

AREA COMMITTEE: WEST LUTON AREA

DATE: 13th OCTOBER 2004

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND YOUTH SERVICE

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

CONTACT OFFICERS: RICHARD FENSOME 696355
SHIRLEY TAYLOR 494417

IMPLICATIONS:

LEGAL	COMMUNITY SAFETY
EQUALITIES	ENVIRONMENT
FINANCIAL	CONSULTATIONS
STAFFING	OTHER

WARDS AFFECTED: LEWSEY, LEAGRAVE, CHALLNEY

PURPOSE

1. Progress up-date of Community Education and Development Division's (incorporating community development and youth service) initiatives and projects impacting in the area.

BACKGROUND

2. Areas of responsibility:-
 - a. Richard Fensome – Centre Manager
 - b. Shirley Taylor – Centre Manager
 - c. Cathy Hackett – Community Development Officer
 - d. Bob Baker – Senior Area Youth Worker
 - e. Allan Mwangi Johnson – Neighbourhood Renewal Worker

REPORT

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Lewsey Community Centre

Staffing

3. Lewsey Community Centre has continued to experience staffing level problems including a Receptionist off for a month following an operation. A new Duty Officer started on 23rd August and subsequently resigned on the 15th September. Despite these persistent problems in staffing levels, the community centre continues to provide a wide programme of activities for all the community, which is commendable.

50+ Bowls League

4. Plans are well under way for the Bowls League 2004/2005. Entries are coming in and adverts have been placed in all Luton Borough Council Community Centres. The bowls league is due to start on 16th October 2004.

Playschemes

5. June half term Playschemes were quieter than usual with many people going on holiday. Activities included Tricky Mickey Entertainer, Design a Wacky T-Shirt, Face Painting and Picture Weaving. Playscheme numbers were low with a maximum of 20 children attending one session, and the lowest attendance being nine.

A four week Summer Playscheme has also taken place that included activities such as stained glass design, parachute mayhem and summer fruit kebabs and fruit sundaes. Three trips to Southend, Bedford Oasis and Lewsey Pool completed the extensive programme, which was well attended.

Ballet & Tap Display

6. On Wednesday 14th July 2004 the Ballet & Tap Instructor Vanessa Bradley held a display of work at the centre inviting parents to view all that the children have worked on and achieved over the year. This event gave parents the opportunity to gauge their children's progress and development for forthcoming grade exams. The event was well attended by approximately 80 – 100 people.

Building Improvements

7. Work has now commenced with regards to the DDA works. So far the doors have been replaced to the main hall and the credit union room. Banister rails have been placed on the stairways to the carnival room and down to the rifle range.

New flooring has been laid in the foyer, coffee bar, servery, gents and ladies public toilets. New disabled toilets and fitments have been installed. Work has started on the shower room, which is receiving major changes to comply with

Disability Discrimination Act 1995. Other minor changes have been made to the front steps to the main entrance and the rear car park.

The flat roof areas over the Library, rooms 3 & 4 and the foyer have now been re-surfaced. All skylights have been replaced with new domes.

Lewsey Community Development

Lewsey Kitchen Garden Project

8. On Wednesday 21st July 2004 the Community Garden Project had its launch where members of the contributing partnerships i.e. North Chiltern's Trust, New Opportunities Fund, Bedfordshire & Luton NHS Community Mental Health Services Unit, Saheyli Women's Group, Young Gifted & Loud, Luton & Dunstable Hospital Dietetic Department and Luton Borough Council came to see the results of the garden so far. The event was also attended by His Worship the Deputy Mayor Councillor Abid Hussain who officially opened the garden, Luton & Dunstable Partnership, Lewsey Learning Centre and the Housing Department. Refreshments were provided for all the attendees.

As a community project the Kitchen Garden has been successful in involving different groups, namely the Lewsey Project or C.M.H.S.U., it has promoted harmonious relationships, it has created a facelift to a generally neglected area and it has promoted the need of people to take pride in their environment.

The Food growing course and the development of the project throughout 2004, has shown a good example of partnerships working well together.

Other aims, Business skills, donations from local groups, promoting healthy eating will hopefully be realized as the project evolves.

Lewsey Festival

9. Another Community Festival was held on Saturday 26th June 2004. There were 40+ stalls, although this figure was seriously depleted throughout the day by the not so kind weather.

Forty-one five-a-side teams took part in the annual event, which included girls teams from the local junior and primary schools. Chantry Primary, Southfields Junior, St. Josephs and Dallow Primary took part in the girl's competition. Chantry Primary School were the winners, St Josephs Junior the runners up. There was also an Under 12's competition won by Bramingham F.C., runners up Lewsey Centre F.C. An under 14's competition won by St. Martins Reds, runners up A.F.C.Houghton.

Arena events included Karaoke, Northfields Band, Line Dancing, Drummers, Children's Entertainer, Dunstable Dazzlers and local Singer Paula Kay. There was the fun fair, Dog Wardens, Library Service, and the Road Safety Department offering Cycle training taster sessions, cycle checks and more. Although attendance was down on previous years because of the weather, those who attended, an estimated 1000-1500 people had a fun day.

Hockwell Ring Community Centre

3 on 3 Basketball Tournament

10. The annual 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament took place on Sunday 8th August 2004 and once again proved to be an enormous success, with an attendance in excess of over 400 people. Press articles have since been printed in the Herald & Post, Luton News and Lutonline and Centre Staff have also organised a Photo Board in the Centre.

LBC Centre Staff, LBC Youth Service Staff, Safer Luton Partnership and many Volunteers all worked extremely hard providing not only an exciting basketball tournament but also a BBQ, Bucking Bronco, DJ and Sound System and other bouncy inflatable's.

Building Improvements

11. The Centre at the beginning of the year had a new Kitchen fitted, a new suspended ceiling in the main hall along with lots of other building/decorating work. However, more work is now due to be started as a requirement of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. Work such as car parking bays and toilet renovation work etc. This hopefully will make the Centre more accessible in order that the building be utilised to the full.

Football Goals

12. As a Constructive measure, two football goals have been erected, on the open space behind the Centre. It is hoped that local young people will now play football there, instead of causing a nuisance either on the streets or as previously on the basketball court, when they were continually damaging the Centre's guttering.

Lewsey Empowerment Fund Project

13. Last Year Voluntary Action Luton requested that Hockwell Ring Community Centre work with them to develop a core group that could eventually feed into the Luton Assembly. Although more work is needed, the individual members of this core group have now been identified from a series of meetings that have since taken place.

Voluntary Action Luton also had monies for a one off project for the Hockwell Ring area. There is a meeting to be held at 5pm on Wednesday 6th October 2004 at the Centre. This meeting is for the Core Group, or anyone else from the Local area that is interested in being involved, to participate in highlighting one project from some of the priorities that were collated at a previous Public meeting.

Boxing Club

14. Although the Boxing Club has started up, it is currently running as a Circuit Training class. This is because the Club cannot get their own Public Liability Insurance until they are ABA affiliated. The Instructor they are utilising currently has her own Insurance. They have however, received some really positive interest from many Boxing Instructor's, but there have been issue's over utilising them for the junior classes due to CRB clearances.

The Club is working hard to sort this out, so hopefully, this will be remedied soon.

Neighbourhood Renewal

Capacity Building Fund

15. At the most recent Neighbourhood Partnership meeting, it was decided that this SRB funding should be allocated and administered by the Partnership. Local groups and organisations based in Lewsey Farm will be notified and called to a meeting to agree the best way this funding can develop to build the capacity of local people and organisations. Luton & Dunstable Partnership have agreed to the process of administering this fund and local groups will be invited to apply a maximum of £2500 per year of this fund.

Faith & Regeneration Seminar

16. A conference organised by the Neighbourhood Renewal Team in Partnership with Luton Council Of Faiths and Grassroots took place in Luton at Dallow Community Centre on 25th May 04. The conference explored the contributions and benefits for local faith based organisation's involvement in Neighbourhood Renewal, and how they can engage in the Renewal Process and Regeneration of neighbourhoods.

A report has been published and is awaiting final consultation and will be available by the end of October 2004.

Lewsey Family Day

17. A Family day was organised at the Lewsey Learning Centre which brought a number of families to the Centre where they contributed to the landscaping of the Centre's ground with features that local people felt represented their environment.

Lewsey Youth Forum

18. This Forum is now beginning to develop. A number of local youths are keen to progress on a piece of work which will identify issues important to their lives on Lewsey as well as perceived needs and what has not taken place on Lewsey since the year 2000 and what they would like to see ideally.

£1500.00 from the Neighbourhood Renewal Worker's Team Budget will be spent on consulting young people and developing a picture of what is needed. The Lewsey Farm Learning Centre, ACCDF and St Hugh's Church supported and facilitated by the Neighbourhood Renewal Worker in Lewsey will be leading on this piece of work.

Chaul End Community Centre

Porta-Cabin

19. In July 2004 the temporary Chaul End Centre re-opened on a new site adjacent to Downlands Day Centre in Leicester Road. A refurbished portacabin has replaced the one previously located in Dunstable Road with the full cost of

refurbishment being funded by the ERDF (European Regeneration Development Fund).

Funding has also been secured to provide a Community Development Officer Post for two years until December 2006 and an officer - Cathy Hackett, has been seconded from Community Development and is now based at the Centre (contact telephone number 599727). This officer will continue to work with the local community to ensure that their full involvement in the development of the centre continues. The officer is also working closely with the Social Services staff at Downlands and is currently investigating the possibility of utilising their building in the evening to accommodate larger groups.

Centre Usage

20. The Playschemes that ran for the last two weeks of the summer holidays, were a great success.

Adult Education classes have now resumed with Sewing, ESOL and Literacy classes weekly. Future plans include consideration of Youth Drop in and the Youth Inclusion team will hopefully regroup at Chaul End very soon.

Community Development

21. Although there has been no Community base at Chaul End since December officers have continued to work with the community as they have for the past two years and receive great support from them. The community have played a major role in the design and development of the centre through the Steering and Design groups set up by Community Development officers and supported by colleague officers from across the Council and external partners. These include the Primary Care Trust who are to be a major provider at the Centre through the provision of a new GP practice and associated facilities.

New Chaul End Centre

22. The Contractors are now on site for the building of the new Centre, and on Wednesday 22nd September some forty people attended a 'turning the first sod' event. Those attending were LBC Officers, Ward Councillors, local residents, clients, staff and friends of Downlands Day Centre and the partners who are involved in the development of the centre.

Many members of the Community have been involved with the project from the commencement of it's development and have shown and continue to show great support and commitment to it's success. Another major factor is the strong commitment to partnership working being displayed by all involved.

Youth Service

Transforming Youth Work Document

23. Members of the public, Councillors and Officers were informed in the June meeting of the strides made by Youth Service to meet the Government objectives set out in the 'Transforming Youth Work' document.

The Youth Service is required to target 80% of its resources in working with young people aged 13 – 19.

Partnership approaches need to be adopted to work with other agencies who have remit/funding to deliver work with disadvantaged, anti-social, nuisance youth.

The issue of anti-social youths and the need to work with a younger age range was aired. The Luton Youth Service displayed a Youth Service information stand at the last Area Committee which containing booklets and reports chartering the progress made.

Summer Youth Programme

24. A wide range of summer provision was planned and successfully executed. The following three approaches were adopted:

Area based/funded programmes – these were Youth Service initiatives led by the Senior Area Youth Development Worker. Two consultation meetings were held at Hockwell Ring and Lewsey Learning Centre and the following outcome.

Away Day Programme – canoeing, rock climbing and educational games with purpose.

Paintballing Trip

In addition, community development staff worked alongside Youth Workers jointly and supported in partnership working in the delivery of:

Girls Talk Workshops – personal development programmes.

3 on 3 Basketball

Street Games Activities – in partnership with Sports Action Zone, including basketball and football.

All the above events took place within the Lewsey, Challney and Leagrave Wards.

In addition, Halyard Youth Club opened during the summer holidays and provided a varied programme including a trip to Alton Towers, a weeklong residential, conversation projects, Bar-be-que and general advice, drop ins and youth provision.

The Luton Youth Service Summer Team

25. The above initiative ran a wide range of activities from Monday 19th July to Friday 27th August. Roadshows took place at Halyard Youth Club and the Arndale Shopping Centre. Some 1,800 booklets were produced and distributed. The events/activities on offer were open to all young people irrespective of which area in Luton they lived.

Part Time Youth Projects / Clubs

26. Another recruitment process is underway to recruit part time youth staff to existing vacancies. Two eighteen and a half hour Youth Workers in training have been recruited. The workers have started University and will assist the Area Youth Development Worker in part time youth projects / clubs.