

INDUSTRIAL COMMUNITIES ALLIANCE - KENT SUB REGION

Minutes of Meeting

Dover District Council Offices

Monday 8th March 2010 - 2pm

Present:

Cllr S Manion	Dover District Council (Chair)
Brin Hill	Dover District Council
Sheila Tait	Dover District Council
Cllr L Keen	Dover District Council
Cllr J Rook	Kent County Council
Cllr R Thompson	Dover District Council
Cllr C Hibbard	Kent County Council
Cllr M Eddy	Kent County Council
Dave Hughes	Kent County Council

Apologies:

Cllr K Smith	Dover District Council
Joan Dixon	Industrial Communities Alliance

1. Apologies

Apologies as above.

2. Welcome/Overview – Cllr Stephen Manion

SM welcomed everyone to the meeting and all introduced themselves.

Alliance is lobbying for better funding for regeneration for coalfield and industrial areas. Recently met in Redcar and have taken on Barrow-in-Furness for ship building. National General Meeting is being held this week in Fife as Alliance includes Scotland and Wales as well as England.

3. Update from Midland & South Meeting

Attended Midlands & South meeting in Bolsover and trying to get more focused agenda. Still waiting to hear back regarding funding from CRT.

4. National Issues

- *Worklessness*

Considering National Worklessness programme. Chair has been invited to sit on Forum and are trying to look at ways of tackling worklessness. BH said in terms of economic downturn there has been an increase of 1.5% to 12,600 – BH to provide breakdown of these figures. Community Development working with Job Centre and DWP trying to be pro-active to deal with situation.

- *Future job funds*

County had successful bid for future job funds for Community Wardens. BH believed that In Touch who are local to Dover have been successful in 2 jobs created. Have not been involved in scheme but signposting to KCC. LK asked why DDC did not get involved and thought should be urged to put in application. ST said that did not facilitate ourselves as do not have staff, KCC have 5 permanent staff involved and have been successful in getting gardeners etc. ST to find out how many jobs have been created in Dover.

- *Future of EU funding*

County have put in submission to Alliance – DH confirmed that a short letter was sent to Steve Fothergill to outline Kent's decision as do not necessarily support re-nationalisation of EU funding. Steve Fothergill had replied and would put forward to NGM. BH said that this might not be Dover perspective and felt may need to endorse or understand better.

LK would like pros and cons of each approach – DH to put together a short paper outlining this for circulating with minutes. CH said that could not get away from fact that public funding is scarcer than at any other time.

BH said there is an issue of skill deficit across East Kent and need to up skill – CH felt that got to be careful that do not up skill to industries that are not going to exist. BH said need to create sustainable jobs.

- *National Audit Office report*

Looking at a Coalfield Regeneration Review. SM confirmed that meeting is scheduled on Wednesday so will be able to feedback on this. Background documents to be e-mailed out to members as well for feedback. BH advised that review not yet been commissioned but lobbying for this.

5. Local Issues

- *Betteshanger*

SEEDA are still responsible for site and have found temporary manager for Country Park. JR advised that working with Hadlow College to have current site at Betteshanger. First stage of feasibility study is just finishing for Hadlow to do environmental studies. Hopefully there will be a full feasibility study before General Election so all suggestions can be fed in and money available. Hoping also to put bid in to take over running of Fowlmead. BH felt that if plan does go ahead would probably achieve most tangible outcomes and outputs.

- *Construction Training Project (Aylesham)*

LK said that when Snowdown folded ADCWT negotiated with HCA and SEEDA to have workshops but have been advised by Derek Garrity that this is being scaled down to 2 workshops for training purposes and infrastructure. SM advised that there is a trust meeting next week and BH to speak to Derek Garrity to ask him for short report for trust meeting. JR said that Roger Gough had been looking into this and DH understood that Mike Terry is Project Manager for HCA and is talking to KCC Property people about this as there is some claw back provision and need to see how can get round this. CH thought that there was a general background

clause that KCC should not give away any land/property. ME advised that there is now policy that can do this for public usage. BH had not spoken to CRT about this and advised that Derek is planning to go to Doncaster to lobby for this project.

BH advised that round 4 spend for CRT small grants is now £5,000 and is available to all coalfield areas except Littlebourne and Barham Downs. £100,000 is administered by Community Development Team. Parish Councils/Local Authorities are no longer able to apply for this funding.

With regards the main CRT grants Deal Town Football Club was awarded £160,000 to reinstate new club house/social facility. Aylesham Welfare Scheme had £140,00 which topped up £1.4m bid. Have had nearly ½ million from this round of funding but nothing to say we cannot put bid in for these areas but at moment CRT are fully committed with regards to spends. ME asked if an organisation has got facilities outside of CRT wards can they still put in application – BH advised that if percentage of work served is greater in Middle Deal/Ayelsham area then can put in bid. BT said that are grateful for sports facility and lot of work was involved in this – BH agreed and said that community champion in Aylesham had done a great job.

- *North Deal*

Sue Mummery now Project Manager for Cannon Street site. Have been working with community in area and huge amount of work been done and community champions have taken project forward. Site is currently being cleared and planning is subject to 106 approval. Site is part of regeneration for DDC. PCT still want to be involved in health care provision. North Deal Community Partnership is now a company and are working with HCA, SEEDA and landowner to take project forward. Planned layout of site to be e-mailed to all members of group. It will be a mixed use development which is much needed for North Deal.

BH advised that Coalfield Enterprise Fund had done a presentation to Business Advisory Group today, they are very interested in getting involved in Kent.

Discussion took place on Kent not attending Alliance meeting with regards to networking etc – DH said that KCC do lobby with regards papers they receive and do not always feel its necessary to attend all these meetings.

6. Frequency of meetings

Future meetings will follow Midland & South meetings but as lots of questions raised would hold a one off meeting at beginning of April.

ME asked for a paper on how ICA is organised, what regions it covers, how many representatives, background on how organisation works, who it reports to and who provides funding to keep organisation going – SM thought that could circulate business plan. BH said would like National Secretariat to provide paper on this.

7. Date of next meetings

19 April 2010, 2.00pm – Council Chamber

24 May 2010, 2.00pm – Brave Room