

Appendix A1

SEVENOAKS DISTRICT SENIORS ACTION FORUM

Response to the Consultation on the Sevenoaks District Community Plan

Introduction

This paper is the Forum's response to the Sevenoaks District Council's consultation on the draft Sevenoaks District Community Plan of December 2012.

Although the Draft Plan covers three years, our items under each of the six Priority Headings of the Plan ("Safe", "Caring", "Green", "Healthy", "Dynamic", and "Sustainable") are not given priority. We would hope that the partnership organisations and will bring them about over the next 15 years.

Trends for the Future

It is not easy to identify the trends which will influence policy and practice in community matters for 15 years. Similarly, the likely measures needed to establish success or failure of the Plan will have to be identified. The following are included for monitoring:

- Ageing population
- Improving health and fitness of the seniors
- Increased activity rates of seniors
- Growing demand for public transport
- Improvement of the national economy
- More local engagement of seniors in public affairs
- Increased awareness of failings in micro-public services
- Higher demands for transparency in public affairs
- Higher demand for a professional approach to the management of health and care events and services
- Greater demand for household measurement of energy usage and local energy security

Pointers to Actions

Safe 1 Facilitate effective working between the Police, Partners and Communities

- 1.1 Increase the number of PACT schemes as appropriate
- 1.2 Review their action plans to develop a more "coordinated" approach to matters under this plan

Safe 2 Tackle anti-social behaviour and environmental crime

- 2.1 Make physical changes to the environment to make anti-social behaviour less easy
- 2.2 Improve and extend mobile CCTV services to "hot-spots"

Safe 3 Deliver a low crime rate in the District

3.1 Make physical changes to the environment to make crime less easy, eg apply principles of “physical determinism”

3.2 Improve and extend CCTV services to hot-spots

3.3 Use the proceeds of the community infrastructure levy for such as above

3.4 Encourage resident gardeners to plant thorny bushes at boundaries with security in mind

Safe 4 Support vulnerable and repeat victims of crime and anti-social behaviour

4.1 Create awareness of victim-support charities, voluntary groups, and local public services¹

4.3 Develop or enhance a more supportive environment for carers who are children

Safe 5 Tackle speeding vehicles and improve safety for all road users including pedestrians and cyclists

5.1 Develop “SpeedWatch” teams for each settlement

5.2 Identify places where safer cycleways could be added towns and villages.

5.3 Identify places for 20mph road signs and other traffic calming measures

5.4 Increase the number of mobile speed warning signs to more “hot spots”

5.5 Increase pedestrianisation of town centre areas, perhaps only at weekends initially

5.6 Consider the creation of 'mixed zones' without kerbs, traffic lights etc which have been shown to encourage safer driving

Caring 1 Enable older people and vulnerable groups to live as independently as possible

1.1 Create or enhance good neighbourliness schemes

1.2 Encourage formation and enhance the role and activities of the Patient Participation Groups in the District with the view to supporting this Plan

1.3 Train more visiting health and social care staff to spot the signs of distress due to poor warmth in homes

1.4 Encourage the use of websites such as www.dropby.co.uk

1.5 Introduce more digital technology which is health-related or care-related for services administered in the home

Caring 2 Provide the right support at the right time (including vulnerable groups, people on low incomes and those who care for others)

2.1 Develop or encourage such supportive initiatives as “Boomerang”

2.2 Encourage the development of local credit and savings unions

Caring 3 Improve outcomes for children and young people

3.1 As part of the Olympic Legacy develop schemes for establishing and improving “personal best” in non-competitive walking, running, lifting, rowing, and other exercises

3.2 Develop or enhance a more supportive leisure environment for carers who are children

3.3 Target the primary schools which are performing least well with accredited “reading volunteers” so as to enhance the reading capabilities of those due to leave the school

3.4 Particularly in the first couple of years, ensure that all primary school children are “assessed” for dyslexia

Caring 4 Reduce poverty and social exclusion

4.1 Establish mobile employment services for rural areas

4.2 Initiate and develop a voluntary University of All Ages (UAA) for training and personal development schemes in work-related topics

4.3 Develop or enhance a more supportive environment for carers who are children

Green 1 Maintain the extent of the green belt, and conserve and enhance the value of our countryside and green spaces, particularly areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

1.1 Identify derelict land and previously low density developed urban land for redevelopment

1.2 Identify agricultural buildings and other rural properties suitable for ancillary business and tourist use

1.3 Encourage the creation and maintenance of new allotments

1.4 Encourage the creation of new community gardens and similar initiatives to promote food growing, such as “Incredible Edible” in Todmorden.

1.4 Properly enforce the use of existing statutory powers to protect common land and village greens from inappropriate development

Green 2 Ensure new development is designed to a high quality and takes into account local character

2.1 Encourage developers to plant more trees to provide shade, absorb carbon dioxide and reduce traffic particulates

2.2 Encourage developers to provide ground works for sustainable urban and rural sewage and surface water systems to prevent flooding

2.3 Encourage developers and occupiers to retain rainwater for grey use in buildings and gardens, eg install tanks of 500 to 2000 litres

2.4 Make more use of the Planning and Energy Act 2008 to encourage developers to incorporate energy efficiency and renewable energy in their projects.

Green 3 Reduce energy use and pollution preserve our resources and mitigate the impact of climate change

3.1 Plant more trees to absorb carbon dioxide and traffic particulates in areas of heavy air pollution

3.2 Plant more species which are suitable for hedgerow “foraging”, eg walnut trees, as part of community growing as under Green 1(1.4)

Green 4 Maintain a clean local environment

4.1 Encourage residents to keep pavements near their home swept and litter-free

4.2 Review the need for litter bins to be placed near litter-generating establishments

4.3 Pursue measures to reduce packaging waste: recycling schemes across the District to include mixed plastic

4.4 Collaborate with manufacturers and retailers to reduce the volume of packaging, and promote reusable shopping bags over disposable plastic ones

Healthy 1 Reduce health inequalities and improve health and wellbeing for all

[Please note: In the context of SECamb and SDC aims and objectives for defibrillators, SDSAF’s Project Defibrillator covers points 1.2 to 1.6]

1.1 Ensure that Patient Participation Groups are made aware of all actions aimed at reducing health inequalities

1.2 Build a resilience with first aid training for residents and in schools and with increased involvement of Community First Responders

1.3 Encourage all voluntary bodies, schools and colleges to develop and enhance capabilities in basic first aid and survival techniques

1.4 Establish requirements for a structure of public access defibrillators in towns and villages

1.5 Establish and maintain a virtual directory of defibrillators in the District

1.6 Where first aid and defibrillators are located ensure awareness of the need for appropriate publicity and maintenance

Healthy 2 Improve access to health services

- 2.1 Encourage formation and enhance the role and activities of the Patient Participation Groups in the District with the view to supporting this Plan
- 2.2 Enhance the availability of travel services to health, fitness and care facilities for those without their own transport, in particular, by reducing waiting and overall journey times through improved timetables
- 2.3 Encourage the making of appointments so that bus passes may be used in the morning – SDSAF’s “*Travel to Hospital, etc*” raised this point
- 2.4 With the view to supporting this plan, and as appropriate, encourage residents to join in the activities of a) Patient Participation Groups, b) local HealthWatch, c) membership of SE Coast Ambulance Service NHS Trust and d) similar groups

Healthy 3 Reduce risk taking behaviour that affects health and wellbeing

- 3.1 Where organised activities involving risk are planned ensure the organisers or management carry out appropriate risk assessment and brief the participants

Healthy 4 Create a legacy for the Olympics and Paralympics

- 4.1 As part of the Olympic Legacy develop schemes for establishing and improving “personal best” in non-competitive walking, running, lifting, rowing, and other exercises
- 4.2 Encourage the development or enhancement of “ground volleyball” schemes in leisure centres.
- 4.3 Develop a base for “Old-lympics” for oldtimers in the District

Dynamic 1 Protect employment land

- 1.1 Encourage any existing historic building trust to bring derelict or vulnerable land and buildings into business use
- 1.2 Encourage the formation of a historic building trust to protect employment land and buildings which are at risk and to bring vacant buildings back into use
- 1.3 Use powers under the Localism Act to identify and register community assets which have community value
- 1.4 Ensure flood protection structures are adequate to protect existing shops, offices and industrial premises

Dynamic 2 Improve skills for employability

- 2.1 Establish mobile employment services for rural areas

2.2 Initiate and develop a voluntary University of All Ages (UAA) for training and personal development schemes in work related topics

Dynamic 3 Retain existing businesses and encourage new businesses

3.1 Identify landfill sites suitable for the extraction of methane gas

3.2 Develop strong local business development agencies for training and supporting any embryonic businesses

3.3 Consider the use of statutory schemes for business improvement district (BID) in Swanley, and Edenbridge - to help the identified needs

Dynamic 4 Improve broadband connectivity

4.1 Prepare case studies from other places showing what is involved in a local group setting up an improved broadband conductivity scheme

4.2 Encourage more public buildings, village halls, leisure centres and other facilities to have wifi and other services for broadband users

Dynamic 5 Improve energy efficiency

5.1 Increase understanding of the local impact of instability of national energy security to encourage local district energy schemes

5.2 Encourage woodland owners to consider their resource as a basis for woodchip and other woodland sustainable energy products

5.3 Facilitate upgrading and installation of loft insulation by providing for the elderly and infirm assistance with 'loft emptying'

5.4 Making increased use of existing networks such as Freegle, Freecycle and West Kent Extra's 'Abacus'

5.5 Aim to have 100% of public buildings, dwellings and business buildings to be insulated to appropriate standards

Sustainable 1 Reduce the need to travel, and promote and improve access to public and community transport

1.1 Increase the number of cycleways using the proceeds of community infrastructure levy

Sustainable 2 Improve access to key local services

2.1 When new development takes place, ensure appropriate access routes and modes of transport are provided, eg cycleways

2.2 Ensure timely annual “Snow Plans” and annual “Flood Plans” are published for public consultation in each town and parish

Sustainable 3 Provide the right mix of housing types and smaller homes for older people and meet the needs identified for Gypsies and Travellers in the Local Development Framework

3.1 Where provided, ensure multi-partner effort to make vulnerable groups welcome

Sustainable 4 Work with local communities to deliver strong, active and sustainable communities

4.1 In every town and village in the district install at least one electric power point for electric cars and other vehicles

4.2 Encourage all those who run events to adopt the principles and practice of sustainable event management, eg BS 8901, and more recently ISO 20121