

AREA BOARD: NORTH LUTON
BRAMINGHAM, ICKNIELD, LIMBURY,
NORTHWELL & SUNDON PARK WARDS

DATE: THURSDAY 7TH MARCH 2013

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: BRAMINGHAM, ICKNIELD, LIMBURY,
NORTHWELL & SUNDON PARK WARDS

PURPOSE

1. To bring before the Board an update on the issues that were raised following the last Area Board held on the 18th October 2012.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. The North Luton Area Board 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 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

4. Members of the public who appear on the current database were informed of this meeting by post on the 18th February 2013 and

publicity for this cycle of meetings appeared in the October edition of Lutonline, the Luton on Sunday on the 17th February, Luton & Dunstable Express on the 20th February and Herald & Post during week commencing 18th February 2013. 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 Board across the town.

5. The Area Board web site is regularly updated and can be accessed on www.luton.gov.uk/areacommittees
This address is soon to be changed to www.luton.gov.uk/areaboards

COMMUNICATION

6. 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 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

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

AREA BOARD ATTENDANCES

7. The following are up to date attendances at the North Luton Area Board for the period July 2010 to April 2012.

Area Board cycle	January 2011	July 2011	October 2011	January 2012	April 2012	June 2012	October/ November 2012
North Luton	79	57	45	61	58	55	75

BUDGET UPDATE

8. The following table shows the budget for the North Luton Area Board.

<u>North Luton</u>		
<u>Bramingham, Icknield, Limbury, Northwell & Sundon Park Wards</u>		
Allocation 2011/2012		£10,000.00
LI 425	<u>Limbury 50+ Group</u> The application is to support the ongoing work of the Limbury 50+ Group.	£1,970.00
LI 439	<u>St. Augustine's Scout Group</u> To replace the cedar cladding at the rear of the scout headquarters that is rotting and beginning to fall off. We want to replace the wood with white UPVC cladding. Also replace the guttering, fascia and down pipes.	£1,500.00
Approved by NLAC on the 27/09/11. Item	<u>Ambleside Community Centre – Hurst Way</u> The Committee also considered a project application by Councillor Lewis in respect of the Ambleside Community Centre. Councillor Lewis requested a grant of £350.00, which would help revamp the community centre back to use. The Committee was informed that the Strategy & Development Manager, Alan Thompson was in support of the project and was working closely with residents.	* £350.00 (Committed and still held on account)
NT 443	<u>Marsh Farm Annual Festival</u> The Marsh Farm annual festival encompasses a day of fun for all the family. It will bring the community together in celebration and it is a well attended event with more than 500 people participating in the activities. There will be a number of street providers on hand to give out information on health and well being issues, safety, alcohol and drugs and training. The festival will provide entertainment, games, singing, talent competition, bouncy castles and various other inflatables. It is an ideal opportunity for the 'Events Committee' to enhance community work and consult with people regarding the needs of the Marsh Farm community.	£1,858.00
NT 444	<u>The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Tea Party</u> This application is to assist with the organisation of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Tea Party which will be taking place on Saturday 3 rd June 2012. We anticipate that the event will be attended by 200 of the community from the wards of Sundon Park, Limbury and Northwell. The afternoon will consist of:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Tea party ◆ Games ◆ Entertainment It is an ideal opportunity to bring the community together for this historic event.	£500.00

NT 447	<p><u>Youth Residential – Acorn Adventure, Villeneuve, Italy</u></p> <p>This project started in September 2011 and will run for 11 months. The project will culminate in an overseas residential adventure trip located at the foothills of the Alps. The young people will get to try a range of activities including white water rafting on the Dora Baltea river, rock climbing on the surrounding peaks, canoeing the scenic lakes. High roping in the local forests as well as indulging in a number of centre based activities. The adventure is a reward for continuous commitment to the centre's youth forum and other projects. As part of this and by July 2012, the group will have planned, budgeted, fundraised, promoted and subscribed participants and in doing so will have demonstrated to their peers that hard work, commitments and dedication does pay off. This will be out third will be out third consecutive annual summer trip following a football tour to Barcelona in 2010 and an activity adventure trip to the Ardechère River Valley in 2011. This year's planned residential to Italy is intended to take place over 9 days between Friday 27th July and Saturday 4th August. Each year the trip provides a new group of young people with the opportunity to undertake a new and exciting experience, filled with stimulating challenges aimed at increasing confidence and raising aspirations. Evaluation from previous trips have concluded that for those who participated it was a once in a lifetime experience and the 'buzz' and excitement upon return has transferred to peer groups and generated new participants for the years that follow.</p>	£2,000.00
	Balance requested to be brought forward :- (Approved by the Executive in June 2012)	£2,170..00
	Budget for 2012/2013	£10,000.00
	Brought Forward	£12,170.00

LI 453	<p><u>Runfold Avenue Open Space</u></p> <p>The aim of this project is to upgrade an unattractive and under-used children's play area at Runfold Avenue Open Space in the Limbury ward of Luton. The current equipment is outdated, is of low play value and appears to be of little interest to local children. It is however sited at a pleasant location near the River Lea and the new facility will have a range of new equipment for toddlers and young children, with a more natural look in keeping with the semi-natural landscape.</p> <p>The current surfacing is largely artificial (either tarmac or wetpour) and the remainder is bark chip which requires regular maintenance. All of this will be removed and replaced with turf, overlaid with 'Grass Mat' safety surfacing where required. Eight new items of play equipment will be installed, predominantly constructed from timber, including toddler and junior swings, supernova, a multi-play climb and slides (2) item, two single and one double 'springer and a spinner' bowl. The existing fencing is of good quality and will therefore be cleaned down and repainted. The picnic benches are still in reasonable condition and will be refurbished and relocated outside the play area.</p> <p>The project will be managed by Groundwork Luton & Bedfordshire, working in partnership with the Friends of Icknield and Runfold Park and Luton Borough Council.</p> <p>The completion of the project will be publicised through a celebration event, which will be advertised and subsequently reported through press releases, on our website and on the council's website and through social media. The event and associated publicity will ensure that people living outside the 'catchment area' of the play area will also be made aware of it.</p>	<p>£2,500.00 (Committed)</p> <p>£2,224.89 (Paid) **£275.11 (Held on account)</p>
	Brought Forward	£9,320.00
NT 464	<p><u>Marsh Farm Fireworks Festival</u></p> <p>The project is the annual Marsh Farm Firework display that takes place on Lea Manor playing field on the 5th November annually. The event attracts people from all over Luton especially the North area. The event is free and run by volunteers. The event attracts up to 4000 people each year.</p>	£1,500.00
BR 465	<p><u>Whitwell Close (Alleyway)</u></p> <p>The alley was closed in 2010 with a Gating order. The gating is insufficient as the work was not completed correctly, so we now need to complete the fencing to prevent people entering the alleyway.</p>	£720.00 (Commitment)

SU 472	<p><u>Gating & Fencing Project – 2 to 24. Moira Close</u></p> <p>This road gave access to the garages to the rear of Moira Close and there have been significant issues with anti-social behaviour for many years. Gating is supported by the police. In common with other such schemes it was intended that 50% of the cost would be met by local residents.</p> <p>The Area Board Support Officer advised that normally late applications were not accepted. However, in this particular location, the situation had got worse and urgent action was needed. Given the nature of the problems being experienced and the serious case review of the Fiona Pilkington case, he felt that the Council would be negligent in its duty if it failed to respond. The Board agreed to make an exception for this application.</p>	<p>£2,350.00 (Commitment)</p>
	Brought Forward	£4,750.00

AREA PROJECTS

9. There is one application for Members to consider at the meeting this evening. The applications were circulated to all Members of this Area Board during week commencing 25th February 2013.

Project Number	Project	Cost of project	Amount requested
LI 475	<p><u>Limbury Bridges Project</u></p> <p>The aim of this project is to encourage the public's engagement in the natural heritage of the River Lee by creating a pedestrian art trail focussing on the five footbridges that provide crossings across the river as it meanders through Limbury. The footbridges are being refurbished by LBC Highways Division and the artwork will take the form of flat metallic panels reflecting wildlife through the seasons which will be fixed securely to two opposing panels of each of the five footbridges (i.e.a total of 10 panels).</p> <p>The designs for the artwork have already been completed and we are now seeking funding for their manufacture, installation and subsequent community engagement. The artworks have been designed by a group of year 10 'gifted and talented' art students from Icknield High School. They have worked on the designs in their own time as an extra-curricular activity, supervised by one of the schools art teachers. The students worked to a clear brief and with the support of Groundwork, LBC Parks, LBC Highways and Luton Culture.</p>	£14,000	£3,000

Project Number	Project	Cost of project	Amount requested
BR 476.	<p>Great Bramingham Park – Pond Project</p> <p>We would like to establish a shallow pond with shrubs, lilies, fauna and access (viewing platform and bench). This will be for elderly people who are part of an adjoining housing association, for young people some from Bramingham Primary School (a special needs designated ,400 pupil school) which adjoins the park. Also the Keech Hospice adjoins the park and we are involved with them in the maintenance of the park and they welcome the opportunity to visit the park regularly with patients who wish to spend some time outside, but who cannot travel too far due to serious illness.</p> <p>Furthermore the pond will regenerate the wildlife of the surrounding area as the pond will be alongside two natural trails, one for monk-jack deer and one for birds who fly between ancient woodland in Little Bramingham Park and the SSSI at Warden and Galley Hills.</p> <p>We are trying to identify a number of funding sources to help with this project this includes Participatory Budgeting, London Luton Airport and this evening the North Luton Area Board. If these sources fail we would need to look further afield.</p>	£7,900	£3,500

AREA TOURS

10. The new dates for the 2013/2014 Municipal Year will be set shortly and will be circulated to all Members of the council. These dates are also accessible on the area board web pages.

PROPOSAL/OPTION

11. It is proposed that Members of the North Luton Area Board note the report.
12. In terms of the application under the Area Board Projects Scheme
 - ◆ Reference LI 475
 - ◆ Reference BR 476

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

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

13. 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

14. 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

15. Any contribution made by the Area Board will be met from existing budgets.

ENVIRONMENT IMPLICATIONS

16. 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