



Plymouth Social Enterprise Network

Minutes

of the meeting held on
13th September 2011

at

HQ Business Centre, Millfields Trust, 237 Union Street, Plymouth PL1 3HQY

Present: Roger Pipe (Millfields Trust), Viv Horton (START/DDE-Global Centre, Exeter), Sam White (MPAD), Rachel Picken (MPAD), Geoffrey Read (Devon & Cornwall Food Association), Michelle Virgo (Zebra Collective), Jo Shaw (North Prospect Garage Project), Kate Smith (Memory Matters CIC), Gareth Hart (Iridescent Ideas CIC), Christine Reid (Devon & Cornwall Food Association), Linda Prior (DevonCare Training Workforce Development Group), Dave Kilroy (Social Enterprise Outcomes Ltd)

1. Welcome and Introductions

Roger Pipe as Chair for the meeting welcomed all present. Dave Kilroy's offer to take the minutes was accepted.

2. Apologies

The following apologies were received: Neil Pick (TellUsGroup – Swathmore Centre), Peter Flukes (Wolseley Trust), Nicki Parker (Aspire), Christine Watts (Pembroke Street Estate Management Board), Oliver Colville (MP for Plymouth Sutton and Devonport)

3. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th July 2011 were accepted as correct with the following matters arising:

- a. Item 3.1 – Members Profiles: Dave expressed thanks to Ruth Walls for both compiling and sending these on. He is now researching member profile functionality for the website.
- b. Item 6 – Bank Account: the Network's bank account has now been set up and with kind donations its balance now stands at £350
- c. Item 6 – Outreach: Peter Flukes had a positive meeting with Christine Blackaller of Outset Plymouth with future collaboration likely; Peter to report more at the next meeting.
- d. Item 10 – LDA Design & Derriford Park: as instructed by the July meeting, the committee researched the situation and after consideration agreed to join in with LDA Design with their bid. We subsequently heard that this had been accepted by PCC which will mean a contract of approx. £1k for the Network.

4. Social enterprise and the media/PR

Presentation by Rachel Picken of MPAD (Marketing, PR, Advertising, Design) (<http://www.mpad.co.uk>) on how social enterprises can use their ethical dimension to boost PR and how to use social impact to create great news stories. She also discussed what the media is looking for and how we can drive the news agenda. The slides from Rachel's presentation are available on the Network's website.

A most interesting question and answer session followed Rachel's presentation – and after that she was thanked most warmly by all present.

5. Members updates / what's on / events

START / Devon Development Education – Global Centre, Exeter

- Finding it more and more difficult to get project funding
- Looking at other ways to support the organisation, hence attendance here
- Doing a lot of work with schools but need sustainable source of income

Devon and Cornwall Food Association

- Have been distributing milk etc to good causes from Wisemans Dairy for 28 weeks, saving 6,000 litres of milk and cream a week
- Looking to expand across the region
- There is so much waste!

Zebra Collective

- Global Exchange programme is launching (involving Plymouth and Nepal)
- Need more project placements and 'host' homes for volunteers when in Plymouth

North Prospect Garage Project

- The project is now completely self-sustaining
- Pre-apprenticeship programmes
- Looking to expand, running out of space at Ham Drive
- Believe their success is due to their flexibility as well as their belief in what they do – plus also their reputation built up over the years

Memory Matters CIC

- Have set up a new 'Memory Matters CIC'!
- There were no services available in the community
- Provide cognitive stimulation therapy training
- Both people involved are nurses
- Successful start

Iridescent Ideas CIC

- Offer a range of business services
- Help with ideas, investment and impact
- BidCheck service to review funding applications for an hourly rate
- Work with social enterprises and support organisations
- New website (<http://www.iridescentideas.com>)
- Recently attended a Big Society Capital event and met Nick Hurd – exciting investment opportunities for social enterprises

DevonCare Training Workforce Development Group

- Surviving on project funding, but now drying up
- Distributes grants
- Social care sector
- Looking for income generating strategies
- Current structure probably needs changing, seen as part of the Local Authority
- Fact-finding now on what is way forward, structures to use etc
- Need to change our culture

Wolseley Trust / Locality

- There is a new project starting called 'Just Power' which provides support to community organisations thinking of putting solar electricity (photo-voltaic) on their roofs
- Contact Locality (used to be called the Development Trusts Association) or Wolseley Trust for details

Millfields Trust

- Roger was quite modest so we didn't get to hear much about what the Trust did
- A social enterprise letting company with 100 business units and good occupancy rates
- Taking part in the Widening Horizons project

Social Enterprise Outcomes Ltd / Application Insight

- There has been some interest from Northern Ireland in an old Excel-based diagnostic tool (called 'BRIAN') which may lead to it, or some version of it, being adopted there
- Working on version 1.5 of Business Plan Writer (with multi-year functionality), due for release end of October

6. Third Sector Apprenticeship Scheme

This agenda item was deferred to the next meeting.

7. New Members

An application for membership was received from Memory Matters CIC with a recommendation to accept from the committee. Kate Smith gave a very brief outline of what they did, all present eligible members voted, and Memory Matters CIC was given a very warm welcome to the Network.

8. Social Enterprise Day (17th November)

An involved and detailed discussion took place (influenced by MPAD's presentation), which focused on the University's offer of some sort of venue. Various options were discussed and in the end it was agreed that we would go for a mini-social enterprise fair (we already had 6 stalls run by members without any promotion), some sort of 'main event' which would include the pre-launch of the University's National Social Enterprise Unit and a series of surgeries/clinics run in a side room.

Initially we thought we would be in the foyer of the Rolle Building, but it is now possible that we will be in the foyer of the Levinsky Building and will have room for eye-catching stalls such as:

- Camper Obscura (camper van)
- North Prospect Garage Project (including big shiny engine)
- Memory Matters (including occasional ad hoc 'therapy' sessions)
- Simply Counselling (including occasional ad hoc 'therapy' sessions)
- Devon & Cornwall Food Association (big display of to-be-chucked-food)
- and many more

Agreed that this item should be followed up by the committee and would likely form part of the Network's development day on the 27th.

9. Network development day: 27th September

Michelle gave the background to the need for the day and reminded us that the four themes would be:

- i. Trade fair
- ii. Online presence + members' directory
- iii. Research and evidence of social enterprise need
- iv. Raising the profile of social enterprise

The session will start at 9.30 am on Tuesday 27th September at the Devonport Guildhall and will go on until 1 pm (where lunch will be provided).

10. Executive Committee report

A report was given of what the committee had been doing, much of which either had been, or would be, covered elsewhere in the agenda. The report included overviews of:

- i. Minutes of the 6th September committee meeting
- ii. Treasurer's report to that meeting (balance of £350, no expenditure yet)
- iii. Access to minutes. The minutes of the committee meeting held on 6th September are available on the Network's website (<http://plymsocent.org.uk>) and all members are welcome to attend.

11. Any other business

Agreed that the committee should consider a possible future discussion topic (inspired by North Prospect Garage Project's update) entitled: "How do we maintain our flexibility as we grow"

12. Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting of the Network is set for Thursday 17th November (Social Enterprise Day), time and venue to be confirmed although it is likely to be in the Plymouth University's Levinsky building.