

Minutes of a meeting to develop a Preston Ward Partnership

held on Tuesday 13th December 2005, 7.30pm
at Paignton Police Station

Present:

John Quinn (JQ)	Resident
Patrick Woodwark (PW)	Businessman
Cllr Ian Oxley (IO)	Councillor for Preston
Bob Brewis (BB)	Resident
Joan Dugate (JD)	Retailer
Cliff Tite (CT)	Church of the Living Waters
PC Jonathan Reed (JR)	Neighbourhood Beat Manager for Preston

Also present:

Ian Williams (IW)	Torbay Council
Tracey Cabache (TC)	Torbay Council
Ian Campbell (IC)	Torbay Voluntary Service

1. Meeting and greeting, volunteers for chairing and minuting the meeting

1.1 Those present introduced themselves. BB volunteered to Chair the meeting and TC volunteered to take the minutes.

1.2 Apologies were received from Joan Hammond (resident) and Sue Cheriton (Torbay Council) who was represented by IW.

2. Approval of the agenda

2.1 The draft agenda was approved.

3. Aim of the meeting

3.1 TC outlined the aim of the meeting which was to discuss the need for a Ward Partnership in Preston and, if agreed, who might be willing to help with its establishment.

4. Role of the Ward Partnerships

4.1 TC outlined the role of the Ward partnerships in the Bay and circulated the constitution for such partnerships. TC summarised the three levels each of the existing partnerships were working at:

- Identifying current problems in their Ward and looking for way to rectify these – generally a reactive role e.g. someone has a complaint and the group tries to find someone to resolve it.
- A more proactive role to look at what is needed in the Ward and try to find someone to provide answers and/or solutions. Issues tend to be larger and more long-term;
- Take the proactive role even further and becomes an action group raising its own funding and providing some of the services identified as priorities that cannot be provided by service providers in the Bay e.g. youth facilities/activities, park benches etc.

4.2 The group discussed these levels and the need to 'run before we can walk'. JQ and BB shared some experiences of the previous Ward Management meetings which had been effective at times such as providing changes to positioning of bus stops, traffic lights, seafront CCTV etc. Sometimes little progress was made which was frustrating. Both felt the new Ward Partnerships appeared to have more weight than the old Ward Management Meetings. With this in mind the

group felt that a new style Preston Ward Partnership would be a valuable resource for the people of Preston. The participants at the meeting resolved to set up a Ward Partnership up as soon as possible. The group agreed to work to levels 1 and 2 for the time being.

5 Brainstorm on the possible development of a Preston Ward partnership, who and how?

5.1 The group resolved the following actions:

5.1.1 To set up a interim Steering Group composed of those present, plus possible representatives from residents groups, Neighbourhood Watch, Preston Baptist Church, St Paul's Church, Coast and Countryside Trust, Occombe Farm, more traders, the Press plus any relevant voluntary and/or community groups. All participants at the meeting were committed and agreed to being part of the initial Steering Group.

Action: IC to identify any further voluntary and/or community groups active in Preston. BB and TC to then send minutes and an introductory letter to suggested representatives

5.1.2 To hold a meeting of this wider group on Thursday January 26th at Paignton Police Station starting at 7.30pm.

Action: JR to organise meeting.

5.1.3 To hold a public meeting on Thursday 23rd February at Oldway Mansion (note: other possible venues for future events Hollicombe Centre, Auditorium at St Paul's, Preston Baptist Church). May need a hook to get people there. Public meeting agenda to be discussed and planned at the January meeting. Should we invite the Chief Executive of Torbay Council? Meeting to start at 7.30pm

Action: IW to book Oldway Mansion for this date.

5.1.4 To promote the Ward Partnership meeting through Herald Express, Gemini, newsletters, notice boards etc. The newsletter and notice boards could cover local Ward issues as well as the work of the Ward Partnership and solicit feedback. There is no local Herald Express columnist for Preston. The group should discuss such appointment.

Action: JR to include Ward Partnership in his Beat News in the Herald Express.

5.1.5 To organise the agendas in advance of each meeting, where possible have answers to the issues raised by the time of the meeting and to have a small group who are responsible for following up on action points and moving the business of the group forward (likely to be the Steering Group).

5.2 The group elected BB as a temporary Chair and JR as a temporary Secretary to support these initial meetings. These are temporary positions. The Chair, Deputy Chair and Secretary will be elected (from the membership of the Steering Group) at the first meeting after 31st March each year.

6 Current issues in Preston

6.1 The following issues were considered to be of importance to Preston, some of which could provide a focus for the public meeting in February (in no particular order):

- Redundant toilets
- Traffic flow – e.g. Paris Road needs a filter system to Torquay Road
- Control Parking Zones
- Seafront parking control
- Overall parking problems in the Ward
- Future of Concorde House
- Preston supermarket development

- Sustaining the Blue Flag status for Preston Beach
- Enhancing the seafront for visitors and residents
- Improvement to shopping areas
- Hollicombe development
- Other property developments across the ward, and uses for Section 106 funds
- Crime and fear of crime in the area
- Lack of dental facilities
- Children on the street
- Youth issues (including reintroducing the Garage project)
- Raising the profile of Preston

6.2 JR provided some crime statistics for the Ward. It was agreed that these should definitely form part of the discussions at the public meeting. The full statistics are attached as an appendix to these minutes.

ACTION: These issues to be reviewed at the January meeting and some selected issues to be presented at the public meeting in February.

7. Community planning process

This item was deferred.

8. Council budgeting process

This item was deferred.

9. A.O.B

Next meeting at Paignton Police Station on Thursday January 26th at Paignton Police Station starting at 7.30pm.

There being no other business the meeting ended promptly at 9.30pm.

