

- ✓ **Early intervention projects for young people at risk of, or involved in ASB or crime e.g. over 250 young people engaged in the multi-agency youth diversionary project.**
- ✓ **Provided support for local residents to report anti-social behaviour and crime and pay for two Anti-Social Behaviour Officers to be employed by Sussex Police.**
- ✓ **Fund an intensive supervision scheme to target the Prolific and Priority Offenders who commit crime in Rother and support the associated multi-agency group.**

The Safer Rother Partnership works to keep Rother a safe place to live, work and visit. **A big thank you and congratulations to all who have worked with the Safer Rother Partnership over the last year.**



**Councillor Eric Armstrong** Chairman, Safer Rother Partnership

## Rother LSP Action Plans - Progress on Targets

	Baseline	Milestone for 2005/06	Did we achieve this?
Stay Safe - reduce the death rate from accidents by at least one fifth and reduce the rate of serious injury from accidents by one tenth by 2010	0 to 4 year olds 2002/03 279.12 per 100,000	260 per 100,000 2003/04	<b>Yes</b> 0 to 4 year olds 88
	5 to 14 year olds 2002/03 92.57 per 100,000	90	<b>No</b> 5 - 14 year olds 99
Be Healthy - Reduction in infant mortality by 1% over the next 3 years	23% of mothers smoking at delivery (1/10/04 to 31/3/05)	21% (1/10/05 to 31/3/06)	<b>Yes</b> 20%
Reductions in British Crime Survey (BCS) comparator crimes of 15% over the three years to 2007/8	BCS Comparator Crimes for 2003/04 was 4265 crimes	7.5% reduction in BCS Comparator Crimes	<b>Yes</b> Number 11.9% reduction achieved
Access & Transport - to enhance access to Culture through increased resources and channels by 2008		Active Rother web-site in development Rural school theatre tour Feb 06	<b>Yes</b>
Community Well-being - To increase number of activities for children, young people and other target groups by 10% over next 5 years	118 arts 105 sports 223	167 arts 178 sports 345	<b>Yes</b> 55% Increase
Smoking - reducing smoking, especially in disadvantaged groups and pregnant women	592 persons achieved a 4 week quit date in 2004/05	548 persons to achieve 4 weeks quit date in 2005/06	<b>Yes</b> Number: 585
Improved Sexual Health - to reduce the under 18's conception rate by 50% by 2010 (from the 1998 baseline)	3 year cumulative rate 1998 - 2000 = 36 conception per 1000	conception rate of 30 per 1000	Not Expected as most recent data is for 2002 - 2004 = 32.1
Identify potential exception sites in rural areas resulting in 30 units by 2009.	3	Identify 2 site	<b>No</b>
Provide housing assistance to elderly and vulnerable residents to ensure they are able to live in safe and secure homes	No loans have been provided	Identify one pilot loan case for development of scheme	<b>Yes</b>
To raise average gross weekly earnings by 20% to match the UK average by 2009	Average earnings 79.1% of National Average in 2003	To increase earnings to 82% of National Average	<b>Yes</b> 82%
Reduce unemployment in Central Bexhill and Sidley to within 0.5% of Rother average by 2009	% Unemployed at December 2004 Sidley 5% Central 8.2% Rother 4.3%	To reduce unemployment to Sidley 4.9% Central 8.0%	<b>Yes</b> Sidley 3.7% Central 4.5%
Appointment of a hub provider for the Rural Rother Adult Learning Community (RRALC). Appointment of skills coordinator			<b>Yes</b>
To provide a range of learning opportunities including Childcare, Parenting Skills, IT for farmers, access to learning via Broadband in rural communities			<b>Yes</b> 276 enrolments on RRALC
At four targeted high risk sites in Rother, reduce mean speeds by 12%	The existing mean speed for the four sites is 36mph	To reduce mean speeds at the four sites to no more than 32mph	<b>No</b> Number:1 (Catsfield)
Double the number of Walking Bus schemes in Rother	3 in 2004	To increase the number of Walking Buses from 3 to 6	<b>Yes</b>
By 2009 to have 1 recycling champion in every Parish within the District	1 known	10	<b>No</b> 7
By 2009 for the Rethink Rubbish Bus to visit every school and Parish within the District	22 Schools 8 Parishes	25 Schools 12 Parishes	<b>Yes</b> 27 Schools 16 Parishes

**The above is a selection of targets from the LSP's Action Plan. Out of the 43 targets 27 have been achieved, with 13 not achieved, and 3 have not been determined due to up to date data not being available or is unobtainable. A new set of action plans will be published from April 2007. Please visit our website for the full list or contact Scott Lavocah, LSP Coordinator on 01424 787863 or email [scott.lavocah@rother.gov.uk](mailto:scott.lavocah@rother.gov.uk).**

## Other Thematic Action Areas

- Your Transport** Rother Transport Group (Chaired by Rother Voluntary Action)
- Your Children & Young People** Children's Services Planning Group (Chaired by East Sussex County Council)
- Your Culture & Leisure** Culture & Leisure Action Group (Chaired by Rother District Council)



## Rother Local Strategic Partnership

**Making things better by working together**

[www.rother.gov.uk/LSP](http://www.rother.gov.uk/LSP)

## A message from the Chairman

Since 2000, local authorities across the country have had a legal obligation to establish Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) and prepare Community Strategies for their areas to improve social, economic and environmental well-being.

Rother District Council's approach in 2002 was to go out to consultation with our "Tell Us What You Think" document, the results of which were analysed and presented to our first Community Forum in February 2003. Over sixty people attended the Community Forum, representing organisations from within and outside Rother and they were invited to help shape the LSP's vision and proposed membership structure.



We held our first meeting back in May 2003 and I am extremely proud of the progress the LSP has made in the three and a half years since that first meeting of the Board. You'll hear about the achievements from some of the thematic action groups and how we've used Second Homes Council Tax money to initially fund local projects, but are now sponsoring the Rother Local Action Plans Support Programme.

The Government is expected to place further importance on the work of LSPs across the Country when it publishes its Sustainable Community Strategy guidance, but I am confident that our LSP has and will continue to listen to your views, just as we did in 2002 and take the necessary and appropriate action.

*Graham Gubby*

**Councillor Graham Gubby - Leader of Rother District Council and Chairman of the Rother Local Strategic Partnership**

## Introducing the Organisations of the Board



## Your Housing

Rother Homes is the representative for housing on Rother's Local Strategic Partnership (LSP), which is currently working to identify what types of affordable housing are required in rural areas and to identify sites that may be suitable for small-scale development. The information gathered will be used to establish a 3 to 5 year programme of development in rural villages.



We have an active development programme, with a target of 30 rented and 10 shared ownership homes per year. We are continuing to develop our services to meet the needs of older people and in 2004 acquired a 16 bed intermediate care centre in Bexhill. We are developing an extra scheme at Newington Court, Ticehurst, which will open in March 2007. This will provide 20 self contained flats with 24 hour care provision on site so that residents may maintain their independence and avoid the need to move into residential care.

Our commitment to involving residents in developing services and promoting sustainable communities continues to be at the heart of our business. We have set up a maintenance consultation group to give residents a chance to become involved in the appointment of contractors and allocate funds to a resident environmental budget, which helps to sustain neighbourhoods through local initiatives decided by residents.

We completed a community project in Netherfield, near Battle, in the Summer of 2006. With a grant of £108,000 from the Housing Corporation we were able to employ community development workers through Action in rural Sussex to help empower the local residents to improve their community. In addition, since January 2004, our People for Action Team have recruited over 230 people onto short courses or into practical skills training and 140 into further learning. We have arranged 27 work experience placements and assisted almost 150 people into employment.

**Clare Thomson** Chief Executive, Rother Homes

## Your Employment and Skills

The focus of the group has been on developing two key themes – one improving the amount of business support and advice available for people in business, or starting a business in Rother, and also supporting the development of Social Enterprises (not for private profit businesses run by local communities).



Through funding from the East Sussex Economic Partnership, Ten Sixty Six Enterprise has supported 130 businesses in Rural Rother with needs analysis and mentoring. One satisfied client is Hearts Designs from Battle, Paul Bennett said 'Our mentor has been very helpful and has given us a structure for our business and we now feel confident that we can go forward with a good business plan. We would recommend this scheme and the services offered by Ten Sixty Six Enterprise and its advisers to any small business.

This support is aimed at improving two of the group's key targets: growth of average earnings, and an increase in VAT registered businesses through supporting business growth.

In addition, Rother Voluntary Action (RVA) has been leading on the development of the Social Enterprise agenda, which is an effective model for supporting disadvantaged people into employment and training. RVA first undertook some research on the sector and then sourced funding to develop a pilot project of support for budding social enterprises. This work will now be continued through the East Sussex Social Enterprise Network.

Finally, the group has also lobbied for the development of the Hastings/Bexhill Link Road, which will help to improve journey times between the two towns, but more importantly will lead to the development of significant new commercial workspace which is desperately needed to support the regeneration of both Rother and Hastings.

**Graham Marley** Chief Executive, Ten Sixty Six Enterprise

## Your Health

Hastings and Rother Primary Care Trust is the lead organisation for Rother's Health Improvement Partnership, which co-ordinates the actions of local organisations to improve health and reduce health inequalities in the area.



The Community Plan identifies four broad objectives of reducing levels of smoking, tackling obesity, reducing teenage conceptions and promoting active life amongst older people for partners to focus on in order to make a real difference to the health of Rother residents.



Richard Watson, Health Improvement Manager for the PCT, said: "The commitment and trust between partners has enabled organisations in both the statutory and voluntary sectors to better inform the public about the choices they make every day, which affect their health. As result we have had real measurable successes, for example since 1998 there has been a 15% reduction in the rate of teenage conceptions and in 2005/06, 585 Rother residents quit smoking. As smoking still remains the biggest cause of preventable illness and early death in the UK and because it is estimated that 22.4% of our population smoke, we wish to help people to quit and encourage them to contact our advice and service.

"Furthermore, interventions such as our health MOTs and Total Lifestyle programme are delivered regularly across the area and we are also developing a further community based initiative with partners for the elderly called Stay Active, Keep Well."

**Richard Watson** Health Improvement Manager, Hastings and Rother PCT

## Rother Local Action Plans

After sponsoring 20 local projects in 2004/05 using the money made available from Second Homes Council Tax, the LSP decided it wanted to see further contributions of these funds from East Sussex County Council, Rother District Council, Sussex Police and the East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service put towards a long-term programme of activity. The Rother Local Action Plans Support Programme commenced in August 2005 and runs until July 2007 and is delivering a programme of support to local communities in the Rother area wishing to consider, develop or implement local Action Plans.

In the past, local planning, in its broadest sense, has often been an exclusive process. The LSP are committed to supporting communities to work together to produce plans which embrace issues of importance to local people, whether it be the number of litter bins in the parish or a major development for affordable housing or a youth club. The important element of this new way of working is that all people within a parish, rural town or ward within a town are encouraged to take part and contribute to the final Action Plan and be party to taking forward actions identified through extensive consultation with local people.

The published Action Plan provides a tool for monitoring and evaluating achievements over time and ensures that local voices are heard within the statutory planning processes. Prior to commencement of the Support Programme Battle, Brede, Netherfield, Sedlescombe and Ticehurst had produced Health checks or Parish Plans. Since the Support Programme commenced, Peasmarsh and Westfield have finalised their Action Plans and have begun work on their action plan projects. 18 other Local Action Plan groups are at different stages of preparing their plans.

Please contact Ian Coleman (01424 200056, [ianrvalap@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ianrvalap@yahoo.co.uk)) or Patricia Marston (01424 777463, [patricia.marston@ruralsussex.org.uk](mailto:patricia.marston@ruralsussex.org.uk)) for further information as to how you can contribute to your Local Action Plan.

## Your Waste & Recycling

The Rother Environmental Group has continued to meet regularly to discuss waste and recycling throughout the year. We were kept informed by Rother's Recycling officer, Fergus Cameron, of the progress of the new contract for Waste and Recycling collection due to start in early 2007.



We have discussed with Rother the issues surrounding alternate weekly collections of waste and recycling. We look forward to meeting representatives of Verdant, the company that have been awarded the 7 year contract.

We are very pleased to have had an early contact with EnviroComms, the company that are launching the campaign to promote recycling in Rother and our members have participated in the Focus Groups. We hope the new system of alternate collections will work well, although it may be a difficult period of transition until we all have learnt to adapt.

The Recycling Action Group remain convinced that Household Recycling Sites can play an important role in the future and we would like to see this role developed and expanded. We welcome recent initiatives to persuade shops and manufacturers to reduce packaging and we hope that this will lead to further measures to help remove packaging waste from the domestic waste altogether. We recognise that green waste can make up a significant proportion of the waste collected but that it should not be treated as waste and composted in local facilities. The funds allocated to recycling by the LSP Board have not, as yet, been allocated as the cardboard recycling scheme was successfully set up in Rye without the need for further funding. We had hoped to assist the SCRAPP Store find a new home in the Rother Community Environment Centre in Bexhill but these plans are currently on hold.

**Christopher Strangeways** Chairman, Rother Environmental Group

## Your Community Safety

**There were 630 (9.4%) fewer crimes committed in Rother in the last year (November 2005 to October 2006)**



The work of the Safer Rother Partnership (SRP) and the partner agencies has reduced Crime by 15.5% from our baseline. The target to be reached by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2006 set by the Government Office for the South East was 9.7%. We exceeded that. We are the only area in East Sussex to have reductions against all the following BCS comparator Crimes: vehicle crime, burglary from dwellings, theft from a person and of a pedal cycle, criminal damage, woundings (ABH/GBH) and robbery of a person.

The Action Groups within the Safer Rother Partnership use real time and historical data to identify hot spot areas and crime types. We work to reduce the fear of crime so that it can reflect the low levels of crime across Rother.

**Rother LSP funded the Safer Rother Partnership to:**

- √ provide 20 graffiti cleaning kits which were circulated to villages and community groups across Rother. These kits have been used by local groups and community organisations to remove graffiti in their area. Feedback has been positive.
- √ remove untaxed and abandoned cars from the streets of Rother restricting the activities of criminals and reducing the fear of crime. Removal of abandoned vehicles reduces the number wrecked or set alight. The project removed a total of 87 abandoned and untaxed cars as a result of the work carried out in partnership with the Police and East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service.

**The Safer Rother Partnership supports a variety of projects and services** to reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime across Rother. **With our partners we achieved the following in the last year:**

- √ **A reduction in the total crime across Rother making it a safer place including:**
  - √ Less than 1 burglary dwelling per day (227 in a year).
  - √ Less thefts from vehicles only 236 in a year that is less than one per day.
  - √ There have been 384 less (BCS Comparator) crimes in the 12 months to the 31 October 2006.
- √ **Reduce public place violent crime and the sale of alcohol to under age drinkers through joint operations by the Police and Trading Standards.**