



The quarterly newsletter for
Bracknell Forest Partnership

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Future Partnership Meetings

Sustainable Community Strategy Launch
Monday 30 June 2008, 5pm, South Hill Park

Please RSVP by 23 June 2008 to:
katharine.simpson@bracknell-forest.gov.uk
01344 352233

NOTE: 12 JUNE 2008 MEETING CANCELLED

Prepared by Bracknell Forest
Borough Council on behalf of the
Bracknell Forest Partnership.

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contributions, comments or suggestions
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The views expressed within this
publication are those of the contributors
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policy.

Deadline for next regular issue:
30 June 2008

Welcome

Martin Gilman
Director,
Bracknell Forest Voluntary Action,
Chairman, Bracknell Forest
Partnership



The March meeting of Bracknell Forest Partnership focused on the work that takes place in our local neighbourhoods. It was great to hear about such varied agendas, including Neighbourhood Policing, the role of town and parish councils, and the vast array of community development work that takes place across the borough.

The past couple of months have been busy ones for the Bracknell Forest Partnership Board with work taking place to finalise the new Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) and Local Area Agreement (LAA).

Both documents are nearing completion and instead of our holding our usual quarterly meeting in June we would like to invite you to attend a launch event for the SCS and LAA on Monday 30th June 2008 at 5pm in the Recital Room at South Hill Park.

Martin Gilman, Director, Bracknell Forest Voluntary Action

Neighbourhood Policing

The introduction of Neighbourhood Policing has seen the reorganisation of Bracknell Forest's police into fourteen neighbourhood policing teams. Although the exact make up of each team is based on a combination of factors including an area's deprivation level and crime figures each area has a dedicated Neighbourhood Specialist Officer (NSO) and Police Community Support Officer (PCSO).

There are three main strands to effective neighbourhood policing:

Access – making sure that the public know who their neighbourhood police officers are and how to get hold of them.

Influence – publicising crime and disorder information so that neighbourhood policing teams can educate and influence local communities' views on crime, disorder and community safety issues

Interventions – developing the right interventions for an area

Each neighbourhood policing team has a set of priorities, decided by public consultation, that it will work towards improving for example addressing the problem of speeding in a particular road or people hanging about in

a particular area. The information gathered through public consultation is used to help direct officers' work so that they are in the right place at the right time

The Role of Police Community Support Officers

Thames Valley Police's Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) have a much wider remit than those in neighbouring police forces and are able to provide crime reduction advice to the public, preserve crime scenes, write statements and seize exhibits and this has enabled police constables to spend more time on other aspects of their job including making arrests and developing their understanding and monitoring of crime patterns.

Simon Bowden, LPA Commander Bracknell Forest

The Role of Town and Parish Councils

The 10,000 parish and town councils across England and Wales have a wide range of powers and responsibilities and deliver an immense range of services including allotments, cemeteries, sports pitches, play areas, bus shelters, tourist information, provision of litter bins, recreation facilities and the management of open spaces, community halls and village centres. Within Bracknell Forest the six town and parish councils all make enormous contributions to the quality of life for local residents.

Like borough councils, town and parish councils are split into wards with each ward being represented by a two or more publicly elected councillors. Unlike borough councils they are not given funding by central government and instead fund their work through the collection of an annual precept from Council Tax.

The national Quality Council scheme is designed to provide town/parish councils with a set of minimum standards to benchmark themselves against and looks at a number of areas including the way meetings are run, the electoral mandate, the quality of their annual report, accounts, communications and the qualifications of the Clerk. Nationally there are 533 parish councils who have met these minimum standards and in Bracknell Forest, Sandhurst Town Council has achieved this accolade.



To give a flavour of the scale of the work undertaken Bracknell Town Council facts include:

- 12 wards (covering 23,000 households)
- 27 Councillors
- 2008/2009 budget £1,221,804
- 31 staff
- Manage 250 acres of recreation space
- Manage 34 play areas and 22 football pitches

Mary Harris, Bracknell Town Council

Community Development

Community development is the building of active and sustainable communities and its success depends on the ability of a wide range of groups and organisations to actively work together. Across Bracknell Forest a wide range of community development work takes place from the formal extended schools programme to less formal networks such as the senior citizens' lunch clubs.

A network of community development workers has been developed and its membership includes those working within local communities from all organisations (public and voluntary sectors). The membership list and contact details is available from Chirs Cowap at Bracknell Forest Voluntary Action.

Extended Services (previously Extended Schools)

The Extended Schools Scheme recognises that schools cannot help children and young people achieve their full potential unless they work in partnership with a range of other agencies and the local communities they serve.

Bracknell Forest's Extended Schools Service works to bring together a wide variety of existing services and organisations under a single umbrella with the school becoming the initial access point for all services.

The range of activities and services that come under the extended services umbrella include a range of sessions intended to give parents advice and support on a range of matters, health drop in sessions, intergenerational work, senior citizens' lunch clubs, Schools Community Watch, CAB outreach and drop in sessions, study support activities for children and summer activity schemes.

**Chris Cowap, Bracknell Forest Voluntary Action
Dawn Day, Extended Services Co-ordinator
Lesley Doyle, Community Development Officer,
Bracknell Forest Borough Council**

Updates and forward look from theme partnerships

Bracknell Forest Partnership Board

The Bracknell Forest Partnership Board continues to work against its eight published workstreams see <http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/your-council/yc-bracknell-forest-partnership.htm> for details.

During the last quarter the Board has:

- collated and analysed the third quarter performance report against the current Local Area Agreement;

- held a stakeholder consultation to gather opinions on the key priorities for both the new Sustainable Community Strategy and the new Local Area Agreement
- held a public consultation on the new Sustainable Community Strategy;
- negotiated and agreed with GOSE the 35 indicators which will form the designated targets in the new Local Area Agreement ;
- begun the procurement process for the Community TV initiative.

For the next quarter the focus of the Board will be on:

- producing the final performance report for the current LAA;
- finalising and publishing the new Sustainable Community Strategy;
- finalising and publishing the new Local Area Agreement;
- holding a launch event for the new SCS and LAA;
- debating and contributing to local health plans and the Berkshire Economic Strategy;
- appointing a provider for the Community TV pilot.

Claire Sharp,
Senior Policy Officer,
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Bracknell Forest Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP)

Working towards becoming a Children's Trust

New duties under Section 10 of the Children Act 2004 require local authorities and their partners to cooperate to improve the wellbeing of all children and young people. It is expected that these duties will result in Children's Trust arrangements being established by April 2008.

Children's trusts are a response to Lord Laming's report of the inquiry into the death of Victoria Climbié, which highlighted the extent to which better working together and better communication are crucial.

The Government expects that children's trusts will be led by local authorities as this is where responsibility for some key statutory duties relating to children lie.

Overall aims of a Children's Trust.

"To achieve joined up services that place the needs of children, young people and families at the centre of their approach to planning, commissioning and ultimately, delivering improved and measurable outcomes.

PROGRESS SO FAR IN BRACKNELL FOREST

The approach taken in Bracknell Forest to develop a Children's Trust has been emerging for sometime, guided by the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership and the Change for Children Project Team. Regular progress reports have been presented to the CYPSP showing that a strong foundation has been laid on which to enable the Children's Trust arrangements to develop further.

Examples of progress made include:

- Effective commissioning and development of prevention and early intervention services through the Children's Fund. A model that can be further developed.
- A range of multi-agency strategies being developed to support key areas of work such as Parenting support, and CAMHS.
- Development of a Children and Young People's Plan based on locally identified priorities, and a review of the plan that shows good progress being made against the five outcomes.
- Strong and consistent Annual Performance Assessment judgements and a good Joint Area Review Inspection outcome
- Development of the Common Assessment Framework, pilot and roll out.
- Effective development and implementation of Extended Services and Children's Centres across the Borough.
- Integrated Care Pathway mechanisms in place to support more effective intervention for young people aged 4 – 11, 11 – 16 and 16+

Many of the areas of development support Children's Trust arrangements and this work will continue to develop under the guidance of the Children's Trust Partnership Board.

Children's Trust status will be established from 1 April 2008, and at this point the CYPSP will become the Children's Trust Partnership Board and will have revised structure and terms of reference to support its work.

To see the proposed structure or for further information contact:

Sandra Maxwell
Integrated Children's Officer
Sandra.maxwell@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

Sandra Maxwell
Integrated Children's Officer
Bracknell Forest Borough Council

Environment Partnership

Environment Partnership Becomes the Climate Change Partnership

The Bracknell Forest Environment Partnership was established in February 2005 with an initial membership that consisted of representatives of the "Environmental Business Partnership" along with representatives of local wildlife conservation groups. Membership subsequently expanded to include representatives of statutory and community sector groups.

The Environment Partnership rapidly developed environmental objectives for the Sustainable Community Plan and, over the following two years, achieved some notable achievements, including the launch and expansion of the Eco-Schools programme in the Borough and the Boehringer 'grey water' irrigation project.

By 2007, the Environment Partnership had made progress against its objectives, but the Climate Change agenda had come to the fore and it was agreed that the theme partnership's work would be refocused to concentrate on tackling climate change and the group relaunched as the Climate Change Partnership.

This refocusing will provide the Bracknell Forest Partnership with better support as it works to implement the Bracknell Forest Climate Change Action Plan, Sustainable Community Strategy, Local Area Agreement and National Performance Indicators.

Improvements to Longshot Lane Amenity Site

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that although improvements are currently being made at Longshot Lane Amenity Site which have resulted in the site's closure during the week; it is still open on weekday evening and at weekends and on Bank Holidays.



The much needed improvements to modernise the facilities will include changing the layout of the site for better access and providing covered bays for residents to unload their vehicles. Recycling facilities will also be improved.

Cllr Dorothy Hayes, Executive Member for the Environment, said "We will do everything we can to try and keep disruption to a minimum during the redevelopment of the site. There may be times when the site will have to be closed at short notice and therefore I would urge all residents to check before making their journey to the site."

Residents who live near Reading may also choose to use the new household waste recycling facility at Island Road, Reading, which opened on January 11.

The redevelopment is being carried out by the re3 waste minimisation partnership, a 25-year joint project of Bracknell Forest, Reading and Wokingham Borough Councils and the Waste Recycling Group to dispose of 200,000 tonnes of domestic waste collected each year. The re3 partnership was created to increase recycling, reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill and to significantly reduce the overall cost of waste disposal to the benefit of the council tax payer. For more details, visit www.re3.org.uk

Having state-of-the-art facilities at Island Road and Longshot Lane means the re3 partnership will be able to recycle even more of the waste that comes into the site and from the kerbside refuse collection service.

Longshot Lane opening hours (from 7 April 2008)

Weekdays				5pm to 8pm
Weekends	and	Bank		8am to 8pm
Holidays				(summer)
				8am to 6pm (winter)

Please note that there may be occasions during the construction that the site needs to be closed at short notice. Please check the latest opening times before making your journey:

www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk
www.re3.org.uk

Or free phone 0800 9883023

Vincent Paliczka,
Director of Environment, Culture and Communities
Bracknell Forest Borough Council