

**Reports for Reading Faith Forum
Open Meeting Wednesday 9 June 2010**

Building for Strength
Reading LINK
Local Strategic Partnership
Compact Reading
Community Development Strategy Steering Group
RFF Hustings: Reading East and West

**Reading LINK - John Rogers
Local Involvement Network (LINK) Report for Faith Forum - May 2010**

Community Survey - was launched in Broad Street Mall in February aimed at gathering wide local opinion about health and social care services. LINK are running drop-in sessions in public places such as local libraries and community centres, as well as attending particular groups by invitation. The survey is aimed at those living in the Reading Borough area and appears to be well received by those completing it. LINK Host staff would be pleased to hear from any groups who would like to provide an opportunity for people to provide feedback via the survey. (Contact Elaine Holloway, LINK Development Worker, 0118 958 4849 or via e-mail elaine.holloway@rva.org.uk). The survey will initially be running until the end of July 2010 and can also be completed online at www.readinglinkcommunitysurvey.co.uk

LINK Task & Finish Work

- Appointments at the Eye Clinic at the Royal Berkshire Hospital - This group are looking into issues raised by the Reading Association for the Blind, when accessing services within the out-patient clinic
- Access of MS Consultant at the Royal Berkshire Hospital - This group are looking into issues raised by members of the community about ease of access to the consultant for those diagnosed with MS.

Work continues on the following Task & Finish projects:

- Quality aspects of domiciliary care contracts
- NHS Dental Access and treatment

Local Strategic Partnership

LSP report for the Faith Committee Meeting 12th May by Tim Clewer

The Vision & Voice event was a great success & please stay engaged with the consultation of the Readings new Sustainable Community Strategy. (SCS)

Matters from the last LSP Board from March 2010:

1. Discussion re the Transport Innovation Fund bid to reduce congestion.
2. Discussion re the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (part of the SCS)
3. City Status bid - In 2012, Her Majesty the Queen will be celebrating her Diamond Jubilee, 60 years as Britain's ruling monarch. A 'nationwide celebration' will be held and an extra bank holiday created on 5 June

following the Spring Bank holiday on 4 June. As part of this process Reading is making a bid for City Status.

4. Reading Christian Ecology Link has now provided a rep for the climate change partnership.
5. Congratulations all round in achieving the NEET target for Reading.
6. A report on the new Family Intervention Project being run by RBC. The next meeting is due September 2010.

Please contact me for any clarifications re this report or issues you would like raised.

The position of LSP rep (& many others) will be up for election at the Forum AGM on June 30th. (Jan from Stronger Together will be able to give you more information). I am willing to stand for re election & I would be interested to know if you would support this. If so, or if you have an alternative candidate, I would encourage you to advertise this event across the FF seeking their participation.

Tim Clewer
CEO The Mustard Tree Foundation

Compact Reading - Alan Magness

The Reading COMPACT is under review which serves a useful purpose for the future and takes account of the new landscape into which it fits. The Compact handles agreements on the way the Statutory sector (Councillor etc.) deals with Voluntary Sector (contracts etc). Faith organisations are voluntary sector. Most Faith organisations are not affected by it.

Community Development Strategy Steering Group

The Community Development Strategy Steering Group has not met so there is nothing to report. It does not currently have a Chair following the departure of Jeremy from RVA.

Reading Hustings, East & West

The Forum organized hustings for Reading East in the Hindu Temple and Reading West at Tilehurst Methodist. About 90 people were present at each meeting. The candidates from the three main parties were asked questions. Other parties were invited to provide a 300 word statement that was made available at the meeting or after it.

Building for Strength

The Building for Strength consortium is up and running. There is a full time worker for Reading African and Caribbean Association, a half time worker for Sokoma and another halftime worker for us (Reading Faith Forum) In addition there are some training courses and "hot desking" facilities.