

## **SOUTH LUTON AREA COMMITTEE**

**21<sup>st</sup> March, 2006 at 7.30 p.m.**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Boyle (Chair), Councillors Ashraf, Farooq, M. Hussain, Hoyle, Ireland, McGarvie and Timoney.

### **14 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE (REF: 1)**

An apology for absence from the meeting was received on behalf of Councillor Bashir

### **15 MINUTES (REF: 2.1)**

**Resolved:** That the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2006 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### **16 FEEDBACK FROM MINI-WARD FORUMS (REF: 6)**

Feedback from the mini-ward Forums that had preceded the meeting of the Area Committee was provided. The main issues raised were:-

#### **Dallow Ward**

- Over grown vegetation:- Warren Road  
Dallow Road  
Runley Road  
Summerfield Road  
Brantwood Park
- Cyclists with no lights
- CCTV required near Dallow Road Shops
- Pot holes in roads

#### **Farley Ward**

- Speeding:- Farley estate
- Barnfield College people playing golf on site
- Residents would like an Intercom entry at Roebuck Close
- M1 Widening, request for regular reports to all Area Committees
- Leyhill Drive Alley – Progress report needed
- Wilsden Avenue – Parking on front gardens with no dropped kerbs

#### **South Ward**

- Strathmore Avenue junction with Seymore Avenue and Albert Road parking on pavement causing obstruction and damage
- Black gate left open on Park Street entrance into Park Square left open, should be painted a visible colour and either closed or removed.
- Windsor Road Traffic lights – pedestrians cannot tell when it is safe to cross

- Land next to No. 3 Osborne Road full of rubbish from private flats – Action being taken.

The Area Committee support Officer reported that all the issues, which had been raised would be followed up and reported back to the next meeting of the Area Committee.

**Resolved:** That the report be noted.

## **17 COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE (REF: 8.1)**

The Area Community Safety Co-ordinator updated the Committee on the current activities and developments in the Dallow, Farley and South Wards.

**Resolved:** That the report be noted.

## **18 POLICE QUESTIONS (REF: 8.2)**

Sergeant Steve Vesztrocy introduced the following Police Officers to the meeting Chief Superintendent Ivor Twydell, PC Lisa Lee, PC George Walker and PC John Croymans.

Neither Members of the Committee or members of the public raised any questions for the police at the meeting.

## **19 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (REF: 9)**

There were no questions raised by members of the public at this point.

## **20 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE (REF: 13)**

The Area Community Development Manager updated the Committee on the current activities and developments in the Dallow, Farley and South Wards.

**Resolved:** That the report be noted.

## **21 YOUTH SERVICE UPDATE (REF: 14)**

The Youth Programmes Development Manager updated the Committee on the current activities and developments in the Dallow, Farley and South Wards.

**Resolved:** That the report be noted.

## **22 THE HAT FACTORY (REF: 11)**

The Strategic Arts Manager gave a presentation entitled 'The Hat Factory, Growing the Arts'. The Committee were informed that the Hat Factory was a creative base and a leader and facilitator of arts development in the town and region. It was also a centre for professional arts and media groups to establish their projects. He added that it was also a resource for professional and voluntary groups, a venue for public entertainment and a centre for young and old people to develop skills and enjoy a pastime.

The Hat Factory provided:-

- Public entertainment
- Workshops and classes
- Creative Industries Incubator
- Centre for artistic and creative development and exhibition
- Home to 20+ local businesses

The Head Start project was also based at the Hat Factory whose vision statement was to be recognised as a beacon of best practice. It also provided business incubation and growth for professional development in the media and creative industries sector.

There was a significant shortfall in entrepreneurial support in Luton, in that only 2% of employment in CCI related jobs, compared to Cambridge, which had 9.5 %. To increase this, the Hat Factory helped start up groups in the arts and creative industries, individuals, self-employed and SME's. It also provided a focus on engaging women and BME's and Luton's 13 Objective 2 wards.

The Hat Factory Incubation Project provided a facility and encouraged start-up businesses to get a good start by offering a positive environment and support to grow and develop.

The Project also provided the following:-

- Created new workspaces.
- Sector specific business and technical advice.
- Resources – project desks, meeting rooms, computers and broadband access.
- An advanced ICT Strategy.
- Developed and infrastructure to sustain growth.
- Developed technical capabilities through ESF/Arts Council funding and industry training.

The Access All Arts project supported organisations to increase their work with disabled people and other excluded communities and wished to introduce its 'Launch Pad Project' in April 2006 to develop relationships between the Hat Factory and disabled groups by providing activities and training for the 2 local day centres. Up to 50 disabled people would visit the Hat Factory participating in drama, dance, music and film, every week for 12 weeks.

The strategic Arts Manager concluded that the Hat Factory provided a variety of different performances including:-

- Theatre: new work, contemporary issues, plays from the Edinburgh Festival and children's theatre;
- Music: Jazz, R'n'B, Folk, Club nights e.g. Hugh Cornwall, Zoot Money, Chris Difford and Dave O'Higgins
- Comedy: up and coming comedians e.g. Richjard Herring, Andy Zaltzman and John Oliver
- Film: independent art-house films
- Support Artists: Small Change Theatre, Pro-Active Productions and David Benson.

**Resolved:** That the presentation be noted.

## 23 AREA REPORT (REF: 14)

The Area Committee Support Officer updated the Committee on issues that were raised following the last meeting and informed the Committee of the latest position in regard to the area projects budget.

The Committee gave consideration to seven requests for funding of local projects from the Committee's budget.

**Resolved:** (i) That the report be noted.

(ii) That the following applications be approved:-

| Scheme  | Ref    | Cost   | Amount Requested  |
|---|--------|--------|---|
| Park Town Junior Youth Club Residential weekend in Osmington Bay for young people who attend the Park Town Junior Youth Club.   | SO 191 | £3,500 | £1,000  |
| Starlight Community Steel Band. To deliver a series of professional steel drum workshops to young people.   | SO 192 | £850   | £240 on the provision that other Area Committees contribute a similar amount. |
| Farley Users Association Support for Farley Community Festival on Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> July 2006.   | FA 195 | £2,500 | £1,100  |
| Farley Community Centre. To organise a Youth Consultation Day to identify the needs of the young people in the Farley Ward and how the Farley Users Association in partnership with the community centre can identify resources to meet | FA 196 | £1,200 | £1,000  |

|   |        |        |      |
|---|--------|--------|------|
| those needs.  |        |        |      |
| Farley Stakeholders Group. To produce, print and distribute a community safety newsletter in the Farley area.                 | FA 197 | £600   | £600 |
| Park Town Tenants & Residents Association. To purchase sports and play equipment for the use by the local community.          | SO 198 | £300   | £300 |
| Residents of Connaught Road. To purchase a gate to prevent anti –social behaviour at the rear of properties in Connaught Road | DA 199 | £1,600 | £800 |

**Resolved:** That the report be noted.

## 24 AGENDA PLANNING (REF: 18)

**Resolved:** That the following item be placed on the agenda and a report submitted to the next meeting:-

- M1 Widening
- Leyhill Drive alleyway progress report

**(Note: (i) That Mrs Shelia Symonds won a Television as part of the Area Committee Promotion.**

**(ii) The meeting ended at 8.40 p.m.)**