

AREA COMMITTEE: EAST LUTON

CRAWLEY, ROUND GREEN, STOPSLEY & WIGMORE WARDS

DATE: MONDAY 19TH MARCH 2007

SUBJECT: AREA REPORT

REPORT BY: HEAD OF LOCAL DEMOCRACY

CONTACT OFFICER: GARY J. ROBERTS 01582 546985

IMPLICATIONS:

LEGAL	COMMUNITY SAFETY
EQUALITIES	ENVIRONMENT
FINANCIAL	CONSULTATIONS
STAFFING	OTHER

WARDS AFFECTED: CRAWLEY, ROUND GREEN, STOPSLEY & WIGMORE WARDS

PURPOSE

1. To bring before the committee an update on the issues that were raised following the last Area Committee held on the 9th January 2007

RECOMMENDATION(S)

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

BACKGROUND

3. This report encapsulates the progress of the area committee since the implementation of the initiative in October 2001. In addition it includes information on projects and activities supported by the committee and by 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

4. Members of the public who appear on the current database were informed of this meeting by post on the 20th February 2007 and publicity for this cycle of meetings appeared in the Luton News and Herald & Post during week commencing 5th and 12th March 2007 and in the Luton on Sunday on the 11th 18th and 25th March 2007. The area committees also have a regular feature in Lutonline, which Members will be aware is circulated across the town.
5. 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.
6. The Area Committee web site is regularly updated and can be accessed on www.luton.gov.uk/areacommittees - Please also see paragraph 11 (ii)

COMMUNICATION

7. Despite the request from some attendees of this area committee for future communication by electronic means I have to report that following the circulation of the form in the January area committee mailing we have received limited response. If individuals would still like us to communicate in this way they need to complete the form that can be found at the back of the hall and return it to me at the address shown.

On receipt of the completed form the information will be recorded on to a data base and future information will be circulated to them in this way.

8. I would also like to remind the meeting the area committee 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 committees? 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
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AREA COMMITTEE ATTENDANCES

9. The following are up to date attendances at the North Luton Area Committee for the period January 2006 to January 2007

Area Committee	January 2006	March & April 2006	May & June 2006	September & October 2006	January 2007
East Luton	36	50	48	30	39

AREA PROJECTS

10. There are three applications for Members to consider at the meeting this evening

Project Number	Project	Cost of project	Amount requested
CR 226	<p><u>Buchanan Drive (Phase 2)</u> Installation of palisade gates and fencing. Supply lock with suitable number of keys for garage owners. Members will be aware that this project was put before the East Luton Area Committee at the last meeting held on the 9th January 2007. The cost of the project at that time was submitted as 'guess' and as a result has come out way below the official estimate that have now been received. Therefore a further application in the sum of £750.00 is now being made in order to subsidise the project. This would now reduce the cost to £148.70 per household.</p>	£3,682.00	Additional £750.00
CR 232	<p>Sophie Rahim Education Welfare Officer <u>School Attendance Scheme – Crawley & Wenlock Schools.</u> Addressing truancy and non-attendance at school. Taking ownership Raising the profile of school attendance. Raise attendance levels. Reward for classes with best attendance levels. Reward pupils with the best attendance. Reward significant improvement. Tutor group talks.</p>	£750.00	£750.00
RG 233	<p>Sophie Rahim Education Welfare Officer <u>School Attendance Scheme – Ashcroft High School.</u> Addressing truancy and non-attendance at school. Taking ownership Raising the profile of school attendance. Raise attendance levels. Reward for classes with best attendance levels. Reward pupils with the best attendance. Reward significant improvement. Tutor group talks.</p>	£1,500	£1,500.

BUDGET UPDATE

11. The following table depicts the budget at the start of the 2006/2007, this includes the carry over from 2005/2006. However, Members attention is drawn to the report that was made to this area committee on the 17th October 2006 outlining the urgency to ensure that the current budget is either spent or committed before the end of this financial year. It is unlikely that a carry over into the 2007/2008 financial year will be permitted.

<u>East Luton – 2006/2007</u>			
Crawley, Round Green, Stopsley & Wigmore			
Balance brought forward as at 9th January 2007:-			£7,524.00
Project Number	Project	Amount granted	Balance brought forward
CR 219	Installation of gate to the rear of 2 to 40A, Hart Lane Luton and 111 – 113. Crawley Green Road, Luton	£1000	£6,524.00
CR 225	<u>Back to Back Chiropractic Ltd.</u> <u>268. Crawley Green Road, Luton, LU2 0SJ</u> - Service Road Excavation of acceptable material. Disposal of materials Compaction of material in fill on sub base material. Dense binder course. Resurface. Etc.	£1,500 (In principle and subject to the shopkeepers raising the balance to bring the project to fruition)	£5,024.00
CR 226	<u>Buchanan Drive (Phase 2)</u> Installation of palisade gates and fencing. Supply lock with suitable number of keys for garage owners.	£1,000	£4,024.00
AB 235	<u>Talking Signs</u> In order to keep Luton's crime levels low, the Safer Neighbourhood Teams would like to purchase a new product, namely being a talking poster sign, to use in areas with, for example, a high level of car crime or number of anti social behaviour incidents. Just 10 of these signs (2 for each of the 5 areas) would help make significant reductions in issues such as vehicle and violent crime such as robbery, and anti social behaviour. The Police have already used a few of these signs throughout the town and they have proved to be a success. Their deployment would depend on criminal or anti social behaviour trends in each area and would be deployed at the discretion of the Safer Neighbourhood Teams (including council	£700.00 per area committee	£3,324.00

	and police members). The project could begin as soon as the signs are purchased.		
AB236	<p><u>Akeba</u> Akeba is an informal group, which works with the African & Caribbean Communities in Luton to raise awareness on cultural and community issues vital for their growth and success in the immediate and long-term future. Akeba delivers both social / networking forums as well as educational & supportive workshops and seminars in local areas. These initiatives are not just for the target communities but also for all interested members of any community who wishes to increase their awareness of cultural diversity & issues and their engagement with the African & Caribbean Community. In recognition of the 2007 Bi-centenary of the Abolition Of The Slave Trade, Akeba will be using this theme as the main focus for their activities this year.</p>	£300.00	£3,024.00

AREA TOURS

12. The Action Plans and issues that were raised during the course of past area tours can be viewed in the folder at the back of the hall. The new dates for the 2007/2008 Municipal Year are currently being set and will be circulated to Members in due course. These dates are also accessible on the area committee web pages.

PROPOSAL/OPTION

13. It is proposed that Members of the East Luton Area Committee note the report.

In terms of the application under the Area Committee Projects Scheme

- ◆ Reference CR 226
- ◆ Reference CR 232
- ◆ Reference CR 233

Members may consider the following: -

- (i) Granting the application.
- (ii) Making a contribution towards the scheme.
- (iii) Deferring the application for future consideration.
- (iv) Refusing the application

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

14. Much of the work conducted by the Area Committee 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

15. 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 which may be under consideration or being implemented.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

16. Any contribution made by the Area Committee will be met from existing budgets.

ENVIRONMENT IMPLICATIONS

17. 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

None