

At a meeting of the COALFIELD AREA COMMITTEE held in SHINEY ROW SCHOOL, REAR SOUTH VIEW, SHINEY ROW, HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING, TYNE AND WEAR, DH4 4QP on THURSDAY, 9TH SEPTEMBER, 2010 at 6.00 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor D. Richardson in the Chair

Councillors F. Anderson, Blackburn, Ellis, A. Hall, Heron, Rolph, J. Scott, D. Smith, Speding and Tate

Also Present:-

Ron Barrass	Member of the Public	
Estelle Brown	Sunderland North Community	Business Centre
Susan Brown	Area Community Co-ordinator	Sunderland Council
Mel Caldwell	Head of Operations	Gentoo
Les Clark	Head of Street Scene	Sunderland Council
Steve Dodds	District Bus Manager	Nexus
Victoria French	Sport Wellness and Partnership Manager	Sunderland Council
Pauline Hopper	Area Officer	Sunderland Council
Mike Foster	BSF Project Director	Children's Services
Cllr Juliana Heron		Hetton Town Council
Emma Hindmarsh	Democratic Services Officer	Sunderland Council
Graham Finlay	Police Inspector	Northumbria Police
Julie Lynne	Area Officer	Sunderland Council
Liz St Louis	Head of Customer Service	Sunderland Council
Helen Paterson	Strategic Director of Transformation and Area Lead Executive	Sunderland Council
Allison Patterson	Area Co-ordinator Manager	Sunderland Council
Tony Osguthorpe	Member of the Public	
Annette Parr	School Improvement Officer	Sunderland Council
Ian Warne	Station Manager	Fire Authority

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillor Wakefield.

Apologies were also received from Lee Wardle, Ann Owen and Juliette Johnson, Area VCS Representatives.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 14th July, 2010

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 14th July, 2010 be confirmed and signed as a correct record subject to the inclusion of Councillors Tate, Ellis and Juliana Heron (Hetton Town Council) as being present and apologies to be submitted from Councillor J. Scott and Steve Dodds.

Declarations of Interest

Community Action in Coalfield – Progress Review

Councillor Tate declared a personal interest in the Community Chest proposals as Governor of Hetton School.

Councillor Speding declared an interest in the Community Chest proposal as a Governor of Barnwell Primary School.

Councillor Heron declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the Community Chest application as Chair of Houghton Racecourse.

Community Action: Identifying New Issues and Agreeing Actions

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided information on the progress made in relation to its 7 Work Plan priorities as agreed at the June meeting.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Pauline Hopper, Area Officer, presented the report and updated the Committee in relation to current activities to deliver the priorities.

Ms. Hopper advised that a new issue had been identified in relation to planning for open space sport and recreation. There was a need to revisit the green space survey from 2002 which illustrates the broad range of open spaces that may be of public value, for example, green corridors, parks, allotments etc.

The option was to host an initial workshop inviting representatives along to identify spaces in the Coalfield area which match the planning policy guidelines for open spaces. After the workshop each recognised open space would then be assessed against the recommended criteria to assess the value of area/land to the community.

The exercise would involve Councillors, friends, groups, VCS groups and officers working together with an overall report being presented to Committee.

Referring to paragraph 2.1 of the report, Councillor Rolph applauded the move to ensure the Committee was kept up to date with current events and developments in its neighbourhoods and that key decisions made by other Council Committees would

be monitored for their impact on the Committee's Work Plan. However, Councillor Rolph raised a concern that had been experienced by Scrutiny Committees whereby not all reports that go to Cabinet were included on the Forward Plan.

Councillor Rolph also stated that the onus needed to be on Directorates, not the Area Officer, to provide the necessary information to keep Members informed.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Rolph regarding where the workshops would be held and how mobile they would be, Susan Brown, Area Community Co-ordinator, advised that the groundwork had already begun and all voluntary groups would be visited to ensure their input.

2. RESOLVED that Members agree to implement a two stage approach to refresh the Green Space Topic paper, which forms part of the Local Development Framework:-

Stage One: host workshops to identify new open spaces not shown on the survey/ large detailed maps provided, with key stakeholders across the Coalfield area during September/October 2010.

Stage Two: complete a participatory appraisal for each open space to assess the open space against the recommended criteria to measure the value of area/land to the community by December 2010.

Community Action: Reviewing Progress and Agreeing Next Steps

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which:-

- i) briefed Members on issues previously identified through the 2009/10 Work Plan and provided an update on issues and actions arising;
- ii) sought approval for recommendations in relation to the allocation of SIB and Community Chest funding.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Hopper advised that the Heritage Task and Result Group had met to discuss the way forward to address the heritage agenda. An audit of current provision project feasibility will be produced with a financial implication of approximately £10,000 which the group agreed would be funded by SIB.

If the Committee agree the proposed approach, including allocation of £10,000, a further detailed funding application with costings will be developed to carry out further work around the heritage priority.

Councillor Speding commented that there were heritage issues that the Task and Result Group should have considered, for example the local Cadets Group based at the Cadet Centre at Penshaw which had a long history and a heritage that needed to be preserved.

Susan Brown advised that she would be linking in with such groups when helping to market and produce the information pack and she encouraged Members to contact her with any other local groups she could liaise with.

Ms. Hopper then invited Andrew Perkin, Senior Partnership and Policy Officer, to provide an update on the Local Shopping Centres Task and Result Group.

He informed the Group that it was agreed that the focus of the work would centre on Front Street, Hetton, Newbottle Street, Houghton and Shiney Row shopping centres.

It was proposed that a project be developed for an initial period of 18-24 months, costing approximately £130,000. There were five elements to the proposed project:-

1. Knowledge and understanding – we need to know a) what have we already got and b) what we want or need.
2. Support for existing traders.
3. Support for new traders.
4. Environmental and public realm improvements.
5. Marketing and promotion.

Ms. Hopper took Members through Annex 1a of the report – Community Action: Outstanding Issues Log from 2009/10 and invited questions or comments from Members on any specific priority.

Referring to the priority to "Raised attainment levels and skills of young people", Councillor Rolph queried why Shiney Row College had been chosen as an IT Academy as opposed to Bede.

Mr. Andrew Perkin was able to advise that the IT talent scouts had their base at Shiney Row College but moved around various locations, including Bede College.

Ms. Hopper presented the Work Plan for 2010/11 and advised that the bulb planting and landscaping scheme had been approved and contractors would commence on site in October.

Ms. Hopper advised that Gentoo had agreed to contribute to the community planting scheme and the Gentoo customer panel had also proposed financial support.

In response to a request from Councillor Rolph, Les Clark, Head of Street Scene, agreed to inform Members when planting was happening in their area.

Referring to play provision in the Coalfield area, Councillor Heron advised that a review needed to be carried out with regard to play locations in the Copt Hill ward.

At this juncture it was agreed to invite Ms. Victoria French, Wellness Manager, to present the Play and Urban Games Strategy Review.

Ms. French outlined the process to be undertaken to review the existing Strategy and identify the priorities for investment for the period 2010-2012 for inclusion within the addendum to the Strategy.

Councillor Rolph commented on the existing play provision on Rectory Park which was now missing key pieces of equipment.

Referring to the table in 4.2 and the percentage of children and young people with access to high quality play within 1km which had increased from 7% in 2004/06 to 83% in 2007-2010, Councillor Rolph questioned whether the 1km was as the crow flies or safest walking route.

Ms. French advised that the kilometre was measured using shortest accessible route. Councillor Rolph explained that many of the children that lived near to Keir Hardy play park had to cross a busy main road, which limited their access. As such the figures in the report should perhaps be taken with a pinch of salt.

Councillor Heron queried whether current play areas had provision for disabled children and was advised that all groups, including disabled groups, had been consulted on the new equipment. She was advised that specific equipment was not designed solely for disabled children but was made to be inclusive for all. Ms. French informed the committee that the Gentoo Focus Group had allocated money for a disabled swing.

Councillor Ellis queried the definition of 'high quality' as the equipment at Kier Hardie was relatively new yet it had been the subject of vandalism, paint was peeling off and the slide did not work. Newbottle had been vandalised and Rectory Park had only three items and nothing for older children. As such Councillor Ellis did not feel these play facilities could be classed as high quality and she felt saddened by this. Councillor Ellis also advised that she had tried to raise such concerns with officers within City Services and had not received a satisfactory response.

Councillor D. Smith referred to the Section 106 Agreement attached to Kirklee Field and enquired why £58,000 originally earmarked had been reduced.

Ms. French advised that as there had been a reduction in the number of houses to be built in the area the Section 106 money had been reduced accordingly.

Councillor Tate queried whether the location for Hetton Park was fixed as he suggested it could be better relocated nearer the main road (further away from the Hetton Centre). Ms French agreed to take the comments back.

Councillor Speding advised that there were clear European Safety standards for play equipment.

Ms. Hopper presented the financial statements and funding requests informing Members of the following recommendations as detailed in the report:-

- i) note the financial statement for Area Committee funding for 2010/11;

- ii) to approve the granting of SIB funding of £50,000 as a contribution to Coalfield in Bloom;
- iii) to approve the granting of SIP funding of £3,262 as a contribution to Bird Terrace Environmental Scheme, Shiney Row;
- iv) to approve the granting of SIP funding of £11,864 as a contribution to Hetton Lyons Country Park Car Park;
- v) to approve the granting of SIP funding of £10,000 as a contribution to traffic calming – Robin Lane/Hazard Lane, Hetton;
- vi) to approve the granting of SIP funding of £8,000 as a contribution to Dropped Kerbs – Houghton;
- vii) to approve the 25 proposals for support from the 2010/11 Community Chest.

Ms. Hopper reminded the Committee that all SIP money must be allocated and spent by March 2011. Some projects were under development, however, Copt Hill ward were yet to identify any.

The Chairman stated that if projects for the Copt Hill ward were not identified and if no applications came to the next meeting then the money would come back to the Committee to spend on an area basis.

The Copt Hill Ward Members agreed to convene a meeting between themselves.

3. RESOLVED that:-

- i) the report be received and noted and that approval be given to the Community Action Next Steps/Actions as detailed in Annex 1 of the report;
- ii) approval be given to the granting of SIB funding of £50,000 as a contribution to Coalfield in Bloom;
- iii) approval be given to the granting of SIP funding of £3,262 as a contribution to Bird Terrace Environmental Scheme – Shiney Row;
- iv) approval be given to the granting of SIP funding of £11,864 as a contribution to Hetton Lyons Country Park Car Park;
- v) approval be given to the granting of SIP funding of £10,000 as a contribution to traffic calming – Robin Lane/Hazard Lane, Hetton;
- vi) approval be given to the granting of SIP funding of £8,000 as a contribution to Dropped Kerbs – Houghton;
- vii) approval be given to the 25 proposals for support from the 2010/11 Community Chest.

Influencing Practice, Policy and Strategy

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to request Members to consider the draft Sunderland Partnership Volunteering Strategy and Action Plan, which is currently subject to consultation and to participate in the consultation process to ensure that the strategy will effectively address the volunteering needs of the Coalfield area.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Susan Brown, Area Community Co-ordinator (Coalfield) presented the report and informed the Committee that the draft Sunderland Partnership Volunteering Strategy and Action Plan process was ongoing. She advised that the proposed actions reflect the changing landscape of volunteering at both the national and local level, and to build upon existing good practice in Sunderland. The Strategy and accompanying Action Plan would provide the basis for partners and organisations to work together to raise the profile of volunteering and increase the number and diversity of volunteers in the City.

Ms. Brown also informed the Committee that ‘Make a Difference Day’ would take place on 30th October in which tens of thousand of people across the country to take part.

Councillor Hall commended the Action Plan which was extremely thorough with excellent outputs and deliverables.

The Chairman closed the meeting having thanked Members, partners, officers and members of the public for their attendance.

(Signed) D. RICHARDSON,
Chairman.