

GRAVESHAM EAST NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

NOTES OF MEETING

Date: Wednesday, 8 July 2009

Venue: Miracles Youth Centre, Windsor Road, Windsor Road, Gravesend, DA12
5BW

Present:

KCC Councillors

Cllr Bryan Sweetland (Chairman)

Cllr John Cubitt

GBC Councillors

Cllr Jane Cribbon

Cllr Sara Langdale

Cllr John Caller

Cllr Diane Marsh

Cllr Glen Handley

Cllr Leslie Hills

Cllr William Lambert

+ 8 others from organisations and members of the public

KCC Officers:

20.	Welcome - Cllr John Cubitt (Chair)
21.	Apologies
	Cllr Biggs
22.	Any Declarations of Interest
	None
23.	Presentation by young people from Miracles Youth Centre and Jon Whitfield, Centre Manager, Miracles Youth Centre as well as young people from the Riverview and West court areas with Penny Stotesbury, Youth Worker, Kent Youth Services
	Jon Whitfield (Centre Manager) and Penny Stotesbury (KCC Area Youth Worker) spoke about the needs of local young people. KCC undertook a consultation on 2 April at Westcourt Primary School and in Dartford and to find out what issues the young people had. The four biggest concerns were drug and alcohol abuse, knife crime and teenage pregnancy. Discussions took place on each of the tables, to find out what leisure activities the young people take part in and any suggestions for other activities.
24.	Discussion on activities for young people Identify the main issues and what could be done about these
25.	Summary of group discussions: feedback from each of the tables on the

priorities and issues identified.

Table 1

Young people currently use:

- Cascades Football Dome
- Bluewater (transport to get there is costly at £3.50 each way)
- Subway restaurant
- Shorne Country Park – frisby, football, socialising – mixed groups
- AEI sports ground
- Cinema (don't go regularly but would go to Woodville Halls if it was more regular)
- Gym at North-West Kent College (only costs £1)
- Woodlands Park (disappointing there is currently no catering/toilet facilities)

They would like to see:

- Another football centre closer to where they live as transport costs are an issue
- More indoor sports facilities
- Dedicated music venue
- Need to look at other mediums to reach young people such as Face Book, text, mail.

Table 2

- Accommodation and homes for 16+ age group who don't live at home with parents, as well as jobs are vital..
- The fear of crime is quite high
- Perception of young people is often wrong, more likely to be the victims of crime than perpetrators.
- Travel for young people in the rural areas for activities is a problem but equally across town can be difficult. Young people really want activities near by.
- Cost of leisure centres is too much for many
- Lack of football ground facilities
- Freedom pass is up to 16. Really 17 year olds have the same issues and need transport as well.
- More sports facilities, but semi-formal activities so young people can give less commitment.
- Positive media coverage of young people needed
- Young people want to be listened to
- Could more sports fields be used after school?

Table 3

Q – Have you taken part in the consultation activities?

Yes – event at Swan Valley School

Q – How was the involvement process?

Some activities were not fun but understood that needed to take part in it all

Taken part in a number of courses organised through the youth service – including trips which were interesting

- A lot of projects are territorial. Recognise that youth service are trying to get rid of barriers so that they are open to all, but young people won't trav who

Wednesday, 8 July 2009

have an involvement in collecting, reporting and analysing data el. Some would not come up here as it is "Kings Farm". People from Riverview will come here. Making it fun – "sex, drugs and sausage rolls"

- Going to a youth centre is regarded as a bit geeky. Not the cool kids who are involved with "knife crime"
- Cost is an issue - £6,400 to run the centre, but the heating bill is £8,000. Have a separate staffing budget but no money for marketing. Word of mouth is most valuable.
- Young people at the table said that they went to Ebbsfleet Youth Centre – Liz asked the young people to come and they were happy to do this to support Liz.
- Public transport is often a limiting factor – not just the times but also the routes and prices.
- Need to take a whole borough approach

Q – What type of catalyst would be needed?

Something exciting to spark their interest

- For example, lots of people added the recent Big Day out. There was a great atmosphere and so young people were happy to look at the stalls and interact.
- What about a youth festival esp. with a musical emphasis?
- Links to cultural Olympiad
- Do not have to be huge – could be mini days out
- Developed in tandem with the schools. St Georges would offer their field, Jon had asked about this as part of discussions about extended schools.
- If young people have clear ideas what they want, officers can look at funding.

Q – What about Gifted Young Gravesham?

- Young people on the table were only partly aware of this. Apparently it was one of the most popular events at the Woodville Halls last year
- Maybe Councils could consider purchasing tickets for such events and distributing them in the youth centres
- Has to have credibility – need feedback and action to gain credibility
- Suggested that we could have something like "Yog in the Park"
<http://www.kenttv.com/programmes.php?CID=15&SCID=40&PID=159&Title=YOG+in+the+Park> – young people jamming and playing. People with a wide variety of interests attended and mixed without tension.
- Apparently the Gr@nd did battle of the bands and made a profit. It was organised by young people ((Can only see this for 2004 -
<http://www.gravesham.gov.uk/media/pdf/9/m/GrandAnnualReport2004.pdf>)

Q – Ever looked at GBC website?

No – use Facebook

Q – Are you interested in politics?

No – young people need to be encouraged to vote. It is all "guys in suits" and they all seem the same.

- Does not interest us esp. as we are not old enough to vote

Wednesday, 8 July 2009

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Might be interesting if we had more of a say <p>Good ideas → shared projects (organisations + young people) → implement</p>
26.	Wendy Lane, Principal Planner (Policy) for Gravesham Borough Council will give a an update on the Development Plan. The Local Development Framework (LDF) is a set of documents that, in combination with national and regional policy, will shape planning and development in Gravesham for the longer term. The Council will be consulting on the latest draft of this in the autumn 2009
	<p>Update on the Development Plan Working towards the next consultation stage, the Draft Plan will go out to consultation in November and hope to submit to government next August.</p> <p>It will be a public consultation and will be going out to meet the public as well as talking to interest groups and land owners. There will be a series of public meetings for people to express their views. We are looking at what other mechanisms are available. Need to take account of lifestyle changes, age etc.</p> <p>Question and answer session Q. You've explained the process very well – can you please tell us about the public consultation? A. The next consultation due to take place around November 2009 with the plan being put to government in August 2010</p> <p>Q. Can anybody respond to the consultation? A: We will do all we can to encourage the public to participate and are open to suggestions as to how we can improve this.</p> <p>Q. How does the Transport Quarter fit in to the plan? A: We are looking to submit a planning application – we are in the middle of a consultation on the plans at the moment. There has been an exhibition in Town centric and the scale model is currently in the Civic Centre foyer area.</p> <p>Q. As you say the LDF is going to shape the area for the next 20 years – we have been here this evening discussing issues facing young people - How are you going to engage them as it is the future of their town being planned? A. We looked at work that the Crime Reduction Partnership has done on the needs of young people and open space currently but we are open to suggestions as to how we might improve this. I would be happy to come along to any groups/meetings if that would help.</p> <p>Q. Mr Clay asked several questions but the following summarises the points he was making: - The Council was criticised by the Audit commission about the delay in publishing its Local Development Framework. The Council is “putting the cart before the horse” and allowing major applications before the policies for these areas are confirmed. He felt that GBC are pre-empting any consultation and the examination in Public. The view was expressed, by a couple of attendees that decisions should not be being</p>

Wednesday, 8 July 2009

made by GBC now in the absence of an adopted CS + DM DPD

A: Robust decisions can be made within the framework provided by national, regional (SE Plan has sub-regional policies of relevance to us) and local policy, and the most up-to-date evidence that will be underpinning the LDF.

The Town Centre Strategy does set out the four Quarter Themes and the Council has often expressed its spatial intentions for the town

Q. How the town centre will operate in the apparent absence of this clear policy framework will be a challenge for any proposal for the town centre – TQ, HQ etc. A GBC do not need a town centre AAP as the CS + DM DPD will contain area specific policies and strategic site allocations.

Q. In relation to the Transport Quarter –how it fits into the wider transport system. I feel that the Council is planning for today not for tomorrow. You should remove through traffic (West-East /East-West) from the Riverside area of the town.

A I acknowledge that the Riverside Area needs to be taken into account in plans for transport in the area. There are overarching plans e.g. Thames Gateway Strategy, Medway Plan and lots of agencies (including the Highways Agency and KCC) are involved in transport modelling and design of major scheme. There are in fact 12 major schemes within the Borough that will still be completed.

Q. We should not be talking just about buildings – we need to consider life and living; open space and the public realm. Provision /access to open space etc north of the A2 is rapidly diminishing. We don't just want quality we also want quantity.

A:We are looking at strategic allocation of space and including “linking space” as public realm.

Q. While you are working on plans for the future the town is changing radically, You need to set out your Masterplan and also ensure that any plans take into account the character of an area. You need to involve people in a series of workshops to ensure their views are taken into account.

A:We are /will be preparing strategic policies for the areas but at the same time cannot treat them in isolation as they fit into the whole.

Jackie Thompson I am from South East Planning Aid and we are here to help the community engage with the LDF

Cllr Cubitt The Transport Quarter is rolling on. We will certainly look at whether or not the vision for the Quarter will interfere with the wider vision that is the Local Development Framework. Anyone who wishes can go and see the exhibitions and submit their comments on the proposals.

Need to get the through traffic away from the riverside area. The current Transport Quarter plan is not doing this. There needs to be more vision and thought about the future.

Q. Open space within Gravesham, this side to the river, are diminishing with all the development going on. We need to create more open space. We now have more

Wednesday, 8 July 2009

	<p>people living in a smaller space with no open space around them. The quality of the open space should be important. We know there are mental health problems associated with overcrowding.</p> <p>A. It is part of the overall vision of the area. Quality is important.</p> <p>Q. Has the council decided to hold back major planning development until the consultation has taken place?</p> <p>A. Any planning applications that go through Regulatory Board can be deferred if we do not have sufficient information.</p>
27.	Group Sessions: Table discussions
28.	Summary of table discussions: Brief feedback from each of the tables on what were the priorities and issues identified.
29.	Question Time: general questions regarding GBC and KCC to Members and Officer present
30.	Future Discussion Topics: Brief discussion on topics to consider at future meetings
	<p>Grant Process We have £31,990 to allocate for capital items such as equipment, building costs, fixed costs but not revenue. £16,000 will be decided by public vote. Applications are available from Will Farmer.</p>