

# **NORTH SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE**

**19<sup>th</sup> March 2012**

## **REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

### **COMMUNITY ACTION IN SUNDERLAND NORTH – PROGRESS REVIEW Workplan 2011/2012 – Attractive and Cared for Environment**

#### **1. Why has it come to Committee?**

- 1.1 The report provides an update of progress against agreed actions in the current years (2011/2012) workplan, **ANNEX 1**.

#### **2. Responsive Local Services**

- 2.1 The ARM for the North area described the Spring Clean events as highlighted within the previous Area Committee. The group discussed and agreed potential spring clean sites for each of the wards within the North Area.
- 2.2 The proposals for sites agreed were as follows:  
Castle Ward 13<sup>th</sup> March 2012 at the tiledsheds area.  
Redhill Ward 21<sup>st</sup> March 2012 at Sunderland North Community Sports Complex.  
Fulwell Ward 28<sup>th</sup> March 2012 at Cut Throat Dene.  
St Peter's Ward 5<sup>th</sup> April 2012 at the Marina.  
Southwick Ward 13<sup>th</sup> April 2012 at Cornhill Dock.
- 2.3 Volunteers were recruited via the Voluntary and Community Sector Networks to participate and support the Love Where You Live Campaign.

#### **3. Fulwell Quarry Scheme**

- 3.1 At the Task and Finish group meeting the representative from City Services confirmed a change in lead agent against the project, there would also be some changes to the level of involvement from the lead agent particularly around developmental work including seeking additional funding and community engagement.
- 3.2 Community Engagement is a vital part of the development and maintenance of the improvements with the proposed establishment of a Friends of Fulwell Quarry Group to support the development and implementation of improvements. It was recommended that the community engagement and development work continues through and links with the other areas of work progressing on the Quarry site.
- 3.3 The lead agent confirmed due to the timings the planting of the scheme would not commence until November 2012 and the group agreed this was appropriate.
- 3.4 Groundwork confirmed that the second phase of the tree planting scheme at the site is being included in the Big Tree Plant Initiative application will be submitted in April/May and information for the application is being prepared in partnership with Sunderland City Council.
- 3.5 Groundwork and Sunderland City Council are jointly delivering Limestone Landscapes projects at the Fulwell Quarry site as follows:
- Defended Land

This element of the project will aim to conserve and interpret the history of military defences. In Sunderland North the Acoustic Mirror at Fulwell will be included, an early military installation designed and built circa 1915 to listen for zeppelins. The project will look to

- Kingdom of Quarries

The project will champion the internationally important geology and other heritage interest in disused quarries in the area. Working at key sites to expose rock faces, improve access, signage and general appearance, provide geological information boards and organise a programme of field visits for schools and community groups. The site in Sunderland North is Fulwell Quarry.

CEED proposed to look to further extend this project with clearance works as well as work to reconnect habitats for people and wildlife through external funding potentially available. CEED are discussing the potential project with Groundwork to establish how this may be progressed.

3.6 Living Streets is a national charity representing pedestrians. With partners and local people they work to create safe, attractive and enjoyable streets, where people want to walk. They work with professionals and politicians to make sure every community can enjoy vibrant streets and public spaces.

3.7 Living Streets delivered an event in the North of Sunderland focusing on the Fulwell Quarry site and the routes leading to the site. The event was attended by officers of the council, partners, local provider and voluntary and community sector organisations and local residents.

3.8 The event was very positive and identified a number of potential projects and participation for the area including a project to clean up the Carley Road entrance, local residents wanting to become part of a Friends of Fulwell Quarry group, community organisations wanting to be involved in Spring Cleans, maintenance of the area around the Acoustic Mirror and participation Heritage Open Days.

3.9 The projects and participation will be progressed as part of the overall works developing on the Fulwell Quarry site as well as ensuring the community engagement and improvement works are delivered through a joined up approach.

#### **4. Sunderland North Community Sports Complex**

4.1 CEED provided an update on the work at the Big Pond within the complex. Clearing works are ongoing on the site, planting has been completed and will be further progressed with shrubs being relocated to the top end of the pond to reduce the access for fly tipping in the pond.

4.2 Bishop Harland Primary are fully engaged and are supporting the development of the pond dipping area and acting as guardians of the pond. The school will also be participating and supporting CEED with the spring planting in the area.

4.3 The local residents who wanted to create a fishing club are now being supported by CEED and Sport and Leisure to become a constituted group. The intention

will be to develop a teaching pond where people can fish but young people in the area can access learning opportunities. The fishing club once constituted with support will seek funding to make adjustments to the pond and to stock the pond to allow fishing to take place.

- 4.4 As described in the Activities for Young People report further developments of the site are recommended to increase the offer of activity in the areas including refurbishment of the existing BMX park and creation of a skate park at the complex.

## **5. Thompson Park**

- 5.1 The development of Thompson Park has been progressed through the Thompson Park Steering group. These developments have seen a number of physical improvements undertaken in the park in response to local residents and the community.
- 5.2 The developments to date have opened up the Newcastle Road entrance of the park and physically improved the space and the environment. Further improvements have been discussed and agreed by the steering group.
- 5.3 These improvements were discussed at the Task and Finish Group and included demolition of the caretakers house at the Newcastle Road entrance, creation of a car park on the footprint of the caretakers house site, completion of the footpath recently installed and installation of a fitness trail of young people and adults to use.
- 5.4 The proposed improvements will seek to physically improve the park, make the park a safer and more accessible facility with a broader range of appeal to the local residents and community.
- 5.5 The Task and Finish Group agreed the proposal to be presented to Area Committee to align £30,000 SIB towards the proposed improvement works and seek to progress external funding and involvement of local young people in developing the fitness trail element of the proposal.

## **6. Roker Park Lodge**

- 6.1 The launch of the feasibility study on the future use of the lodge has commenced. Public meetings are being held on a monthly basis in Roker Park on different dates and times in order to attract the widest variety of people to participate. During these meetings the lodge is being opened up to allow people to see the current layout and use of the lodge for their consideration.
- 6.2 CEED have created an online survey for people to complete for those who are unable to attend the public meetings. This information has also been shared with the voluntary and community sector organisations to encourage wider participation and CEED are contacting the local schools for their input.

**6. Recommendations**

- i) Note the progress made against greening programmes in the North.
- ii) Agree the allocation of £30,000 SIB funding to extend the Thompson Park improvement plan.

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