

**Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) – Youth Diversionary Activities in Doxford Park and Ryhope**

**September 2003**

In September 2001, the Area Committee approved £40,000 as a contribution to a £450,000 NRF initiative to reducedomestic burglaries, levels of re-offending by young people and incidents of youth disorder, and provide diversionary activities for young people in targeted “hotspots” in the Sunderland South area. These “hotspots” have been identified using Police statistics and include the Doxford Park estate, Ryhope village and colliery neighbourhoods. The application was also matched funded by Sunderland Housing Group, who have contributed to half the salary of a Tenancy Enforcement Officer for a minimum of 2.5 years and the Police who have contributed the salary of two policemen for a minimum of 2.5 years. In total, the project has invested £614,000 into the area.

As part of this programme, the SIB allocation was specifically targeted at developing facilities on the St. Matthew’s Field in Doxford Park and sites on Wraith Terrace and Black Road in Ryhope. For the St. Matthew’s Field site, it was intended to erect a mobile teen shelter and grinding pole, develop a junior play area, and establish a cycle club. It was also proposed to erect partial fencing and appropriate signing and to provide dog bins in order to discourage use of the field that may detract from these developments. 4 goalposts and artificial goal surface coverings were planned for the Wraith Terrace site, and a mobile teen shelter on the Black Road site.

However, since the original application, the Sunderland Housing Group has been formed. This project was subsequently delayed in the transition period and the formulation of the new Group’s plans for the area. These now include plans for new housing on the St. Matthew’s Field site, and so the facilities would need to be relocated.

The Housing Group are committed to providing the proposed facilities. The SIB allocation is still required as part of the NRF funding package, which is currently exploring the possibility of continuing beyond March 2004.

**June 2006**

**NRF Youth Diversionary Activities**

This project is to be located at the Box Youth Project in Doxford and will consist of a Multi Use Games Area on land adjacent to the youth project. The original planning application had to be withdrawn and is to be resubmitted in the next few weeks.

Extension of funding is requested to allow for this process to be completed and the project to be constructed.

**The Committee are requested to extend the SIB allocation of £40,000 for a further six months to enable completion of the project.**

