



Plymouth Social Enterprise Network

Minutes

of the meeting held on

15th May 2012

at

Wolseley Community Economic Development Trust, Community Resource Building,
Wolseley Close, Plymouth PL2 3BY

Present: Hannah Guy (Fotonow), Mick Kelly (Regenerate), James. Y (Regenerate), Soo RizellHogg (Shekinah), Aalice Hocking (SERIO Plymouth University), Ian Walsh (SIFE Plymouth), Ian Bannon (SIFE Plymouth), Dale Whitfield (SIFE Plymouth), Viv Horton (START), Will Watts (Pembroke EMB), Matthew Dore (Skymind Studios), Annette Horton (COC Ent. Focus), Cassie Roberts (Open Doors International Language School), Peter McNamara (Plymouth Community Homes), Dan Thomas (SW Trading Routes CIC), Victoria Hirth, Charlie Taylor, Geoffrey N Read (Devon and Cornwall Food Association), Ed Whitelaw (Real Ideas Organisation), James Watt (Plymouth City Council), Peter Flukes (Wolseley Trust), Jonathon Moizer (Plymouth University), Elena Dell'aquila (Plymouth University), Simon Sherbersky (Chapter 1), Dave Kilroy (Application Insight).

1. Welcome, Introductions & Apologies

Michelle Virgo acting as Chair welcomed all present. Dave Kilroy took minutes and Hannah Guy took photos (some of which were uploaded to our FaceBook page).

The following apologies were received: Roger Pipe, Kate Smith, Sarah Stevenson, Linda Gilroy.

2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th March 2012 were accepted as correct with no matters arising.

3. Membership Applications

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

- Regenerate CIC – full membership awarded.
- Friends of Wyndham Square – associate membership awarded.
- Ocean Studios CIC – full membership awarded.
- Counselling Zone – full membership awarded (but reviewed in 6 months).
- Pembroke Street Estate Management Board – full membership awarded.
- Bike Space – full membership awarded.
- Plymouth Community Homes - full membership awarded.
- Paper Chain - full membership awarded.

Following a discussion on the eligibility criteria for membership and how these are tested, the Committee was asked to consider a "wait & see" stage of membership for applicants whose circumstances are in flux.

The Network now has 34 full members.

4. Presentation by Professor Peter Lloyd

His presentation was entitled "**Social Enterprise: Fringe or Transformation of the Mainstream?**" and the PowerPoint slides he used are available at [this](#) page on our website. The following quick notes were recorded during his fascinating session:

- Firstly a high-octane rush through a lot of social enterprise history, context and reasons for existence
- International perspectives – European and American
- A quick aside about definitions of social enterprise
- Social Enterprises are different from rest of economy – and also different from each other
- The 'London Hub'
- The 'Social Enterprise Iceberg'
- But the 'Hub' only deals with social enterprises above the 'waterline' – therefore not transformative but fringe
- Necessary but not sufficient
- 'Bottom feeders' should be fed or should disappear
- But what about social enterprises below the 'waterline' who are not 'bottom feeders'?
- The need to 'float the iceberg' to make transformation rather than fringe impact
- The 'Upas Tree' – loss of capacity to innovate
- First - accept the public role but create a new space
- Second - open the 'box'
- Third – 'get real' about prospects (the 'strawberry' method of expanding networks)
- Fourth – a drive for innovation and openness (hybrids)
- Beware isomorphism or normative trends, and watch for the bandwagon effect
- Social innovation – the 'R&D wing' of the Welfare System
- The missing dimension – capacity for innovation and creation of ideas – consider a 'pie and pint' ideas incubator for the Network
- Consider also an 'Angels Networks' who would have lots of experience and 'some' cash
- Do something else to lift your spirits!
- Introduction of BRIAN and some reflective thinking – Peter will be offering free-of-charge sessions with interested organisations

Peter's presentation was concluded with loud applause. All appeared to find the presentation was very entertaining, engaging and informative. There followed a short question and answer session.

Q How is Plymouth different to other areas in the UK?
A More co-operative, no big-weight players here therefore more room and more scope to grow. It is more 'heads up' than some areas in Liverpool, Manchester or Northern Ireland – more entrepreneurial 'heft'

Q Funding is a blessing but also a straight-jacket, what you say has backed up our own experiences and we encourage others to follow Peter's advice
A The Network should help social enterprises to 're-envision' what they do

Q All present are invited to the RIO 'ideas' event coming up on 23rd May
A Great

Q We are doing more than we are capable of – we need reflective space (trustees and people 'from the coal-face') – how can we make this happen? Do we need an outside person?

A There are good tools around (such as BRIAN) – but such things work much

better with an interlocutor. Level 1 – the instrument/tool on its own. Level 2 – the instrument plus interlocutor. Level 3 – instrument plus skilled Network member & some pro-bono work

Q When are you available to come and do BRIAN sessions with social enterprises locally?

A Not sure yet – please get in touch so I can organise another Plymouth visit

Q I remember doing BRIAN sessions in the past with Co-active and found them very good

A Good, but it has been missing a dimension for innovation and creativity (which I want to add)

Q How do we judge value of social mission? Do we treat large NHS 'roll-outs' the same as 'traditional' social enterprises?

A That is the big debate – we need to get politicians involved, maybe need to roll back what is being done presently to make sure people are well served

Peter was once again applauded and thanked for his excellent contributions.

5. Presentation by Leader of Plymouth City Council, Tudor Evans

Unfortunately Tudor was not able to be present at the meeting today and passed on his best wishes and apologies to the meeting.

6. Executive Committee Report

As Network Co-ordinator, Gareth Hart presented a verbal report on behalf of the committee (a summary of this report, combined with a summary of the Chair's report is available from [this](#) page of our website).

Gareth then explained that we would now pause the ordinary Network Meeting to hold the Annual General Meeting and once finished, to resume this meeting.

7. Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th May 2011 were considered and accepted as correct with no matters arising.

a. Chair's Report

Then the Network Chair, Michelle Virgo presented a strategic review of what the Network had achieved over the year (a summary of this report, combined with a summary of the Co-ordinator's report is available from [this](#) page of our website). Michelle's presentation generated the following discussion points:

- The Network is not yet a member of the Chamber but quite a few Network members (and in particular members of the Committee) are members of the Chamber. And we also have Committee members who are also members of the Growth Board, and also good links with many other local initiatives.
- There will be another strategy day for the Network (similar to last year's)
- Peter mentioned "objective plan enplein" and encouraged us to think 'out of the box'
- Idea creation is not just chasing different funding opportunities!
- RIO's Idea creation event (in conjunction with the RSA) at Devonport Guildhall on 23rd May

b. Treasurer's Report

As Network Treasurer, Dave Kilroy presented a Treasurer's report (available on [this](#) page of our website).

c. CASAP's Representative Report

As the Network's CASAP representative, Ed Whitelaw gave a verbal presentation to the meeting to the effect that his year's tenure has been a positive experience for both organisations, has been a lot of work but has led to a lot of opportunities for the Network such as the Transforming Local Infrastructure project and a new apprentice for the Network.

d. Constitutional Changes

Gareth outlined the case for constitutional changes (as previously notified to members in the Newsletter) and went through the clauses in detail. After a brief discussion all proposed changes to the constitution were passed.

e. Election of Officers

Following a call for any last minute candidates, the following individuals were proposed, seconded and subsequently elected:

- Gareth Hart proposed and Ed Whitelaw seconded Dave Kilroy as Treasurer.
- Ed Whitelaw proposed and Lucy Wood seconded Gareth Hart as Co-ordinator.
- Victoria Hurth proposed and Gareth Hart seconded Ed Whitelaw as CASAP Representative
- Peter Flukes proposed and Ed Whitelaw seconded Michelle Virgo as Chair.
- Gareth Hart proposed and Victoria Hurth seconded Sarah Stevenson as a Committee Member.
- Gareth Hart proposed and Ed Whitelaw seconded Peter Flukes as a Committee Member.

f. Any Other Business

None.

g. Close of AGM and Resumption of ordinary Network Meeting

The Annual General Meeting was closed and the ordinary Network Meeting was resumed.

8. Membership Updates

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

Plymouth University

SCUBE EU funded project – learning soft skills via role play. Hope to be available with a Universal Commons Licence

SkyMind Studios

Film/music/photography business

Pembroke Street Estate Management Board

Launched a health and wellbeing group. Activities led by residents.

START

Allotments growing well. Have links with Eden project. Cultural kitchen very successful.

Buckland Food Growers

Lots of families now involved. Employing a grower. Links with Tamar valley.

Torbay Social Enterprise Network

Torbay network starting. New Social Enterprise centre to open in Torquay.

Regenerate

Regenerate has been running for a couple of years. Mick has 25 years' experience. In the process of negotiating for Derry's first floor for a centre for social businesses. They hope to fill it. Business rate relief a major issue.

Wolseley Trust

Clawback agreement with regards to Scott Business Park. Previously not enforced by RDA but HCA implementing it. Potential to clawback 76% of surplus. Pilot youth activities PCH/PCC/Wolseley – youth/gym centre. Lack of youth facilities in the area.

Fotonow

Lens based media company. Hannah is the Director of Education and is starting a project in Barne Barton, Take a Shot, with Bare Foot, Southway, and Ernesettle.

DCFA

SHIP hostel in Stonehouse distribution of food. Opened branches in Exeter and St. Austell.

Open Doors International Language School

Based in Mutley/Greenbank area. They try to enable those to live, work and play together.

Peninsula Enterprise

Social Enterprise focus program running. Ideas around clustering – innovations and themes to build the strength of sectors.

Zebra Collective

Promoting Timebank in Stonehouse, Barne Barton, Whitley, and St Budeaux to encourage locals to get involved.

RIO

Commissioning contractors for the Devonport Column. RSA event on 23rd May. Big Society Bank. Plymouth Investment.

Application Insight

Software for business planning. Linking with Big local – software tools for impact of investment. Work with the Dartington School for Social Entrepreneurs.

Iridescent Ideas CIC

Been awarded a Community Research Award from the Plymouth University to study female social entrepreneurship and especially for women leaving public sector if there are opportunities to start up social enterprises.

9. Any other business

- a. Getting Your Message Across Group (social media etc).
Now meeting monthly, next meeting 16th May, then 13 June and 11 July.
Check the website and/or contact Dave Kilroy for details.
- b. Email addresses of those present.
In order to ease communication among members, the following agreed to have their email addresses displayed in these minutes:

Hannah Guy hannah@fotonow.org
Mick Kelly plymouthregenerate@gmail.com
James. Y plymouthregenerate@gmail.com
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Dave Kilroy dave@applicationinsight.com

10. Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting of the Network is set for Tuesday 10th July 2012 at 12 noon (changed subsequently to 11am), venue to be announced.