

AREA COMMITTEE: WEST LUTON
CHALLNEY, LEAGRAVE & LEWSEY WARDS

DATE: **WEDNESDAY 30TH MARCH 2005**

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: **CHALLNEY, LEAGRAVE & LEWSEY WARDS**

PURPOSE

1. To bring before the committee an update on the issues that were raised following the last Area Committee held on the 24th January 2005.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. **The West 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

- Members of the public who appear on the current database were informed of this meeting by post on the 11th March 2005 and publicity for this cycle of meetings appeared in the Luton News and Herald & Post during week commencing 7th and 14th March 2005 and the Luton on Sunday on the 13th 20th 27th and the 3rd April 2005.
- Additionally, posters 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.
- The Area Committee web site is regularly updated and can be accessed on www.luton.gov.uk

AREA PROJECTS

- At the time of writing this report there was one new application for Members to consider at this area committee.

Ref No	Applicant	Project	Cost of Project	Amount Requested
CH 158	Mr O'Brien Address on file	Bradley Road Allotment Site Provision of storage facilities on the Bradley Road Allotment site and to act as a shelter during inclement weather.	£3,175.00	£3,175.00

- The West Luton area committee does not currently have a budget that can cover or make a contribution to the above application.

BUDGET UPDATE

- The following tables depicts the budget at the start of this financial year and the projects that have been supported during that same period: -

West Luton – 2004/2005			Balance
Challney, Legrave & Lewsey Wards			£5,760.00
Project Number	Project	Amount Awarded	Budget balance
LW 128	Lewsey East & Central TARA. Assistance with the development of the pavilion on Lewsey Park.	£1,000	£4,760.00

West Luton – 2004/2005 Challney, Leagrave & Lewsey Wards			Balance brought forward
			£4,760.00
LE 123	Lea Ring Management Committee. To provide toys for the Parents & Toddlers group at the Hockwell Ring Community Centre.	£500.00	£4,260.00
LE 154	Leagrave Prom	£2,260.00	£2,000.00
LE156	Lewsey Farm Learning Centre Open Door Training & Development Section.	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
LW 157	Lewsey Farm Café Project. Support for after school provision operating from the café.	£1,000.00	0

AREA TOURS

10. The area tours for 2004/2005 have now been completed and new dates for the 2005/2006 Municipal year are currently being timetabled and will be circulated to Members in due course.
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.

WARD FORUMS

12. The initiation of the new style ward forums which commenced in May and June 2004 are progressing very well, raising a number of issues and therefore creating a lot of work in terms of recording, distribution, investigation, monitoring and feedback. These issues do not only impact on the council but on a number of our partner organisations that have responsibility for services to the local community.
13. I would like to express my thanks to my colleagues both within the Luton Borough Council and the agencies with who we work closely who do their best to respond as thoroughly as possible and thereby providing the feedback to each of the nineteen forums that meet along with the area committees, four times during each municipal year.

PROPOSAL/OPTION

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

15. In respect of the application made on behalf of the Bradley Road Allotment Site Members can either
- (i) Refuse the application,
 - (ii) Defer for further consideration once the budget has been agreed for 2005/2005.
 - (iii) Agree to the total cost to be allocated from the new budget or
 - (vi) Agree to a contribution towards the total cost, again to be met from the 2005/2006 budget.

Should Members opt for (vi) above it is recommended that the Area Committee Support Officer be instructed to only release the area committee's contribution once satisfactory evidence has been received that other sources of funding have been found and that the project is ready to proceed.

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

16. 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

17. 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

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

ENVIRONMENT IMPLICATIONS

19. 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