

AREA COMMITTEE: SOUTH LUTON

DATE: 5TH OCTOBER 2004

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, ADULT
EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICE

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF LIFELONG LEARNING (HEAD OF
COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT)

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IMPLICATIONS:

LEGAL	COMMUNITY SAFETY
EQUALITIES	ENVIRONMENT
FINANCIAL	CONSULTATIONS
STAFFING	OTHER

WARDS AFFECTED: DALLOW, FARLEY AND SOUTH

PURPOSE

1. To up-date and inform the Area Committee of current activities and developments, in Dallow, Farley and South Wards. A copy of the draft Area Plan for Dallow, Farley and South Wards is attached for comments/information.

BACKGROUND

2. The report encompasses the work of Community Education and Development Division which incorporates community development, youth services and adult education and the renewal worker for Dallow.

REPORT

Community Development

3. The Community Development Division has been going through the Best Value process over the past twelve months. In the next two months the Best Value Review will be implemented through the process required by the Council's set procedures.
4. The Community Education and Development Division will in the near future move to a different division in order to adapt to what is required from the Government's Green Paper.

Community Centre Management Committees

5. The management committee for Farley and Park Town Community Centres are in operation. The management committees meet on a regular basis and all of its members are informed about all the community-based projects impacting on the centres.
6. In light of the Best Value Review it is hoped that the management committees will be more inclusive and will also play a more effective role in the development of the centres.

South Ward

Garden Project

7. The work will be completed in early October for the community centre garden, which will allow members of the community to make better use of it. The centre staff will work with the public relations team to publicise the new provision. It is also hoped that this media coverage will create an opportunity to explain the Manor Park Project to local residents so that they are able to be part of the consultative process.
8. The Area Committee allocated the sum of £2000 towards this project and this has made a difference to its overall cost.
9. The enhanced provision will ensure a safe access to outdoor space, creating new opportunities for play and social interaction - developing skills by providing new activities that could not otherwise be organised.

Manor Park Development Project

10. The progress of the project has reached the consultative stage now and the Manor Park Development Group are keen to continue to work in partnership with various agencies and local groups to meet the needs of the community by improving Manor Park. The Tenants and Residents

Association applied to 'Living Spaces' for a grant towards the cost of the project and have received unofficial news that their bid for £25000 match funding has been successful.

11. A regional advisor will help the Manor Park Development Group to move forward, help implement its action plan and to ensure that the funding criteria is met. In the meantime, Ian Richardson of the North Chilterns Trust, is co-ordinating the project as the group feel that they need his specialised input in these early stages. Funding for this consultative work is being financed by the Parks Department.

Club for Teens

12. Following discussions with local young people, Park Town staff have worked with a core group of 12 to 14 year olds who want to organise activities for their peer group on a regular basis.
13. The project has the backing of the local Beat Officer and it is hoped that funding for start up costs will also come from the Police. The group have decided to call their youth club the 'Club 4 Teens' and sessions started on 15th October.
14. The project will address youth issues and will be overseen by Duty Officers and the Centre Manager. It is seen as a link between the Junior Youth Club and the Senior Youth 'Drop In' sessions.

Parktown Highrise Action Group

15. The action group continues to be effective impacting on local initiatives and meets on a regular basis. It is a multi-agency group. Park Town is to become a priority policing area. The action group continues to achieve its objectives within its action plan.

Farley Ward

Market Square/Crossway Action Groups

16. The above groups have a multi-agency dimension with the aim of improving the quality of life in the ward. The groups continue to meet on a regular basis and at present the key prevalent issue being addressed is the new dispersal order with regards to anti-social and nuisance behaviour.
17. As an integral part of community safety strategy the centre staff are encouraging residents and are pro-actively involved in promoting and addressing the common issues impacting on the ward.

Stakeholder Policing Project

18. Bedfordshire Police working in partnership with Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity, facilitated a public meeting in September to launch the above project for the Farley Ward. The meeting was attended by approximately 40 people and the ultimate aim was to identify concerns and policing priorities for the Ward.
19. Furthermore it was an opportunity to discuss the way forward for local residents to work with the police to plan effective policing for Farley. The centre staff continue to support and engage with this pro-active initiative.

Barnfield Partnership Project

20. The centre staff teams based at Farley and Park Town are working with Barnfield College to implement the project. The college has now recruited a co-ordinator and two learning champions. The aim is to ensure a minimum of 30 adult residents from Luton South/Farley entering learning and outreach locations for the first time and also 30 adults progressing from outreach or pre-entry provision into vocational learning. The centre staff continue to identify relevant courses within the projects action plan.

Dallow Ward

Memorial Shield Tournament

21. The Area Community Development Worker (ACDW) has been working at the forefront to support and organise the Al Kamran cricket memorial shield which took place in July at Lower Wardown and Sundon Park. The event was organised to enhance and promote community cohesion and was very well attended. Furthermore the event was attended by two international cricket stars from the Pakistan national team. The event was sponsored by local businesses , sports action zone and Dallow Development Group. It is also envisaged that we need to build on the networks established and that there are plans for this to become an annual event.

CYSA

22. The ACDW and the Dallow Renewal Worker have both been working with the CYSA on the seven a side colour cricket tournament aimed at 14 – 17 year olds. The event took place on Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th August at Lower Wardown. Eight teams took part over the two days. The tournament was sponsored by many local businesses. Various service providers were also present on the day to disseminate information and raise awareness of the services they provide for young people.

Volleyball Tournament

23. The ACDW was involved in supporting a local group in the Dallow Ward by facilitating meetings between the group and Sports Action Zone in organising a national volleyball tournament.
24. Luton hosted the event which was held on Sunday 11th July at Kingsway Recreational Ground and attracted many national teams. The tournament was won by the Luton Volleyball Team.
25. Furthermore the ACDW organised a survey to be carried out for the Parks Division to assess the usage of Kingsway Recreational Ground.

Dallow Renewal Worker (NRW)

26. Dallow Community Festival – The Neighbourhood Renewal Worker (NRW) and the Area Community Development (ACDW) were successful in helping Dallow Development Group in securing funding of nearly £7000 to hold this year's festival. The festival took place on September 12th at Dallow Park. Attractions on the day included quad bikes, laser quest, bouncy castles, fairground rides and a penalty shoot-out. Local people provided some of the main arena events, which included a karate display, dhol player, McFugitive and Luton Youth Jazz Orchestra. The day was a great success and enjoyed by all those that attended.
27. Healthy Eating Course - The NRW has been working alongside Circle 33 housing, Dallow Community Centre, Family Adult and Community Learning team to provide a course, which will look at how parents could take a more active role in the eating habits of their children. Activities included fruit tasting, story sacks, alphabet book, healthy choices for your lunchbox etc. The course was held over two weekends and on the third weekend there was a trip to Reyton Gardens which is an organic farm. This allowed those that attended a chance to see how they themselves could grow their own vegetables and the implications of healthy eating. We are hoping that this course can now be repeated in the local schools with the help of the family workers.
28. Business Environment Training – The NRW has been working alongside Dallow Business Partnership to see how businesses will be affected by the ISO 14001 environmental waste management legislation. This training had come about as a direct result of issues that local businesses were facing and a local business were kind enough to sponsor the event by letting us use their premises. Further work with the businesses is in the pipeline to see what other issues can be tackled.

Adult Education

29. South Luton have recently been successful in recruiting an outreach worker, who will commence her duties on 9th November. At present

many courses are due to start at Farley and Park Town Community Centre. It is envisaged that more effective working arrangements will be in place once the new worker has taken up her role.

APPENDIX

Appendix: Copy of the draft Area Plan for Dallow, Farley and South Wards.

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, SECTION 100D

There are no background papers relating to this report.