

AREA BOARD: EAST LUTON
CRAWLEY, ROUND GREEN, STOPSLEY & WIGMORE

DATE: THURSDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 2012

SUBJECT: AREA REPORT

REPORT BY: HEAD OF POLICY & PERFORMANCE

CONTACT OFFICER: GARY J. ROBERTS 01582 546985

IMPLICATIONS:

LEGAL COMMUNITY SAFETY

EQUALITIES ENVIRONMENT

FINANCIAL CONSULTATIONS

STAFFING OTHER

WARDS AFFECTED: CRAWLEY, ROUND GREEN, STOPSLEY & WIGMORE

PURPOSE

1. To bring before the Board an update on the issues that were raised following the last Area Board held on the 5th July 2012.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. The East Luton Area Board are recommended to note the report and make recommendations on further action where required.

BACKGROUND

- 3 The inception of the East Luton Area Board and the other four areas came about following the then Governments 2001 White Paper on the Modernisation of Local Government. In 2006 this was followed later with the Local Governments White Paper entitled Stronger & Prosperous Communities and until this year all these current Boards were called Area Committees. However, in the last two years and following the publication of the Localism Bill which received Royal Assent on the 15th November 2011 and became an Act, the Council have been working on a Neighbourhood Governance (NG) programme, which for many of you will recognise from the title 'Your say, Your way'.

4. The NG programme was piloted initially in the West area and over time is now embracing four areas i.e. West, South, North & Central and it is anticipated that East will commence in the 2013/2014 Municipal Year.
5. There is currently work taking place to bring together the work of what were Area Committees and that of NG, with Area Boards just being one phase of that of that joined up approach.
6. This report encapsulates the progress of this area board which is supported by additional reports from other areas of the council and partner organisations and agencies. In addition it includes information on projects and activities supported by the board and following liaison and mediation with both internal and external service areas, pursues the concerns raised by both the local community and Members of the council.

REPORT

7. Members of the public who appear on the current database were informed of this meeting by post on the 26th October 2012 and publicity for this cycle of meetings appeared in the October edition of Lutonline, the Luton on Sunday and Luton & Dunstable Express during week commencing 29th September 2012. Additionally, posters in keeping with the new style advert and corporate approach to area committees were also dispatched to every General Practitioner, Dental Practice, Chiropodists, Chiropractors, Educational establishment, Library, Sports Centre, Community & Youth Centre, Day Centre, Places of Worship and Sheltered Housing provision, across the borough. The information gave dates for every Area Committee and was then followed up with specific information about the Area Committee, relevant to that area.
8. The Area Board web site is regularly updated and can be accessed on www.luton.gov.uk/areacommittees ** (web site address to be changed in due course)

COMMUNICATION

9. I would like to remind the Area Board that the web pages on www.luton.gov.uk/areacommittees ** are regularly updated and members of the public can access all of the following on these pages:-
 - Information – What are area boards? What are ward forums?
 - Dates of all meetings
 - Dates and information of all area tours
 - Ward Forum issues/updates
 - Agendas
 - Minutes
 - Reports
 - Area project proposal form

The actual address to the above web page and of course email address will be changed in due course to come into line with the new title of Area Boards.

AREA COMMITTEE ATTENDANCES

10. The following are up to date attendances at the East Luton Area Board for the period September/October 2010 to June 2012.

Area Board cycle	September & October 2010	January 2011	July 2011	October 2011	January 2012	April 2012	June 2012
East Luton	51	81	48	40	35	35	41

BUDGET UPDATE

11. The following table shows the budget for the East Luton Area Board from the 1st April 2011 to the 26th October 2012

<u>East Luton</u>	
<u>Crawley, Round Green, Stopsley & Wigmore Wards</u>	
Allocation 2011/2012	£10,000.00
Carry over from 2010/2011	£22,040.00
	£32,040.00
<u>Commitments</u>	
(i) Supply and welds locks to gates	267.99
(ii) Modifications to gate at the side of 1. Rochester Avenue	647.00
(iii) Supply & Fit of sign on gate at side of 1B. Rochester Avenue	66.38
(iv) Grant MNDA Luton & South Bedfordshire (Ref: 415)	250.00
(v) (Ref SP 388) Installation of 1 x palisade gate to the side of 61. Stapleford Road. Padlock to be welded on to gate with a supply of chain and 33 keys	2,172.93
(vi) (Ref SP 386) Service road to the side of 70. Hawthorn Avenue and to the rear of 60 to 120. Stapleford Road.	3,204.00
◆ Installation of 1 x palisade gate between 68 & 70. Hawthorn Avenue.	
Installation of 1 x palisade gate between 112 & 114. Stapleford Road	
◆ Lock	
◆ 35 Keys	
◆ Removal of rubbish and vegetation in the alleyway to the rear of 60 – 120. Stapleford Road	267.76
(vii) Refunds to made to residents on the following schemes:-	
Ref: SP 387	
Ref: SP 401	76.50
(viii) (Ref CR 427) Service road to the rear of 15 to 18. Eaton Green Road.	470.00
◆ Installation of 1 x palisade gate, lock and keys	
(Ref: CR 440)	
◆ Hart Hill Adventure Playground	1,625.00
To customise three containers which will help create ownership and responsibility for the site.	
◆ Raynham Way Community Centre – Minilympic Family Fun Day	3,600.00
On the 22 nd April 2012.	
◆ Diamond Jubilee Afternoon Tea Dance on the 14 th June 2012	750.00
	- 13,397.56

	Brought forward	18,642.44
Income from gating schemes		2,948.00
	Total balance brought forward	21,590.00
	Budget allocation 2012/2011	10,000.00
	Balance brought forward	31,590.00
◆ Repair and reset post side of Stopsley Tandori – Gating Scheme		489.00
◆ Ref: SP460 - Gating Scheme – Hazelwood Close – Rear of 1 – 31. Hazelwood Close.		2,865.00
<u>Ref: SP 462 (Commitment) Swifts Green – Memorial for the National School</u> The site was Stopsley National School from 1858 until 1912 when it was relocated in the centre of the village with the old building retained as a meeting hall for the parish. The project would entail the making and installation of a plaque embedded in stone or concrete, possibly bearing an etched picture of the old school with an accompanying text.		800.00
◆ Ref: CR 469 Supply and fit lock and weld to gate. Supply 24 keys to the gate at the rear of 2. Hart Lane. Entrance via. Abbots Wood Road		89.50
	Balance brought forward	27,346.50

AREA PROJECTS

12. There are two applications for Members to consider at the meeting this evening.

Project Number	Project	Cost of project	Amount requested
CR 468	<p><u>Raynham Way Community Centre</u></p> <p>◆ 50 + Christmas Party This will be held on Sunday 16th December 2012 from 1pm to 6pm. This is always a great festive celebration for all of our 50+ Users. They will enjoy some entertainment, dancing and a wonderful spread of food. This is a popular event and enjoyed by all those who attend.</p> <p>◆ Premier Sports – 4 months course This will be a course to kick start an ‘After School Club’. The emphasis will be on sport and fitness and to get children active.</p>	<p>£670.00</p> <p>£1,000</p>	<p>£300.00</p> <p>£500.00</p>
CR 469	<p><u>Gate to the rear of 2. Hart Lane – Entrance via Abbots Wood Road</u></p> <p>To supply and fit padlock and weld to gate. Supply 24 keys.</p>	89.50	89.50

WANDON CLOSE (Reference SP 473)

13. Members will be aware of the open space that is encompassed with the area of Wandon Close, Selsey Drive, Field End Close and Hayling Drive, which over a long period of time has been misused by persons using off road motor cycles.

14. Your officers from Engineering, Parks and Area Board Support having been looking at all the options of implementing measures to restrict the easy access to this open space by the riders of these bikes but at the same time being ever mindful of our duty and responsibility under the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA). All of these access points offer their own particular challenge and no one method would address the park in its' entirety.
15. It is therefore proposed that a pilot be implemented at the Selsey Drive entrance which would entail a post and rail system made up as follows:-

3 x Hartlepool rail end posts	£125.00 each	£375.00
3 x Hartlepool rail Intermediate post s	£115.00 each	£345.00
6 x1500mm-2000mm ferrocast 50mm dia rail	£48.00 each	£288.00
4 x Bent 1500mm-2000mm ferrocast rail.	£90.00 each	£360.00
1000m gate	£500.00	£500.00
Carriage		TBC
Drawings		TBC
Sub Total		£1,868.00

- These prices are subject to site drawings and are a product that is subject to a carriage charge.
17. Subject to an ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the above, further measures could be implemented at the other entrances to this open space.

PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

18. As from 1st April 2013 the East Luton Area will become a Neighbourhood Governance (NG) area and will be embraced as the last of the five areas to be included in the programme. Members will be aware that Participatory Budgeting (PB) decision days is part of the 'Your Say, Your Way' Programme. PB projects are resourced through partnership funding so that local community and voluntary groups can bid for resources to improve the local area and local citizens can decide which ones get funding.
19. The opportunity for funding is advertised to the community, local groups and the voluntary sector to deliver projects in each ward in the area which address agreed community priorities, which are identified through the 'Community Planning event'. Applications are pre-checked by funders and Councillors. This culminates with a Community Funding Decision event which is open to all residents in the ward and where local people can attend and listen to groups presenting their individual projects, ask questions about their plans and then using agreed criteria, vote on which projects they want to see funded in their area. The dates for these events will be announced in the New Year

20. In the four other NG areas the Area Boards have made a contribution contributed towards the fund and this provided important leverage for the funding that had already been attracted both from departments within the Authority and our partner agencies. Examples of amounts that have been allocated have varied but have ranged from £5k to £10k.
21. The Community Involvement Board (CIB) recently reviewed the Councils PB offer across all Areas and recommended its closer integration with the Area Board grant process. Officers are taking this work forward and will report back to Area Boards in due course. CIB also noted that securing funding commitment to PB from the Council has proven the means to unlock partnership contributions and that Members of Area Boards could consider allocating a portion of the Area Board budget to the PB funding pool on an annual basis at the beginning of the year.
22. When a project application is made near to the next cycle of an Area Board it would be sensible to direct any applications during that cycle to the PB process for each ward, unless Members felt that there were exceptional reasons for accepting an application to the Area Board.

Therefore Members of the East Luton Area Board may at this meeting wish to agree an allocation of the current Area Board budget to the PB fund in Area East in for the event in the 2013/2014 Municipal Year.

HOUSING ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT FUND

23. A new approach has been established for the identification, prioritisation, selection and delivery of Council Housing environmental projects **at a ward level** and it has been agreed to distribute the current £40,000 budget available for tenants' improvements across wards on a per property basis. Wards with less than 100 properties would 'partner' with another ward.
24. The decision on spend will be made by ward councillors and local council tenants, incl. any council tenant representative for that area in the ward forum and agreed by the respective Area Board.

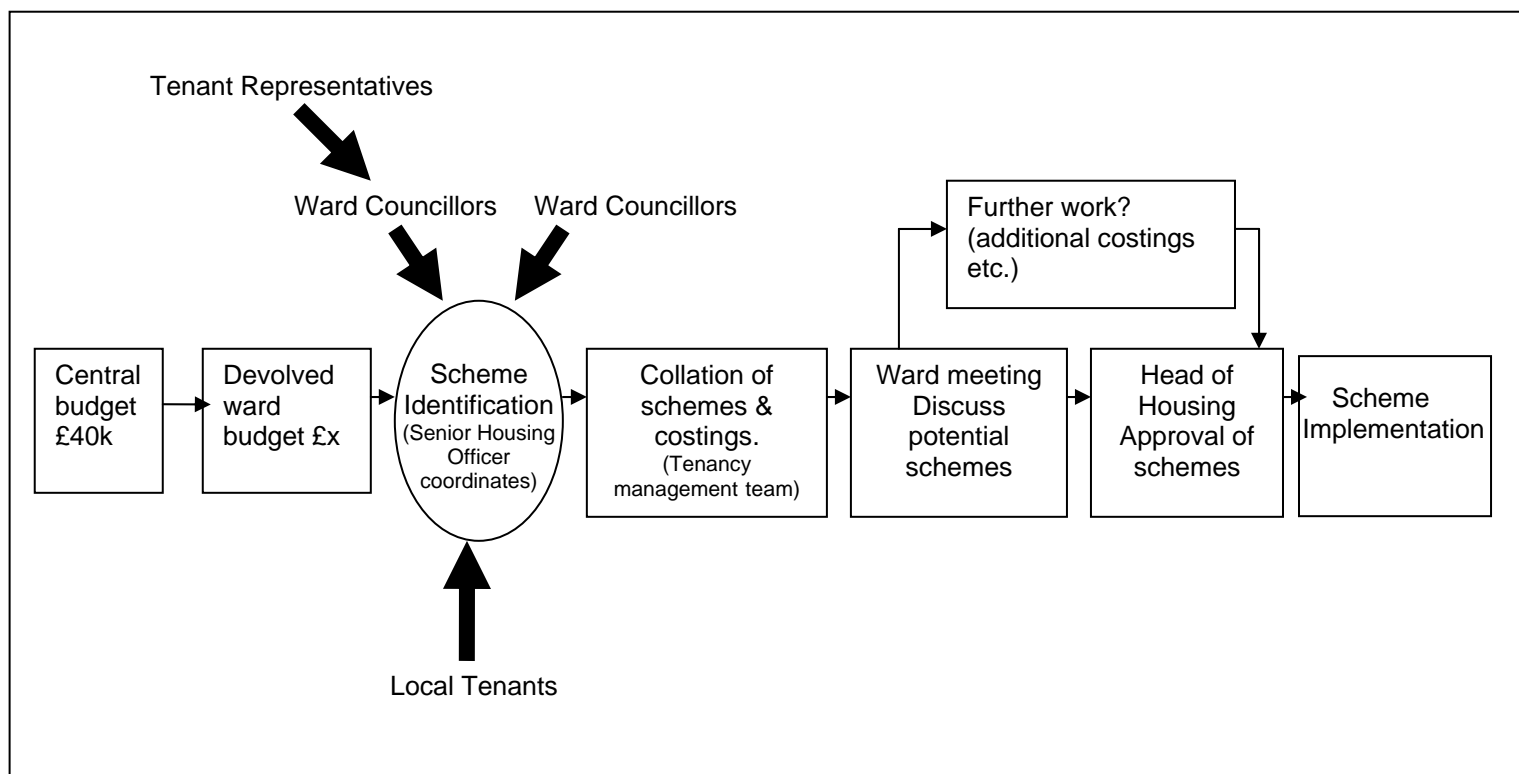
The distribution across wards is as follows:

<u>Ward</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Ward</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Ward</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Biscot	£593.47	High Town	£1,562.81	Round Green	£2,294.76
Bramingham	£326.41	Icknield	£1,320.47	Saints	£875.37
Challney	£316.52	Leagrave	£4,634.03	South	£4,223.54
Crawley	£1,350.15	Lewsey	£5,865.48	Stopsley	£959.45
Dallow	£652.82	Limbury	£964.39	Sundon Park	£2,576.66
Farley	£5,123.64	Northwell	£4,530.17	Wigmore	£1,829.87

NEW APPROACH

25. The relevant Senior Housing Officer (SHO) consults with local ward Councillors, local council tenants and council tenant representatives on ideas for suitable schemes on which to spend their share of the budget.
26. The Tenancy Management Team to collate schemes for each ward and arrange for costs to be obtained.
26. Approved schemes will be commissioned through BTS or other approved contractors.
28. Schemes that are identified but cross ward areas will be highlighted and managed appropriately by the Tenancy Management Team on a case by case basis (e.g. discussion & consultation with both ward Councillors etc.)
29. Ward councillors will ensure that schemes approved benefit Council Tenants and or estates and are an appropriate use of Housing Revenue Account (HRA) funding.
30. Details of scheme spend will be kept to facilitate appropriate auditing as required.
31. Final sign off /approval of schemes through Head of Housing.

Proposed Process for agreement of Environmental Schemes.



AREA TOURS

32. The new dates for the 2012/2013 Municipal Year have now been set and have been circulated to all Members of the council. These dates are also accessible on the area committee web pages.

PROPOSAL/OPTION

33. It is proposed that Members of the East Luton Area Board note the report.

34. In terms of the application under the Area Board Projects Scheme

- ◆ Reference CR 468
- ◆ Reference CR 469
- ◆ Reference SP 473

Members may consider the following:

- (i) Granting the full application.
 - (ii) Making a different contribution towards the scheme.
 - (iii) Deferring the application for future consideration.
 - (iv) Refusing the application
35. It is further proposed that Members of the East Luton Area Board agree an allocation of the current Area Board budget to the PB fund in Area East for the event in the 2013/2014 Municipal Year.

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

36. Much of the work conducted by the Area Board will have an impact on Council services and will address issues such as accessibility, local participation and the general quality of life within the Borough.

COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

37. A large amount of the work being pursued and undertaken by service areas and other outside agencies will make a major contribution to community safety and need to be considered alongside other schemes that may be under consideration or being implemented.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

38. Any contribution made by this Area Board will be met from existing budgets.

ENVIRONMENT IMPLICATIONS

39. The implications of the work being undertaken will address and improve the environment, create safer communities and address the quality of life for local people.

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, SECTION 100D

- The Modernisation of Local Government 2001
- Stronger Prosperous Communities 2006
- Localism Act 2011