

**Donnington Partnership Special Executive Meeting  
With Cllr Sean Kelly  
Monday 06 December 2010 10.00am Lifelong Learning Centre**

**Present:** Albert Biggs (Chair), Fiona Moore, Rose Gregory, Sharon Price, Ralph Morgan, Ben Murphy, Robin Glover, Maurice Kirby, WPC Nikki Scott, Dennis Offland, Cllr Sean Kelly, Wendy Tonge, Jan Williams (minutes)

1.	<b>Welcome &amp; Apologies:</b> Albert welcomed attendees and all introduced themselves. Apologies were received by Wendy Breakwell, Jean Gulliver, Brian & Pat Green.	<b>Action</b>
2.	<p><b>Brief overview of the Donnington Partnership: Albert Biggs</b></p> <p>The partnership was formed in 1995 at a time when Donnington had a high number of ASB and criminal damage problems. Working directly with residents, the police, health, children &amp; young people, education, T&amp;WC and WHT representatives the partnership has since grown and many new groups have developed improving the lifestyle for local residents.</p> <p><u>Among the many successes have been;</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ Many funding bids, which have increased opportunities for activity and brought about physical improvements in the local area.</li> <li>★ Donnington Life Long Learning Centre building, - offering a building for local groups to meet, learn new skills etc.</li> <li>★ The Community Cafe - offering healthy low cost food and also opportunities for volunteers to gain skills and confidence (which has included the long term unemployed, disabled people, ex drug users etc. The café has supported many of these volunteers into paid employment and a feeling of worth). The café was also awarded the Queens Award.</li> <li>★ A successful Toy lending Library and a garden Tool Library</li> </ul> <p>This work has transpired through establishing links with local residents, building their trust and the consistency of the work.</p> <p>Fiona has been a big focus in the work since 1997 having been based in Donnington. Her role has led the partnership through the many changes and has acted as a centre point for both agencies and residents for support and guidance.</p> <p>Charitable Status: The next stage for the group is to seek charitable status which Fiona has been leading the group on; Rose has also been progressing with developing the café as a social enterprise business trading arm for the Partnership. Funding bids, business plans, and policies have been developed as part of this process.</p> <p>The Partnership executive committee has also accommodated to meet the changing financial pressures of local statutory organisations by recruiting a volunteer treasurer and a voluntary administrator will be interviewed next week; both these roles were previously carried by the Council.</p>	

<p><b>3.</b></p>	<p><b>Discussion Points:</b></p> <p>The WHT would like to use the Donnington Partnership model in all areas of Telford to assist overcoming barriers with residents.</p> <p>The partnership asked Cllr Kelly for reassurance that T&amp;WC would continue to provide support to the partnership's work – as this is an important element of the partnership to ensure correct legal procedures were followed, correct communication and that actions, standards and clear guidelines are followed.</p> <p>Cllr Kelly responded positively and reflected upon the emerging Big Society agenda, which comprises of many different elements, but agreed that the Partnership's work met aspects of this agenda.</p> <p>Exec members requested for help to promote the partnership within T&amp;WC because despite its longevity, many people still did not know of the Partnership, its successes and the opportunities available. Cabinet members in particular should be more aware of and recognise the work of the partnership helping to promote its successes.</p> <p>Cllr Kelly agreed that it would be good to be given the opportunity to share the good practice in other areas as to what can be achieved by working together. Cllr Kelly was also impressed with the achievements made by the café in supporting vulnerable people back into society and employment. Rose reported that the Head of the Sutherland school has stated that the school Trust will be run in the format of the Partnership and the community café.</p>	
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b>Comments from Cllr Sean Kelly:</b></p> <p>Cllr Kelly explained that the original locality management working system that was in place when Fiona was based in Turreff Hall was only a pilot. Although it was positive for the Donnington area, other areas of Telford were being deprived as not having a worker available. The way of working had to change to fit in with T&amp;WC focus on council led priorities and to make it more viable in making better use of officers time.</p> <p>T&amp;WC are committed to partnership working and will always offer support but all partnerships will have to take on responsibilities such as chair, treasurer, secretary etc., but it is also important to make use of both T&amp;W and Ward councillors. It is essential that support was given; some Ward councillors had made complaints that the public bypassed them and went to council officers instead.</p> <p>Peter Smith &amp; Colin Crane of T&amp;WC are currently working on a new Service Level Agreement with the CVS for the provision of services in exchange for assistance with funding; - would that be of interest to the group. Cllr Kelly agreed to explore and feed back.</p> <p>The excellent work going on in Donnington was good model that should be used as a flagship in other areas. Cllr Kelly agreed to highlight the work and to try to organise a meeting to enable the partnership to present their work.</p> <p>Support by the LGA for Big Promotion – local representative Robert Francis of Wellington was also suggested to help with recognition.</p> <p>Wendy Tonge agreed that it was difficult for staff and the public to manage the many changes of the council, but that Cllr Kelly has always been very supportive and understands the value of the partnership. As the partnership has grown, Fi's input has lessened which does enable her skills to be used in other areas which greatly need help.</p>	<p><b>Cllr Kelly</b></p>
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Conclusion:</b></p> <p>Albert thanked everyone for their attendance and input. He also thanked Cllr Kelly for his assurance and looked forward to his future support.</p>	

