

At a meeting of the NORTH SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the BUNNY HILL CENTRE, HYLTON LANE, SUNDERLAND on MONDAY, 13th SEPTEMBER, 2010 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Bell in the Chair

Councillors Bonallie, Charlton, Copeland, Foster, G. Hall, Howe, MacKnight, Shattock, Stewart, J. Walton, L. Walton, D. Wilson and N. Wright

Also in Attendance:-

Ms. Estelle Brown	- Youth and Community Lead, SNCBC
Ms. Karen Brown	- Scrutiny Officer, Sunderland City Council
Mr. Les Clark	- Head of Streetscene, Sunderland City Council
Ms. Victoria French	- Wellness Manager, Sunderland City Council
Mr. Andrew Griffiths	- Head of Neighbourhoods, Gentoo
Mr. Ian Hall	- Secretary, Wearside Allotments
Mr. Dave Leonard	- Area Co-ordinator, Sunderland City Council
Ms. Julie Lynn	- Area Officer (North), Sunderland City Council
Insp. Lisa Musgrove	- Northumbria Police
Mr. Ron Odunaiya	- Executive Director City Services, ALE (Area Lead Executive), Sunderland City Council
Mr. John Rostron	- Area Community Manager, Sunderland City Council
Ms. Dawn Rugman	- Policy Officer (Diversity), Sunderland City Council
Ms. Joanne Stewart	- Senior Democratic Services Officer, Sunderland City Council
Mr. Ken Turnbull	- Wearside Allotments

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone, invited introductions around the room and opened the meeting.

Apologies for Absence

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

Declarations of Interest

Item 3 – Community Action : Reviewing Progress and Agreeing Next Steps

Councillor Charlton declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the application from the Redhouse Youth Project as a member of the Academy Trust Board and left the room whilst the application was considered.

Councillor G. Hall declared a personal interest in the application from the Sunderland Remembrance Day Parade as he sat on the steering group.

Councillor MacKnight declared a personal interest in the application from the Redhouse Youth Project and Councillor D. Wilson declared a personal interest in the application from the Castletown Scout Group.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 22nd July, 2010

Councillor Shattock referred to the minute regarding the increase in issuing food parcels by the Salvation Army and other voluntary sector organisations and asked if further detail on the numbers of parcels being requested could be provided. Mr. Leonard advised he would source this information and circulate it to Members of the Committee and, it was:-

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 22nd July, 2010 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Community Action : Identifying New Issues and Agreeing Actions (2010/11 Work Plan)

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided ensure that the Area Committee be kept up to date with current events and developments affecting their neighbourhoods via an 'Intelligence Hub' which had been established to act as a repository for information available and provide the Committee with the detailed analysis required to identify key priorities and future waves of Responsive Local Services activity.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Dave Leonard, Area Co-ordinator presented the report requesting Members to agree the implementation of a two stage approach to refresh the green Space Topic paper and whilst advising Members that they would be kept up to date with current events and developments through the New Issues Log. The Area Officer would systematically monitor key decisions made by other Council Committees and decisions made under Delegate Powers to update the issues log or ward bulletin service to keep Members informed of issues relevant to their area.

Mr. Leonard 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 North Sunderland 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.

Councillor Wilson referred to the maps that were on display and asked if Councillors could be provided with maps of their individual wards. Mr. Leonard confirmed he would get these and circulate them to Members.

Councillors Hall and Howe referred to green areas in the Fulwell and Seaburn wards and in particular a site at South Bents where it had been suggested houses could be built. Councillor Howe asked if there were any timescales relating to the options for the site and Mr. Leonard agreed to look into the matter and provide further information on it. As a point of information, Councillor Wilson advised that he chaired the Seafront Strategy Group and was not aware of any discussions over the site having been undertaken in that forum.

Councillor Copeland spoke with regard to areas in her ward where housing had been demolished and there were no imminent plans to rebuild on it and asked if the land could be cultivated and made to look better. Mr. Griffiths, Gentoo, commented that they would be more than happy to look at any pieces of land Members could identify to see if they could be improved aesthetically or if building work was planned in the near future.

Mr. Leonard advised that this issue linked into the Greening of the North Area Task and Finish Group that was included in the Work Plan 2010-2011 for the Committee and that this project was in its very early stages so Members could still choose to be involved through that Group and it was:-

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) provided Members with an update of outstanding issues from the 2009/10 work plan and shows progress against agreed actions in the current year's work plan; and
- (ii) sought approval for recommendations in relation to the allocation of SIB, SIP and/or Community Chest funding.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Mr. Leonard presented the report updating Members on three issues from the Outstanding Issues Log:-

- Raise aspirations of children, young people and families
- Greening of the North Area Task and Finish Group
- Heritage Task and Finish Group

He advised that the two Task and Finish Groups were asking for Member representation on them and any Councillor interested in taking part should contact himself. Councillors Bell, Bonallie, Copeland, Hall and Shattock asked to be represented on the Greening of the North Area Task and Finish Group and Councillors Bonallie, Copeland, Foster, MacKnight and Wilson asked to be represented on the Heritage Task and Finish Group.

With regards to the Greening of the North Area Project, Mr. Leonard advised the Committee there had been a draft proposal for the development of three allotment sites when suitable sites were identified. He informed Members that a plot of disused land had been highlighted at Downhill Primary School which could be converted into a community garden.

Mr. Les Clark, Head of Streetscene, informed Members that fruitful discussions had been had between Officers and the Partner Networks so that once agreement was had on where the community gardens would be they could begin to develop them quite quickly. It was hoped that an application for funding would be submitted for consideration to the next meeting of the Area Committee.

Councillor Hall referred to the raising of aspirations issue and advised that this may be a relevant topic for the Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee to look into the resources that were available and what accessibility to services there was, as well as the proposals for future developments. Councillor Stewart as Chairman of that Committee advised that it was an area they had looked into in the past and would be willing to do so again if this Committee recommended it.

Councillor Copeland asked how many allotments were dormant and unused in the area and was advised that this information had been captured through a piece of work the Environment and Attractive City Scrutiny Committee had undertaken and could be provided to Members. A number of allotments which had been found to be in poor condition had been restored and brought back into use and by subdividing the allotment area it could give people a flavour of what running a community garden or allotment would be like.

Mr. Turnbull, Wearside Allotments, advised that there was a community garden on site at their allotments and that it was very well used.

Ms. Estelle Brown, SNCBC, gave the Committee a brief update on developments and future proposals with regards to the Heritage Task and Finish Group and advised that heritage groups across the North Area would be consulted on their engagement with volunteers and how they could be supported in performing a valuable role.

Members raised a number of events which the city had carried out successfully, which included the Hylton Castle Battle Re-enactment, winning Best Large City category in the Northumbria in Bloom awards and the ASA Swimming Gala held at the Aquatic Centre. Members asked that all Officers and Councillors, involved in making these events a success were congratulated and commented that the city should be self-promoting the successes it achieves to encourage more event organisers and visitors to consider Sunderland in the future.

Mr. Leonard took the Committee through the applications for Community Chest funding and each of the applications for SIB and SIP funding. Having answered any questions from Members, it was:-

2. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the progress in the more effective delivery of Family, Adult and Community Learning Services be noted;
- (ii) the developments of the Greening of the North Area Task and Finish Group and Heritage Task and Finish Group be noted and further reports be submitted to the next meeting of this Committee;
- (iii) the financial statement for the Committee as detailed in Annex 2a of the report be noted;
- (iv) approval be given to the 30 proposals for funding from the Community Chest, increasing the amount awarded to the Redhouse Youth Project to £10,000, therefore all projects totalling £23,772 from the 2010/2011 budget, as set out in annex 2b of the report;
- (v) approval be given to the allocation of SIB funding from the 2010/2011 budget as a contribution towards a new pedestrian route at Thompson Park of £55,000;

- (vi) approval be given to the allocation of SIB funding from the 2010/2011 budget as a contribution towards security fencing and toilets at Wearside Allotments;
- (vii) approval be given to the allocation of SIB funding from the 2010/2011 budget as a contribution towards a sensory garden at Town End Farm Primary School;
- (viii) approval be given to the allocation of SIP funding from the 2010/2011 budget as a contribution towards hard paving of a grass verge at Oswald Terrace South of £20,226; and
- (ix) approval be given to the allocation of SIP funding from the 2010/2011 budget as a contribution towards tree lighting to the Washington Road Gateway of £4,200.

Influencing Practice, Policy and Strategy

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which would offer Members the opportunity for consultation on plans and strategies relevant to the North Sunderland Area. It would also provide information and updates, encouraging Members to feed into proposals for service or policy change.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Mr. John Rostron, Area Community Manager, presented the report and informed the Committee that the draft Sunderland Partnership Volunteering Strategy and Action Plan process was ongoing. He 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.

He advised that the full document could be accessed at www.sunderlandcompact.org.uk with a deadline for views to be submitted by 17th September, 2010.

Ms. French, Wellness Manager, presented a report on the Play and Urban Games Strategy attached as Annex 2 which highlighted the progress achieved against priority actions within the Play and Urban Games Strategy (PUGS) – moving forward 2007-2012. The report outlined the process to be undertaken to review the existing strategy and identified the priorities for investment for the period 2010-2012 for inclusion within an addendum to the strategy.

Discussions followed around identifying areas within North Sunderland for future consideration of developing sites for play and urban games. Members also raised concerns over areas within their wards which were targeted by vandalism or down-trodden and queried if they could be improved upon or

would be considered as areas of development for the future, which would be fed back into the review.

The Committee discussed Section 106 agreements and how it had been agreed where they would be spent in the past. Councillors commented that they would like to see a balance sheet of where monies had been received as part of a planning application and then which play sites it had been allocated for. Mr. Leonard agreed to try and source the information from the Planning Service and circulate it to Members.

The Chairman having then thanked Officers for their informative reports, it was:-

3. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) Members receive and note the Sunderland Partnership Volunteering Strategy and participate in the consultation process to ensure that the strategy would effectively address the volunteering needs of the North Sunderland Area (Annex 1); and
- (ii) Members note and provide feedback on the achievements to date in the Play and Urban Games Strategy Review, comment on the consultation framework and agree to the priorities for future investment in the North Area.

The Chairman then thanked the Committee, Officers and Partners for their worthwhile contributions and closed the meeting.

(Signed) R. BELL,
Chairman.