



Plymouth Social Enterprise Network

Minutes of the Network meeting held 10th July 2012 at Devonport Guildhall

Present: Annette Morton (Peninsula Enterprise), Dan Thomas (SW Trading Routes), David Brown (Plymouth City Council, DCLL), Louise Walsh (DDRC), Sabrina Simpson (Plymouth Coworking), Jan Knight (Park Pharmacy Trust), Tricia Stewart (Counsellors Southwest CIC), Luke Neville, Dave Kilroy (Application Insight), Sarah Stevenson (Plymouth University), Jeffery Kenyon (Plymouth City Council), Patrick Knight (Plymouth City Council), Roger Pipe (Millfields Trust), Gareth Hart (Iridescent Ideas CIC + PSEN), Harriet Edwards (PSEN), Jonathan Lean (Plymouth University), Jonathan Moizer (Plymouth University), Michelle Virgo (Zebra Collective), Charlotte Weedon (Aster Group), Matthew Dore (Skymind Studios), Jacqueline Cant (Skymind Studios), Peter McNamara (Plymouth Community Homes), Will Watts (Pembroke EMB Ltd), Roger Higman (Saxicola Ltd), Victoria Hurth (DCFA), Ed Whitelaw (RIO), Lindsey Hall (RIO), Peter Flukes (Wolseley Trust), Chris Penberthy (Plymouth City Council)

1. Welcome, Introduction and Apologies

Michelle Virgo acting as Chair welcomed all present. Gareth Hart and Harriet Edwards took minutes.

The following apologies were received: Adam Chambers, Geoffrey Read, Charlie Taylor, Mick Kelly, Kate Smith, Cassie Roberts.

2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

- No comments on minutes from meeting 15th May 2012.
- The “Wait and See” policy for new members is in progress.
- RSA event was a huge success; next one is planned for November.
- Plans for future meetings eg. Low carbon city are in progress
- The AGM report and treasurer report are available to view on the website.

3. Key Note Speaker – Councillor Chris Penberthy

Chris Penberthy talked about the Co-operative Council, Community Development and links to social enterprise. Key points:

- He has a very wide role including housing issues, equalities, regeneration, community cohesion, anti-social behaviour, community safety, social enterprise development and support, asset transfer, voluntary and community sector and child poverty.
- Highlighted that Plymouth had a very strong history of cooperative working.
- Aiming to deliver 100 pledges and change the way the council works.
- There is a network of coop councils round the country.
- About devolving power, greater community involvement and looking at asset transfer (with caution that some assets bring money into the council and help keep council tax down!)
- Keen to see social enterprise as part of the mixed economy of Plymouth
- Saw social enterprise not as a different sort of charity but as a different sort of business

- Recognised that social enterprises have thought about their place in the world and that there is an important local multiplier effect when money is spent and retained in the area.
- There are tough times and budgets are tight.
- Having lots of conversations with lots of people.
- Setting up an economic development trust in the north of the city
- Setting up an Energy Coop and a Green Spaces Trust.

A question and answer session followed. Chris was warmly thanked for his input and there was general optimism and enthusiasm for the Council's approach and engagement of social enterprises.

4. Jobs Task Force

PSEN had been invited to be involved with the City Council's Jobs Task Force. Michelle Virgo outlined the aims of the Jobs Task Force and PSEN's role.

- It has a focus on economic development in the city with emphasis on jobs for local people. PSEN will look at jobs created in social enterprises.
- PSEN was invited to the Jobs Task Force along with the Economic Development Trusts, Plymouth University, and Plymouth Community Homes and others in the private sector.
- Michelle Virgo, as chair, is to represent PSEN in the Jobs Task Force.
- An email was sent out to all members of the network asking for ideas on the Jobs Task Force.
- PSEN would like to know:
 - What will enable businesses to grow?
 - How can we consult/talk with members?
 - What jobs do we need?
 - What do businesses need to employ people?
- We need to create jobs that are socially useful and socially valuable.
- We need to attract social investment into the city to help growth. The Investment and Contract Readiness Fund was highlighted. Could the Council underwrite or partially guarantee loans to social enterprises?

5. Membership Updates

The following quick notes were taken of members' updates – please contact the relevant person/organisation directly for more details:

- *Plymouth University*: SCUBE project is creating an online programme to develop soft skills. They have developed an in depth survey via survey monkey about soft skills. This is being sent out far and wide.
- *Iridescent Ideas CIC*: Completed first year of trading. Looking to reinvest in Social Enterprises in the city and to see more retail social enterprises and more products in the city – thinking about sponsoring a business planning competition along these lines.
- *Millfields Trust*: Lots going on, key things developing an enterprise hub and a centre for young people in Stonehouse.
- *Council Economic Development*: Recognise the need to research the impact of social enterprise and have created a social enterprise listing in their business directory. Businesses can register as a social enterprise through them.
- *Plymouth University*: Second year of Inspiring Futures. Looking for businesses especially social enterprises to that could use student input with projects.
- *Application Insight*: Developing a mobile software app and work with the Big Local Trust.

- *Luke Neville*: Completing dissertation on local impact of social enterprises. Giving out surveys for social enterprises to complete.
- *Counsellors Southwest*: Currently commissioned by the NHS. Starting clinical commissioning groups in Devon and Plymouth. Starting a student placement scheme.
- *Jan Knight*: Currently a charity but setting up a CIC - Children's Industry workshops, delivering workshops in schools. Barbican Pharmacy Museum/shop, free tourist attraction and meeting place, selling high class, high quality goods.
- *Sabrina*: Starting a co-working office space for people working from home. Open day at HQ 9.30am-5pm Thursday 12th July.
- *DDRC*: Situated at Tamar Science Park. They provide emergency treatment for divers, diabetic ulcers and have a hyperbaric centre. Also provide professional services – training, medicals etc. Part of the Marine City Festival.
- *Devonport Community Leisure Trust/Land Trust*: Own Green Arc. Potential for space in Vision development/market building.
- *South West Trading Routes*: Trading arm of Routeways. Raise money for Routeways and Routeways projects. Commercialising Routeways staff with better use of their skills eg. First Aid training facility and a PAT testing facility.
- *Plymouth Community Homes*: Took over the council housing stock, have delivered on 80% of 125 pledges made. Developing external relationships by joining PSEN and the Jobs Task Force, supporting residents to go into Social enterprise. Encouraging procurement from social enterprises too.
- *SkyMind Studios*: Will be changing to a CIC. They work with youth, bands, and events. Trying to arrange music and arts exhibitions in the city centre and battle of the bands competitions.
- *Peninsula Enterprise*: Social Enterprise focus is part funded by Plymouth City Council (Urban Enterprise) they mostly work with start-ups/pre start running workshops, 1:1 meetings. They have a really good steady flow of social enterprise start-ups. Work with RIO delivering SEQ in schools.
- *Aster Group*: Work in Hampshire, Poole, Dorset, Devon and Plymouth. Encourage customers to get involved with Social enterprise. Have social enterprises elsewhere e.g. Twice as Nice – a second hand furniture recycling store.
- *START*: Students and refugees to settle as new residents with the right to remain. They have a contract with Plymouth City Council. Would like to incorporate students into businesses. A business/marketing student has been to in to help arrange this.
- *Pembroke Street EMB*: Serving Devonport area. In partnership with Plymouth Community Homes and Plymouth City Council to provide trading – ground maintenance/community development work and finding work placements for young people.
- *DCFA*: A small voluntary run charity, £30,000 worth of food that would have otherwise been thrown away has gone to disadvantaged families. Plans to have a mobile food van in the city for lunch times and move toward static sites.
- *RIO*: SEQ in every secondary school in Plymouth. They have linked young people and social enterprise. Good work moving the Devonport Column on and possible solutions to other buildings eg. Market and the old Pot Black building.
- *Wolseley Trust*: Reinvest money into the community and local social enterprises. Starting a green shoots initiative 'empty homes' with Shekinah and Millfields. Health project 'Social Prescription' providing a better services to residents, help GP's with people with non-clinical issues.

6. Membership Applications

The following new members were admitted and welcomed to the Network:

- Aster Group – Full membership awarded with one abstention in the vote.
- Open Doors International Language School – Full membership awarded.
- South West Trading Routes – Full membership awarded.
- Diving Diseases Research Centre – Full membership awarded.
- Bournemouth Churches Housing Association – Associate membership awarded.
- City College Plymouth – Associate membership awarded.

7. Executive Committee Report

- TLI – Venture programme running with Routeways is going well. A good turnout at the Ideas Station. Next Workshop is Social Investment on Wednesday 18th July.
- Awards for All – budgets for speakers at events and meetings, Directory – economic questionnaire put together by Harriet.
- Social Enterprise Festival is being planned for November in the week of 12-16th.

8. Any Other Business

- Social Enterprise Awards 2012 is open for entries. Would be great to see some Plymouth social enterprises applying and being nominated/winning. Details on website.
- Member benefits – offers to members. If any member would like to offer member benefits please contact either Harriet or Gareth.
- The “Getting your message across” meeting is on Wednesday 18th July at 7pm at Wolseley Trust Community Building. Georgina El Morshdy of Gem Writing will be attending as a guest speaker.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

- 11th September 12pm – venue TBC. Theme will probably be around the International Year of the Coops.