members for comments. The DVD will go onto both our website and Our Gateshead. Copies are available for any member who would like to take one. Suggestions that members could present the DVD wherever and whenever. Other suggestions maybe take copy along to library for their display system. We are purchasing a display board which will enable us to show this at any future event we attend. Comments were all positive, however discussed the option to put contact details on to DVD. Currently the details are on the sleeve.

Agreed: Contact details to remain on sleeve.

Annie mentioned that we will receive a copy of the Community Development Community Cohesion Strategy refresh DVD as well which can also go onto both sites. Annie will give a presentation of the DVD at the next Safer Stronger Communities Partnership meeting. Discussed members receiving our publicity materials. Packs will be made up and circulated to members as soon as possible.

6. Budget Update:

Diane circulated an updated budget sheet for comments. The project are currently awaiting invoices for several things leaving an underspend of around £4000. Annie reiterated that the project has not received the grant offer letter yet. Verbal information given was that the project will lose £30.000 from budget. This will mean that the project will no longer be able to run the Small Grants Fund. Discussed the option to raise funds through consultation to help budget as there will also be cuts the following year. The team are currently trying to build relationships with GATNET GP's consortium,

hopefully this link may provide a source of funding in the future. Discussed the cuts to GVOC and all the projects within it. Job descriptions have been changed to reflect work load Ian as well as his community development work is now also attending Community Development & Community Cohesion meetings, Gateshead Together, Transport Forum, Community Payback, Big Local Trust, Wrekenton Review, Citizenship Working Groups and Fire Service Open Day, Capacity Building Fund,. Mark has taken over the Junior Network. The team have organised an away day on 18th April to produce a work plan.

7. Partnership/Area Forums:

Hugh – West Area Forum: GCN referred to by our involvement in new Blaydon PCC. Lack of applications to SITA .

Richard – West Area Forum: Asked to raise the question if voluntary organisations use Facebook and twitter

Agreed: This question to be raised again at the next Steering Group Meeting

Mark mentioned that he will be attending training in London around social use of websites. Mark agreed to feedback from this at July's meeting.

Dave – Central Area Forum: Neighbourhood Wardens scheme has ended. Street Action Enforcement Team will now take over on 1st April. This team will carry out targeted work, residents will not have contact with them.

Ray – Inner West Area Forum: Dermatology consultation was an agenda item, Ray fed back on the findings from the Junior Network questionnaire. Members were surprised by the results, discussed Mark attending a future meeting.

Ray has recently called into the project to ask if the Steering Group meetings could be changed in order for Ray to attend as Mondays clash with meetings he attends. After discussion May and June meetings will remain on Mondays but the July meeting will now take Tuesday 5th July.

Chair- has recently attended a question and answer session along with members from tenants associations and local groups from

across the Region with Nick Hurd Minister for Civil Society. Members in attendance were only allowed to ask one question to which Mr Hurd responded however you were not allowed to reply to his response. Consensus of the meeting was that Big Society was not new in the North East.

Christine – Gave information on a forthcoming event “Aliveoscope” which will take place at the Little Theatre on 17th April. The event is free but you will need a ticket for admission. Contact Louise on 2581330 for tickets.

9. AOB:

Annie and Ian are looking to hold focus groups around the refresh of the Community Development Strategy.

Irene queried feedback on advertising on bus shelters. Diane had contacted the company who were based in Manchester unfortunately they were not interested in helping.

Confirmation that this year’s Fire Station Open Day is on Sunday 10th July at Low Fell Fire Station from 11 - 3pm.

Big Lunch Irene has recently looked at the website, and did not feel that the information was clear.

Confirmation needed from Kevin Flynn regarding the cancellation of a Transport meeting Irene had requested to go to.

Agreed: Dave will confirm with Kevin and let Diane know.

Chair asked members in attendance to complete pen pictures for the website as soon as possible.

Both Joanne and Alan were asked if they would like to become members of the Steering Group. After further discussion both Alan and Joanne agreed to become members. Written confirmation to go out shortly.

Meeting ended at 12.15pm

10. Date & Time of next Meeting:

Next meeting will be held on Monday 9th May at GVOG from 10 – 12 with lunch to follow