

## KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

### Thanet Local Board

Tuesday, 25 January 2011

St Saviour's Church of England Junior School  
Elm Grove, Westgate-on-Sea, Kent CT8 8LD

**Present: Local Board Members:** Bill Hayton (Chairman), Robert Bayford, Robert Burgess, Elizabeth Green, Charles Hibberd, John Kirby, Chris Wells.

**KCC Officer:** Anne Charman (Community Engagement Manager, Thanet)

Apologies were received from Michael Jarvis

<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome to the meeting – Mr Bill Hayton, Chairman</b>
	<p>Mr Hayton welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>All county councillors present introduced themselves.</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Notes of Local Board meeting held on 27 September 2010 and progress on any actions agreed</b>
	<p>The notes were agreed as a true record.</p>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Kent Youth County Council / Thanet Youth Council</b>
	<p>Two Thanet Youth Council (TYC) members, Alice Cope and Claire Nelson provided an update on their latest projects.</p> <p>Both spoke of the work TYC has undertaken recently, including an administrative role for the Easter and Summer Blast events held in 2010. TYC will be helping with the Easter Blast again this year where it will run a crafts table and is planning a variety of activities including putting together a time capsule.</p> <p>In order to raise much needed funding, TYC is organising a 'Battle of the Bands' competition, a series of concerts which also involves members undertaking training or becoming a 'buddy' to others. TYC meets regularly at the Quarterdeck Centre in Margate and organises a variety of schemes and activities for young people in Thanet (visit <a href="http://www.thaneyouthcouncil.co.uk/">http://www.thaneyouthcouncil.co.uk/</a>).</p> <p>Sadie Williams, KCC's Youth Participation Worker for East Kent outlined the role of Kent Youth County Council which is to focus on the issues affecting young people. It is non-party political and in November 2010, 60 young people were elected on to KYCC; 4 from each of the 12 local district or borough councils within the KCC area and 12 Community Seats. The 12 Community Member seats are elected from within specialist projects including, young parents, young carers, homeless young people, young BME, young Travellers, young refugees, young people who are disabled, young LGBT, young people in care, and young people not in education,</p>

employment or training. For example, a Young Carer Community Member would have been elected from within the Young Carer's Network, ensuring democracy, sensitivity and confidentiality.

KYCC works closely with officers and elected members of KCC, informing them of young people's issues and concerns. Kent is represented on the British Youth Council and UK Youth Parliament, taking local issues to a national level. Last year the campaigns it worked on were: Environment, Positive Activities for Young People, Transport, LGBT, Positive Images and Media and the Olympics. Thanet had a very active election campaign in 2010 with the fourth largest number of votes cast in the county. Last year it also used the back of ballot papers to ask young people which issues mattered most to them and from the 18,000 responses received the most popular (in order) were, Transport (affordability and frequency), Things to do and Employment.

KYCC holds 10 meetings a year at County Hall, Maidstone and offers a variety of activities including residential courses providing training on presentation skills, understanding who the key influencers are, etc.

For more information contact [sadie.williams@kent.gov.uk](mailto:sadie.williams@kent.gov.uk).

**4. John Fowler, Chief Officer, Kent Savers Credit Union**

Before joining Kent Savers 10 months ago, John Fowler worked for a variety of organisations including; Carers Kent, the Commonwealth Secretariat (where he worked for Vince Cable), The Princes Trust and the Seashells Children's Centre.

Kent Savers is a financial co-operative owned and controlled by its members, runs on a not-for-profit basis and has been set up for people who live or work in Kent. It works in partnership with local authorities, housing associations and other statutory and non-statutory organisations to provide access to ethical, affordable and reliable credit. It offers Credit Union Loans that are subsidised for low income borrowers, for example Kent Savers would charge £70 for a £500 loan (27% APR) whereas Provident would charge £410 (272% APR). Such loans exploit the vulnerable. Another example given was Wonga.com who sponsors Blackpool Rangers and charge 2769% APR, meaning a £100 loan could cost £2769 in credit charges.

Kent Savers helps people to avoid having to use payday loans, doorstep lenders or loan sharks and encourages them borrow and save sensibly. It promotes saving by way of a Save As You Borrow scheme, which rounds up payments on loans, the additional amount going into a savings account. In 2010 savings returned a dividend of 3%, a good return that is entirely safe as Kent Savers is regulated by the Financial Services Authority and all deposits are covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. Like Wantsum Savers in Thanet, money saved is being used to morally and ethically support local people.

It proposes to introduce Community Budgeting Accounts, providing a basic banking service to pay bills, etc and promote prudent spending as well as insurance services such as loan cover and life cover.

Kent Savers is a small but expanding organisation based in Gravesend that works very closely with other credit unions like Wantsum Savers.

**Q.** How do we contact Wantsum Savers?

**A.** John Pritchard, the President of Wantsum Savers is in the audience and would be delighted to speak to you after the meeting.

**Q.** What is the link between Kent Savers and Wantsum Savers?

**A.** Both are members of the Association of British Credit Unions and share common ethics. However, Kent Savers offers some products that Wantsum Savers does not. Wantsum Savers has its roots in the local community and also underwrites loans very carefully. It has close relationships with all the local agencies to provide help to people who are financially excluded and is based in Duke Street, Margate with locations in Thanet Gateway, TDC's offices in Ramsgate and Newington Children's Centre. (Tel: 01843 295022 or visit <http://www.wantsumsavers.com>)

For more information on Kent Savers contact John Fowler on tel: 0333 321 9050 or email [john.fowler@kentsavers.co.uk](mailto:john.fowler@kentsavers.co.uk)

**5. Nigel Turley, Funding Buddies Co-ordinator**

Funding Buddies forms part of the work undertaken by Action for Communities in Rural Kent (ACRK). Formerly known as the Kent Rural Community Council, ACRK runs a number of projects including, community halls, village plans, rural housing, rural transport, rural retail, Village of the Year competition and Funding Buddies.

After 22 years in the Financial Sector and three years working with North West Kent CVS and Business in the Community, Nigel joined ACRK to deliver the Funding Buddies project in 2006, which is funded by Big Lottery until 2012. (Kent County Council also provided funding in 2008/09.) Funding Buddies are specialists who give help with accessing funding, from identifying funding streams to mentoring through the application process, offering help with the bid-writing process.

Funding Buddies exists to help groups become more effective and to improve the knowledge of funding and income generation that is available. It won't write a bid for you however, as the point of its work is to mentor groups so that they have the knowledge, confidence and enthusiasm to write their own bids and then help other groups. Statistics show that there are certain areas in Kent not taking up their fair share of grants and Thanet falls into this category. Nigel gave examples of the sort of advice provided:

- Letters requesting funding should be specifically targeted at a few local businesses that are likely to have an interest in your project, rather than a blanket mail out to everyone.
- Enlist the support of local politicians by asking these influential people to write letters to potential funders. Colyer-Ferguson, for example will ask if a project is supported by a local councillor. Better still, ask if KCC members will support you with their grants.
- Provide evidence of a need for your project. If a project has a long waiting

list, for example a sports club, then this makes the bid writing process that much easier.

Nigel then described some of the projects Funding Buddies has helped:

- Lydd allotments needed funding for water. This 50 year allotment on Romney Marsh had to manually draw water up from 3 wells using metal buckets, making it particularly difficult for older people to access. Lydd allotments was successful and now writes its own funding bids and has secured additional from the Wind Farm and Tesco's for polytunnels and raised bedding.
- The Greatstone Singers wanted a minibus, which is more difficult to find funding for. However they fund raised themselves, buying a wheel, wing mirror, etc and, impressed by their efforts, a funder awarded the rest.
- Young people excluded by a local youth club were awarded funding to set up their own club.

In August 2009 the Funding Buddies remit was enhanced and extended by Big Lottery who now requires 25% of its work to be concentrated in Thanet. The extended project costs @ £105,000 with @£2,350,000 of direct funding achieved, making this a return on investment of £22 for every £1.

Funding Buddies has formed good partnerships with the Community & Voluntary Sector, including CASE Kent who help deliver training courses and has 25 Funding Buddy Mentors.

Nigel also recommended anyone interested in funding should attend the next Kent & Medway Funding Fair at The Folkestone Academy on 13 April.

For more information, to book a place at the funding fair or to request a copy of the Funding Toolkit visit: [www.fundingbuddiesinkent.org.uk](http://www.fundingbuddiesinkent.org.uk)

## **6. Celebration of grants awarded in 2009/10**

### **Platform Theatre Company Project:**

Chris Wells introduced four young actresses who would be performing an extract from John Godber's 'Shakers'. This is a culmination of all the activities the group has undertaken recently, including performances at the Sarah Thorne Theatre Club in Broadstairs and the Actor's Club in London.

This performance forms part of a programme, working with young people from the Czech, Roma, Polish and indigenous communities in Cliftonville, which has been funded by Chris Wells and Michael Jarvis through their member grants. The programme aims to improve integration and understanding in the community by helping young people to appreciate the importance of communication and showing them the value of working together. It also helps to build their confidence and their self-esteem.

'Shakers' is a modern comedy set in a trendy cocktail bar in the North of England during the 1980s. *'The Shakers Cocktail Bar is THE place to go after work, before*

*a club, to meet the blokes, pick up the girls, to drink or celebrate or drown your sorrows, for birthdays and parties and romance and sin.'* During the play, the four young waitresses begin to reveal the lives of its staff and customers, offering some insight into their own hopes, dreams and disappointments.

After a very lively, funny and professional performance, Rob Rawles, who has worked very closely with the group on this project, invited the audience to another performance of 'Rikki and Julie', or 'Romeo and Juliet Today' planned for Easter. The feuding houses of Montague and Capulet will be represented by two schools and involve 30 teenagers from the local community. For more information contact Rob Rawles tel 07930 545222.

### **Quartet in the Community**

Nicola Wood, Senior Extended School Co-ordinator, provided an overview of the Quartet in the Community project, which was initially set up in 2004 as a three year extended schools pilot project with KCC, involving a partnership of four Margate Schools whose head teachers wanted to trial some new ideas about the role of schools in the community. It has now expanded and comprises, Hartsdown Technology College, Garlinge Primary School, Salmestone Primary School, Holy Trinity and St John's CE Primary School, St Gregory's Catholic Primary School, Foreland School, Six Bells Children's Centre and Garlinge Children's Centre.

Quartet offers support to the local community in many ways, including health and wellbeing activities, parental involvement and support, study support, signposting and sharing resources. All its activities are listed in the six newsletters it produces every year.

Nicola listed many of key successes of the Quartet project, including Family Days, Saturday Morning Cinema Club and the Quartet Youth Club in Garlinge and described some of the activities that the Thanet member grants have supported, particularly around the Quartet Community Allotment. The allotment site was provided by Thanet District Council and the Primary Care Trust for use by the Quartet. Several projects revolve around the allotment, including training for young people to gain Horticulture qualifications (which has been very successful in incentivising excluded children) after school gardening clubs, The Reading Garden, an over 50s gardening group and an intergenerational project, Intergen 2010. The Thanet Local Board's grants funded a polytunnel for the site, and furniture for a log cabin.

The Quartet Allotment is always looking for volunteers, who are rewarded with produce from the allotment. If you are interested (or have any unwanted seeds to donate) please email [Nicola@hartsdown.kent.sch.uk](mailto:Nicola@hartsdown.kent.sch.uk) or phone 07845 979024,

### **7. Grant recommendation – Small Community Capital Projects and Local Schemes Grant 2010/11**

Anne Charman, Community Engagement Manager for Thanet, provided summaries of all the Small Community Capital Projects and Local Schemes Grant Tranche 1 bid applications that had been recommended by the Thanet Local Board for KCC Cabinet approval for 2010/11.

	<p>The recommendations of Local Schemes Grant Tranche 2 will be announced at the next Thanet Local Board meeting on Tuesday, 15 March 2011.</p> <p>Bid recommendations and summaries can be found by visiting the KCC Thanet pages at <a href="http://democracy.kent.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=155">http://democracy.kent.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=155</a>.</p> <p>All applications for the Small Community Capital Projects fund and Local Schemes Grant were now closed for 2010/11. However Member Community Grant was still available and interested applicants should contact their local county councillor to discuss their projects and seek their support.</p>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Second Homes 2005/06</b>
	<p>Michael Bates, Thanet District Council's Highways Inspector, provided an update on the current progress being made on Thanet District Council's 2005/06 Second Homes projects and requested an amendment to one project and an extension for others.</p> <p>The report was circulated at the meeting and is available by visiting the KCC Thanet pages or by contacting Anne Charman, tel 01622 696389.</p> <p>Mr Hayton agreed to the amendment and extensions as described, requesting that all works be completed within the timescales provided in the report and to notify the Board when this has happened.</p>
<b>9.</b>	<b>Opportunity to ask questions about local public services</b>
	<p><b>Q.</b> Potholes are so bad in certain areas of Minster and Ramsgate that local residents need off road vehicles. What is being done about this?</p> <p><b>A.</b> KCC Highways is undertaking a huge amount of work to repair potholes and has 60 teams working on this, but unfortunately the extreme adverse weather conditions experienced before Christmas have created some problems. This is a national problem with the whole country suffering. If you find a pothole please report it on the Highways 24hr hotline <b>08458 247 800</b> or report it online <a href="http://www.kent.gov.uk/khsfaults">http://www.kent.gov.uk/khsfaults</a></p> <p><b>Q.</b> Under last year's Find &amp; Fix a pothole scheme it was possible to view current and future repairs on the KCC website. What has happened to this facility?</p> <p><b>A.</b> The Board will look into this and feedback.</p> <p><b>Q.</b> Thanet Youth Council has Transport as its top priority yet the cost of the Freedom Pass has doubled. Will the Board be voting against this increase?</p> <p><b>A.</b> The large Government spending cuts has meant that transport costs have had to be looked at carefully. The Freedom Pass entitles young people to travel throughout Kent at anytime and will increase in cost from £50 to £100. This increase is regrettable but provision will be made for those children from low income households who receive free school dinners and who will still pay £50.</p>

	<p>(John Pritchard commented that Wantsum Savers has looked into the possibility of providing loans to parents to cover the cost of the Freedom Pass. This would be particularly useful to those families with several children. But the problem has been with how to deal with non payment of loans and schools' reluctance to intervene, particularly disliking the idea of 'pulling' the passes from their students. However this scheme could be of enormous help to families, costing only £1.60 per week based on £50. Wantsum Savers are happy to discuss this with the county council or individual councillors.)</p> <p><b>Q.</b> Will children who live further than three miles from their school still receive a free school bus pass?</p> <p><b>A.</b> Yes</p> <p><b>Q.</b> What criteria will apply to the self service being rolled out across libraries in Kent?</p> <p><b>A.</b> Where self-service has been trialled nationally there has been a huge increase in the number of people using libraries and this is a much better alternative to closure.</p> <p><b>Q.</b> What is KCC's policy on vehicles parking on grass verges? What can be done about this?</p> <p><b>A.</b> It is against the law to park on grass verges, but this is very difficult to enforce.</p> <p><b>Q.</b> One of the major projects included in KCC's 'Growth without Gridlock' transport delivery plan is the development of a Manston Parkway. This would have a wonderful effect on the future prosperity of Thanet. What is the progress on this?</p> <p><b>A.</b> A bid has been made to the Regenerational Growth Fund with a response due in April. KCC is trying to ensure that this scheme goes ahead together with the extension of HS1 from Ashford/Canterbury/Manston.</p>
<b>9.</b>	<b>Any Other Business notified to the Chairman prior to the meeting.</b>
	None
<b>10.</b>	<b>Close</b>
	Mr Hayton thanked all the speakers for their presentations and the public for attending and closed the meeting.