

AREA COMMITTEE: SOUTH LUTON
DALLOW, FARLEY & SOUTH WARDS

DATE: TUESDAY 21ST MARCH 2006

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: DALLOW, FARLEY & SOUTH WARDS

PURPOSE

1. To bring before the committee an update on the issues that were raised following the last Area Committee held on the 18th January 2006.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. The South 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 28th February 2006 and publicity for this cycle of meetings appeared in the Luton News and Herald & Post during week commencing 6th March 2006 and in the Luton on Sunday on the 12th March 2006.
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

AREA PROJECTS

7. At the time of writing this report there were six applications for Members to consider under the Area Project Scheme.

Project Number	Project	Cost of project	Amount requested
SO 191	Park Town Junior Youth Club Residential weekend in Osmington Bay for young people who attend the Park Town Junior Youth Club.	£3,500.00	£1,000
SO 192	Starlight Community Steel band. To deliver a series of professional steel drum workshops to young people. This will enhance the performance of the young people when they participate in carnival and other events.	£840.00	£840.00
FA 195	Farley Users Association Support for the Farley Community Festival that is taking place on Saturday 8 th July 2006. Numerous attractions and activities, including stalls from various colleges and training providers that will be encouraging local people to take	£2,500.00	£1,100.00

	up training. In addition there will be children's entertainers, music, fairground stalls etc.		
Project Number	Project	Cost of project	Amount requested
FA 196	<p>Farley Community Centre The organise a Youth Consultation Day to identify the needs of the young people who reside in the Farley Ward and how the Farley Users Association in partnership with the community centre can identify resources to meet these needs. The event will be aimed at the 11 years and older age group and will include –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Basketball ♦ Football ♦ Music Workshop ♦ Food & Refreshments ♦ Live music acts ♦ Skateboard Park 	£1,200.00	£1,000.00
FA 197	<p>Farley Stakeholders Group To produce, print and distribute a community safety newsletter in the Farley area. It will inform on the activities and events in the local area, offer crime prevention advice, give contacts of the Safer Neighbourhoods team, updates on local crime and what action is being taken to address those issues. The first edition will include a consultation page and collection boxes will be available in local community centres.</p>	£600.00	£600.00
SO 198	<p>Park Town Tenants & Residents Association To purchase sports and play equipment for use by the local community. The Park Town TARA is heavily involved in the improvement of the area e.g. the development of Manor Park and it is envisaged by purchasing such equipment it would encourage local people to participate in low impact activities in the park. Many parents have expressed an interest as many do not have</p>	£300.00	£300.00

	gardens and would benefit by loaning the equipment to be used in available open space.		
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BUDGET UPDATE

8. The following table depicts the budget at the start of the 2004/2005 financial year and the projects that have been supported during that same period: -

<u>Luton South – 2004/2005</u> <u>Dallow, Farley & South</u>			Balance
			£26,540
Project Number	Project	Amount Awarded	Budget balance
FA 124	Farley Users Association – Farley Festival	£800.00	£25,740.00
SO 126	Park Town TARA. Replacement of the flagpole at Surrey Street School.	£800.00	£24,940.00
DA 129	Mary Seacole Housing Association – Purchase of computer equipment.	£900.00	£24,040.00
FA 137	Farley Junior Youth Club – Adventure Holiday for 8 – 12 year olds during the October Half Term Holiday	£200.00	£23,840.00
FA 138	Wolston Close – Fencing to prevent anti-social parking.	£950.00	£22,890.00
FA 139	Barnfield Colts FC – Football Training Scheme	£450.00	£22,440.00
FA 148	Felmersham Court Residents Development of the garden project.	£750.00 Cheque returned due to criminal damage taking place.	
FA 149	Whipperley Nursery Equipment of their sensory room.	£600.00	£21,840.00
FA 150	Farley Hill Methodist Church Refurbishment of the kitchen in the church hall.	£1,000.00	£20,840.00
DA 151	Easingwold Gardens Gating Project	£500.00	£20,340.00
SO 159	Park Town Community Centre Organise a trip for young people to attend a day trip to Drayton Manor. The trip has been requested by the young people and any contribution	£250	£20,090.00

	would subsidise the event.		
Project Number	Project	Amount Awarded	Budget balance
SO 160	Surrey Street Primary School St. George's Day Celebration and the raising of the flag on the newly erected flag pole.	£150	£19,940.00
SO 161	10 th Anniversary of the Park Town Community Centre. Celebratory activities to include Street Party in Bailey Street. Side Shows, Displays, Entertainment etc.	£500	£19,440.00
SO 162	South Luton Ethnic Minorities Group Newly established organisation set up to represent the ethnic minority tenants and residents living in the South Ward.	£500	£18,940.00
SO 163	Park Town Community Centre South Area Team To produce a newsletter to provide the local community giving appropriate information and contact details of organisations, initiatives and activities taking place locally.	£1,000	£17,940.00
SO 164	Dallow TARA St. Peter's Little Park The groups have received funding of £9,500 from ' Nature Near Home' to upgrade the park. This will contain some small play equipment and other landscape improvements. The proposal is to replace the ugly barriers with decorative bow top 1 metre high fence to further improve the area aesthetically.	£2,950	£14,990.00
AB 167	To re-erect Neighbourhood Watch Signs that were removed by the sub-contractors when the new street lighting was installed.	£250.00	£14,740.00
SO 169	Support for a weekend club that works with up to 50 young people in the 11 – 15 year age group. Providing a safe environment, develop new	£250.00	£14,490.00

	skills, social interaction.		
Project Number	Project	Amount Awarded	Budget balance
FA 175	Support for the Farley Community Festival that will be taking place on Saturday 9 th July 2005.	£500	£13,990.00
SO 176	St. Paul's Pre-School Playgroup. Assistance required due to the relocation of the group to St. Margaret of Scotland RC Infant School.	£1,000	£12,990.00
FA 179	Christmas Party and Christmas Dinner for the residents of Bethune Close and other members of the local community	£400.00	12,590.00
SO 184	Support for the Park Town TARA ' Chat Sessions ' and pay for accommodation for the group.	£250.00	£12,340.00
SO 185	<p>Support for the PTCC Garden Project.</p> <p>◆ Resurfacing the grassed area with a rubberised surface and the money would be used for excavation, removal of soil, laying of new surface, drainage, and graphics.</p> <p>◆ In order to ensure that our goals are met we will apply to various organisations for grants and fund raise locally. We have applied to the Community Funding Initiative for £5000 and are waiting to hear from them, and have raised £266.15 from community events so far.</p>	<p>£5,000</p> <p>(This allocation is currently being held within the area committee budget as the application for the anticipated matched funding has not been forthcoming)</p>	£7340.00
FA 186	<p>Funding for improved security at Felmersham Court, Sheltered Housing Accommodation.</p> <p>For the erection of palisade fencing and gates to prevent car and motorcycle access, fly-tipping and other access which is causing anti-social behaviour to the rear of this block of flats where older people reside.</p> <p>The project will not only benefit the residents but also have an impact on the local area.</p>	£5,000	£2,340.00

South Luton – 2005/2006 Allocation			
Dallow, Farley & South			+ £12,000
Balance brought forward for 2005/2006			£13,340.00
Project Number	Project	Amount Awarded	Budget balance
SO 189	Park Town Pre-School Playgroup The purchase of a Laptop Computer and printer. The playgroup committee has raised £200 towards the purchase of this item.	£500	£12,840.00

AREA TOURS

10. The area tours for the 2005/2006 Municipal Year for the South Luton area have now been completed and new dates for 2006/2007 are currently being secured.
11. 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.

AREA COMMITTEE PROMOTION

12. At a recent seminar that the Area Committee Support Officer attended ideas were exchanged regarding the promotion of area committees and ways of encouraging local communities to attend. In many cases that very first step through the door was the most important. Equally once local communities felt they could engage in issues that affected them most and that there was real response and positive outcomes from the discussions in which they partook, this then encouraged them to attend and participate in meetings in the future.
13. One of the schemes used and an example given by one the Police representatives to encourage local people to attend their meetings was to enter everyone who attended and who were still present at the end of the meeting into a free draw for a portable colour television.
14. The Council continually look at ways of encouraging local people to engage in meetings, consultations and participate in events that affect their local community.
15. At the moment area committees -
 - ♦ Advertise extensively in the local newspapers and Lutonline.

- ♦ Write to everyone currently on our database i.e. approximately 2500 people.
 - ♦ Use the Luton Borough Council website.
 - ♦ Carry out a borough wide poster distribution and a
 - ♦ Large poster campaign outside the Town Hall.
16. The cost of three adverts i.e. Luton News, Herald & Post and the Luton Sunday in just one-week amounts to £498.00. This is a figure from the most recent January 2006 cycle. This excludes anything else mentioned in paragraph 9 of this report.
 17. The purchase of five portable televisions to implement the scheme has cost the area committee advertising budget £210.00
 18. Where we would normally place three adverts in the local newspapers in this cycle we only placed one in each of the three local newspapers making an overall saving of £1,284.00. This is just another way of using the advertising budget, encouraging and engaging people in their area committee and at the same time making an overall budget saving.
 19. Members will be aware that a cash prize of £250.00 was offered by Electoral Services for the first registration returned in the recent canvass and similarly other prizes to encourage young people to get involved in groups, have also been used by departments in the Council. Therefore the adoption of such a scheme would not be completely alien to this Authority.
 20. The promotion has been advertised by means of a press release and also included in the postal circulation to those on our database
 21. The scheme will be administered by simple distribution of cloakroom tickets to members of the public towards the end of the area committee meeting. The participant would have to be present at the meeting to collect the prize otherwise it would be immediately drawn again. The prize will be awarded on the evening.
 22. At the Area Committee Board meeting held on the 1st February 2006, Members approved the implementation of the scheme and a further report will be made to those Members at their next meeting and following the conclusion of this cycle of meetings.

AREA COMMITTEES AND AREA COMMITTEE BOARD DATES 2006/2007

23. Subject to Annual Council on the 17th May 2006 the dates for the next Municipal Year are as follows: -

PROPOSAL/OPTION

24. It is proposed that Members of the South Luton Area Committee note the

Committee	<u>Date</u>	Date	Date	Date
Luton South				
Dallow, Farley & South	Thursday 8 th June 2006	Tuesday 3 rd October 2006	Wednesday 17 th January 2007	Tuesday 20 th March 2007
Luton North				
Bramingham, Icknield, Limbury Northwell & Sundon Park	Thursday 25 th May 2006	Tuesday 17 th October 2006	Monday 8 th January 2007	Tuesday 13 th March 2007
Luton East				
Crawley, Round Green, Stopsley & Wigmore	Thursday 1 st June 2006	Thursday 28 th September 2006	Tuesday 9 th January 2007	Monday 19 th March 2007
Luton West				
Challney, Leagrave & Lewsey	Monday 12 th June 2006	Wednesday 11 th October 2006	Thursday 18 th January 2007	Wednesday 28 th March 2007
Luton Central				
Barnfield, Biscot, High Town & Saints	Wednesday 21 st June 2006	Wednesday 20 th September 2006	Monday 22 nd January 2007	Tuesday 3 rd April 2007
Area Committee Board	Thursday 6 th July 2006	Monday 20 th November 2006	Tuesday 30 th January 2007	Wednesday 11 th April 2007

report.

25. In terms of each of the applications under the Area Committee Projects Scheme

- ◆ Reference SO 191
- ◆ Reference SO 192
- ◆ Reference FA 195
- ◆ Reference FA 196
- ◆ Reference FA 197
- ◆ Reference SO 198

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

26. 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

27. 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

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

ENVIRONMENT IMPLICATIONS

29. 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