

REPORT ON BABERGH EAST LSP NOVEMBER 2005

The LSP Partnership Board – which is one of several LSPs in Suffolk (but possibly the smallest) – brings together a wide range of organisations, both statutory and voluntary, represented by all manner of professionals and individuals. It has to be remembered that it cannot deliver anything; its role is to bring all these different agencies together with the common aim of jointly committing resources towards improving the economic, social and environmental well being of the area. It ain't easy! especially without, to date, any specific funds or staff. It is however, an enthusiastic body and we are making real progress.

My last report in March outlined the review we have carried out on the existing Community Plan and listed the main priorities identified as a result. You will remember the Shotley area was highlighted – let me add, this was selected by the Board, not by myself! (Shotley has now completed their village appraisal and at my invitation, they gave us their findings at the last meeting.) These priorities have now been firmed up into a short list of agreed projects which have taken into account Suffolk's Local Area Agreement priorities, Suffolk forming one of the government's LAA pilot projects.

Our list includes:

School based drop in centres, providing health advice; aim to reduce teenage conception rates and STI (sexually transmitted infection)

PCT project – to assist young people in having a healthy lifestyle by achieving weight loss through MEND programme

Shotley Peninsula Learning Partnership. 11-16 year olds and adult but emphasis on supporting over 16 year olds (NEET group – not in education or employment training)

Led by Suffolk College. Help and advice from Haven Gateway consultants.

Shotley Peninsula Youth Partnership. Work with young people to establish a partnership aimed at increasing youth opportunities , both leisure, sport, education and employment. Very much linked to Babergh's Youth Strategy. Police very keen, particularly concerned that problem

young people should be included. Holbrook High School also very supportive – see below.

British Sugar Site Sproughton Consider implications of local plan report and support as required

Support redevelopment of industrial land at Brantham – again in the light of local plan report. Local High Schools very keen to include a learning centre on the site, technology based.

The LSP is still awaiting receipt of a small amount of financial support via the Suffolk LSP Performance reward grants. This is now expected in February which is likely to coincide with the next Board meeting. Unlike some of the larger LSPs, Babergh East finds its progress slightly constricted by the lack of dedicated coordination support to work with and across the partnership. At the next Board meeting, a proposal to joint fund such a post between Babergh East LSP, Mid Suffolk LSP and the East Suffolk Primary Care Trusts will be discussed in the light of the anticipated grant.

In conclusion, members may like to know that two enthusiastic new Head teachers have recently been appointed – Rob Sherington to Holbrook High and Katherine Tooze to Hadleigh High. I have visited both, and both attended the recent Board meeting at my invitation – and they wish to continue to attend. Together with the leader school, East Bergholt High, these three schools form a ‘cluster’ for the new extended schools initiative which has considerable community implications. I have accordingly, invited SCC Education to outline this development to the Board at our next meeting.

To conclude on a cheery note, Tim Mutum and I were greatly encouraged by the unexpectedly large attendance at the last meeting – so considerable that we had to send out for more chairs! And cash wasn’t on the agenda!

Penny Clarke
Chair Babergh East LSP