



**SPREADING
the word**

Welcome to *Spreading the Word*; a quick and simple monthly update of the latest news and events in and around the District from your Local Strategic Partnership members.

I hope you are able to take five minutes to update yourselves with all the latest LSP news and information, and to forward this newsletter to any colleagues who may also be interested.

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Meetings and Events

Herts Policing Plan Launch
 Thursday 2nd April @ 7.00pm
 St Albans City & District Council, Council Chamber

City Vision Exhibition
 21st March to 4th April
 Town Hall Foyer (entrance from Market Place)

Weathering the Storm – CVS Coffee Morning
 Tuesday, 21st April 2009
 The Waterend Barn, St Peters Street, St Albans

St George's Day Luncheon
 Friday 24th April @12.30pm
 Sopwell House Hotel, Cottonmill Lane, St Albans





Consultation - Revised draft of the Sustainable Community Strategy for 2009

As you are well aware the Sustainable Community Strategy for St Albans & District - 'Shaping our District Together for 2021' is being updated for 2009.

The first draft of a refreshed strategy has now been developed following feedback from Board members, associated partnerships, our annual community conference and themed focus groups. This draft includes a new priority on economic sustainability, as well as increased emphasis on caring for the growing number of older people in our communities, which reflects the feedback received to date. It has also been further shaped by the recent LSP workshop where initial Place Survey outcomes, index of multiple deprivation scores and hot topics from each partner were considered.

The introductory letter from Councillor Robert Donald (LSP Chair), the first draft of an updated strategy and a consultation response form are all now available on the LSP website: <http://www.stalbanslsp.org.uk/public-consultation/index.htm>

We are keen to receive comments and feedback against 4 key questions:-

1. Does the vision statement describe your aspirations for the St Albans District? If not, what is missing or should be changed?
2. Do you agree that the broad priorities and areas of work are the right ones for the District? If not, what would you change and why?
3. Do you think the Local Strategic Partnership has identified the right gap areas for priority action? If not, what would you change and why?
4. Can you suggest any projects or ideas that you think the LSP can take forward to address the gaps identified?

Responses can either be submitted online via <http://www.stalbanslsp.org.uk/public-consultation/index.htm> or using the word version of the response form available on the website.

We need to receive comments by Friday 1st May 2009 for them to influence the final version of the strategy.

A hard copy of documents has been sent to all LSP Board members for reference.

During this consultation period we will also be holding two community panel workshops and participating in the Parish Conference on 24th April.

For further information please contact; Jane Pearce
LSP Co-ordinator, Policy & Partnerships
Direct Line 01727 819349
Email jane.pearce@stalbans.gov.uk



Invitation to Hertfordshire Policing Plan St Albans local launch

The Hertfordshire Police Authority formally launched the annual Policing Plan on 27 March 2009, but this year they want to invite all local stakeholders and residents to a local launch to be held in the Council Chamber of St Albans City & District Council, Civic Centre, St Peter's Street, St Albans on **Thursday 2 April at 7pm** to give their views.

The event will be hosted by St Albans Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) and you are invited to come along to ask questions about the new Plan, find out what you can expect from the Constabulary over the coming year, put questions to St Albans Chief Inspector Richard Hann and other key community safety representatives, and hear how the Constabulary hopes to meet the targets it has been set.

St Albans Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership will be launching their Community Safety Plan for 2009-10 during the evening and key officers from Hertfordshire's Fire & Rescue Service will also be present to give a presentation about their Community Safety Plan, answer questions and hear your views.

Copies of the Policing Plan 2009/12 summary will be available in police stations and libraries. The full Policing Plan is available on the Authority's web site – www.hertspa.org – and from the Authority office: Hertfordshire Police Authority, Leahoe House, Pegs Lane, Hertford SG13 8DE, e-mail: enquiries.hpa@herts.pnn.police.uk



St Albans District Chamber of Commerce St George's Day Luncheon

Friday 24th April @12.30pm

Sopwell House Hotel, Cottonmill Lane, St Albans

Welcome drink followed by 3 course English lunch and coffee

This high profile event run by the Chamber of Commerce is the biggest networking event of the year. Guest speaker, **Martin Bell OBE** will follow lunch and the event will also be attended by MP Anne Main and the Mayor of St Albans and District. This year the Presidency of the Chamber will be handed over to a new President, Mr Graham Lane at the lunch. Graham also took over as Vice Chair of the Local Strategic Partnership at the end of 2008.

There will also be a charity auction in aid of UNCIEF and Grove House Hospice.

Tickets are £50 + VAT, tables of ten are also available.

Further details and booking forms are available at <http://www.stalbans-chamber.co.uk/events/>



Executive Forum a success

Venue: Old Albanian Sports Club - Monday afternoons
Next group start after Easter (provisional date Monday 20th April)

In response to the current economic downturn partners across the District have worked together to set up St Albans Executive Forum which is a uniquely tailored support programme running in 6 week blocks. It is aimed at senior managers, executives and high calibre professionals with high earning power who have been made redundant or are at threat of redundancy.

Twenty experienced senior individuals from a variety of businesses attended the first Forum in March. Their employment backgrounds included Construction, Banking and Financial Services, Manufacturing, Retail, Pharmaceuticals and Property Management.

This new service is provided COMPLETELY FREE OF CHARGE to the individuals attending. There is no official funding for this Forum so the resources and delivery so far has been achieved through partnership working between Oaklands College, St Albans City & District Council, Centre for Voluntary Service, Job Centre Plus, and the Old Albanians Sports Club.

The primary objectives are to provide attendees with a framework of relevant information and a network designed to enable them to explore new options and hone their skills in order to be able to present themselves in the best possible light. This all helps to build confidence and help individuals to get back on track as quickly as possible following redundancy.

Core services and benefits include both weekly networking sessions at Old Albanian Sports Club and one to one sessions to provide information and guidance on areas such as:

- Who am I? – discovering your strengths and weaknesses
- Self Employment – what is involved and is it for you?
- CV construction and applications – making the best of your skill set
- Self marketing and promotion
- Meeting and overcoming objections
- Exploring new opportunities – mentoring, volunteering, teaching, lecturing, coaching
- New careers – speakers from different sectors who are recruiting
- Legal advice and support
- Networking

Attendance is three hours per week with additional one to one support. Places are limited on each 6 week programme and require booking in advance.

This programme cannot prevent job losses but it can deliver the tools and expertise to help individuals find their next job opportunity as quickly as possible.

For further details contact Marion Turner on 01727 899518 or email marion.turner@oaklands.ac.uk



Extras - A new experience for youngsters in St Albans

Jo Maher is the Co-ordinator for The Nexus Extended Schools Consortium of seventeen schools in St Albans. After consulting widely with over 1000 young people from the local community to find out what they like to do out of school hours she realised that many of our youngsters feel there is not a lot to do in their town and they have to venture to Watford, Hatfield or Hemel Hempstead for entertainment.

As a result Jo wrote an application to The Prevention 513 Fund which supports projects filling a gap in provision for children. Her application was successful and thus an exciting new youth club is soon to start. Nexus is working to make this project appealing to children in the community aged 10-13 years.

The venue has been agreed with Homewood URC Halls. They have purchased some fantastic equipment including a huge television and screen projector to run film nights! Extras will trial through to August with Years 5/6 children, running on a Friday from 4.30-6.00pm. It is then planned to split into two youth clubs in September introducing one for Years 7/8 to run 6.00-8.00pm. This is a really exciting new venture for Nexus and has involved a large amount of work.

A Launch Party extravaganza has been planned to take place on Friday, 24th April at 4.30pm at Homewood URC Halls. The Mayor of St Albans will be there to open the event which will include Sons of Alban (a Beaumont/Verulam Band), S3CO (Sandringham Breakdancers), Asian Fusion (STAGS Bollywood dancers), spot prizes and much more. Mercury Radio is also supporting the launch and Team Mercury will be at the event.



City Vision Exhibition

Public exhibition: 21 March to 4 April (not 22, 28, 29 Mar) 10am-4pm (8pm on 24 and 31 Mar).

The exhibition will cover:

Issues and option for a new vision, including ideas for major city centre sites. Traffic congestion, cultural development; retail vibrancy; Roman heritage – will all be addressed. You are invited to visit the exhibition and give your views on how the city centre should develop over the next ten to twenty years.

The City Vision Exhibition which opens on Saturday, 21 March at the Town Hall in St Albans, invites residents and stakeholders to give their views on the draft vision document.

“City Vision is proving to be a very beneficial piece of work, not only will it inform the way forward to 2030 for St Albans, it is also helping the city react to the recession and impact of the credit crunch. The Exhibition is the next opportunity for residents and key stakeholders to comment on the work to date and help us to determine the way forward, “ says Cllr Melvyn Teare, portfolio holder culture and heritage.

Employment and Training – recession proofing the city by making it more self contained is a major aim with an emphasis on encouraging the Green economy; help for new business start ups and the provision of more flexible work space.

Traffic Congestion – a major concern of residents, the ideas include a varying degree of pedestrianisation of St Peter's Street; more walking and cycling routes so they become the mainstream way to travel; better bus provision and park and ride facilities.

Shops and services – a food store in the city centre to cut the carbon footprint of residents and create a potential anchor store; more affordable space for specialist retailers to retain and attract small businesses which are at the heart of the city's offer and building on the success of the street market to reflect its customer base and offer more interesting experiences, such as a night time market.

Homes and community – more mixed tenure housing to enable residents to live in the city centre at all stages of their life cycle; sustainable design and build techniques to help tackle climate change; a more vibrant public realm with lively squares in Market Place and the Civic Centre; young people's designs used in Verulamium Park to ensure it is a place for them.

Culture and Leisure – the Civic Centre site as a cultural hub in the city offering a new cinema and the existing Alban Arena, which could be pared back to its original, acclaimed design. Building on the appeal of St Alban, the first Christian martyr, to optimise the appeal of spiritual tourism. Bringing to life the City's Roman heritage with better interpretation and marking of the footprint of the city.

Opportunity sites – Drovers Way; the Civic Centre Site and others are specified in the exhibition as prime opportunities to help deliver the City Vision.

The exhibition will also explore spatial frameworks, including a Green ring around the City which would connect its parks and green spaces by cycle and foot ways.

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Weathering the Storm - Centre for Voluntary Service Coffee Morning

Managing your group in a recession

An invitation to voluntary and community groups to hear about, & cope better with, the impact of the economic downturn

Tuesday, 21st April 2009 (Reg from 9.30 a.m.) 10a.m. to noon

The Waterend Barn, St Peters Street, St Albans AL1 3LE (rear of the central Post Office)

Participate in Question Time with experts in the sector's financial field to answer your concerns, learn tips to minimise your costs - including how to sail away with free computer software - and net information on services and funds to buoy you up in this crisis.

Spend a couple of hours over a cuppa, fruit and cake to dispel some of the clouds overhead, with others in the same boat.

RSVP with your name, organisation, address and email to:

St Albans Centre for Voluntary Service (CVS)

31 Catherine Street, St Albans AL3 5BJ

Email: wendy@cvsstalbans.org.uk **Tel:** 01727 852657

Please keep an eye on our E-Inform emailed newsletter and the CVS web www.cvsstalbans.org.uk for news of other events that need your knowledge and skills and will help you reach out to others.



St Albans duo elected to UK Youth Parliament

Marlborough School Science College student Josh Molloy and Loreto College student Emily Nazer both triumphed in the UK Youth Parliament elections.

Josh, 14, from St Albans, was elected as an MYP – Member of the UK Youth Parliament – at County Hall on Saturday (February 21) and Emily, 14, was elected as a deputy MYP.

MYPs are elected to speak up for young people in Hertfordshire and this year for the first time, the elections were held online. A total of 23 candidates campaigned on a variety of issues, hoping to be elected as one of the county's six MYPs or six deputy MYPs.

Using the medium of the Internet they were able to promote their manifestos via video clips and written statements on the county youth portal at <http://www.channelmogo.org.uk/home.htm>

New MYP Josh said: "I'm really happy about being elected and thank everyone who supported me and my campaign. My priority will be to get out and listen to everyone who I represent so that I can support Hertfordshire's young people".

Channelmogo is the county's youth portal, and enables young people access to a wealth of information as well as interactive content such as vidcasts, competitions, posting their own music and writing and much more. To access the site: <http://www.channelmogo.org.uk/home.htm>



A 'time of the signs' on St Albans roads

New electronic road signs to enforce local speed limits, warn of possible hazards and advise people about parking, will be appearing in the St Albans area before the end of March.

Hertfordshire Highways will be installing the new signs in response to issues raised by local people.

Two main types of sign will be installed as part of the countywide project: Vehicle Activated Signs, which light up when a vehicle approaches and display a warning about the speed limit or possible hazards such as a crossing point or a junction; and Variable Message Signs, which provide information about local car parks.

Vehicle Activated Signs have been successfully used in Hertfordshire since **the early 1990s** and there are now more than 50 of them around the county. They are normally introduced in locations where speeding has proved to be a problem and has directly contributed to road accidents, and where other measures, such as static signs have not been effective.

The Vehicle Activated Signs are being installed in the following locations in the St Albans area:

Markyate – Pickford Road/Friendless Lane (one sign)

Redbourn – B487 Redbourn Lane (one sign)

The Variable Message Signs, which will all provide different kinds of information about local car parks, will be installed in these locations:

A1081 St Peters Street/Hall Palace Gardens

A1057 Hatfield Road/Stanhope Road

B691 Victoria Street/Ridgmont Road

A1081 London Road/Old London Road

A5183 Holywell Hill/Griffiths Way

A5183 Verulam Road/Oysterfields

More detailed information about Vehicle Activated Signs and their deployment is provided by the Department for Transport's Traffic Advisory Leaflet. This can be viewed on their website: www.dft.gov.uk



Can the CVS help with your partnership projects?

The CVS have a quarterly mail-out to members and associates which you can be part of to promote your project and/or invite comments on your plans.

When the CVS moved away from printed newsletters to electronic ones they saved 30,000 pieces of paper in one year! However, some smaller groups do not have ready access to IT – or their equipment is from the dark ages – so the CVS do a quarterly mail-out to keep all of their members and associates in the communication loop.

The CVS would like to invite all LSP partners/project groups to add to the information sent, for a small share of the postage costs depending on the weight of your paper. Our next mail out will take place in the first week of June.

If you would like us to include information from your work, please decide what you would like to send and ring and have a chat with Linda, on 01727 852657, who will advise you on costs. We would need your papers by the end of May. Mail-outs will also take place in the first week of September and December.

Together we can share costs and provide interesting information to relevant people. Very much working **better together!**



East of England advice and guidance in the economic downturn

For information showing regional businesses the help that is on offer from public sector organisations during the global economic downturn use:

<http://www.eeda.org.uk/3678.asp>

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To find out more about the information within this document, to give us feedback or to send information for the next issue, please contact:

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LOCAL STRATEGIC
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