

NORTH AREA COMMITTEE – STRATEGIC INITIATIVE BUDGET
Report October 2008

Willow Fields Community Primary School Grounds
(formerly Witherwack Primary)

The project was awarded match funding of £25650 by the North Area Committee on January 10th 2008.

How the money was spent

Items purchased	Cost
Wooden Chalet	£1786
4 raised allotment beds Wildlife meadow (20mx8m) Range of gardening equipment Seeds and top soil Native tree-line (100) Labour	£2936
Perimeter tree-line (500 Leylandii) + stakes	£1260 + £250
New 30mx18m football pitch (tarmac) Raised brick built flower bed area (6mx6m)	£15000
New entrance path leading to the new community room Ground works for large trim trail	£6000
Relay old entrance patio area with tarmac (15mx7m) New steps to field and car parking area	£3090
Remove, re-spray and relocate 35m of perimeter fencing	£1392
Large trim trail and safety surface (90m squared) Foundation Stage Unit climbing area with slide and fire station pole Road safety markings Interactive yard markings Basketball court Football pitch markings 10m traversing wall 10m football wall 2 football goals (solid wooden walls) 6 sets of cricket stumps	£28974
4 wooden all-weather picnic benches 4 wooden all-weather perch benches (all secured to the ground)	£2160

Outcomes of the project

- School now looks fantastic both inside and out (to date 0 vandalism)
- A great deal of positive comments from children, parents and carers (children are proud of their school)
- Outdoor facilities are constantly used both at playtimes and lesson time
- Behaviour has improved immensely as a consequence of having organised activities such as refereed football and basketball matches
- The school has much better access and links with the community
- The community room already has several successful ventures such as toddlers and a Friday Night Youth Club ran by the Salvation Army (barriers have and are continually being removed)
- A new entrance has been located closer to the community in order to diminish the 'hard to reach school' impact and show physically that we want to be central to the estate
- A much greater understanding and interest in wildlife
- A great deal of positive media coverage (various Sunderland Echo articles and coverage on the news agenda of Sun FM)
- Created a launch pad to celebrate the school's 40th Birthday which an enormous amount of the community attended (this was also supported by Sun FM Road-show, Playforce, RAF Cadets, BMW, Nissan, Mercedes Benz, Salvation Army, Kielder Birds of Prey Centre)

Other funding

- Not necessarily financial funding as that wasn't the aim of the project but more community support for example: the RAF Cadets, Salvation Army and a variety of community groups now use our facilities which has many advantages for the community from life experiences, community cohesion to the possibilities of future employment
- We were also supported during the opening ceremony by The Right Worshipful the Mayor, of the City of Sunderland Councillor Mary Smith, Jimmy Montgomery and Bobby Kerr, Michael Hartnack (Chief Superintendent), Cllr Paul Stewart and Alan Hunter a former Headmaster who still has a very positive reputation on the estate
- We have had over 100 volunteers from the insurance company Morethan
- Over 20 volunteers from Barclays bank
- £500 from Barclays bank and the labour force to redecorate the 3 large outdoor containers
- £2500 from the SIB events team and £700 from the Community Chest team to launch all of the new additions on the 40th Birthday Party

Key lessons and issues from the project

- This project although clichéd brought together young and old from all areas of the community and highlighted positive things can happen and change can have a real positive cohesive impact

- It really raised the profile of the school in the local area and beyond
- Gave back to the people a lot of pride and promoted a solution focused can do culture
- It has really made a difference to children's learning experiences

Future Planning

- We are currently continuing to embed the recent changes and ensure they achieve the intended impact of healthier organised playtimes and increased community collaboration and involvement

Finally, on behalf of everyone connected with the school and the community can I once again say a big thank you as your investment in us has made an enormous difference to the area and particularly to the children.

Yours Sincerely

Andrew Bainbridge
Head teacher
Willow Fields Community Primary School