

North Dudley Area Committee 29 March 2010

Report of the Director of Adult, Community, and Housing Services

Community Renewal Working Group

Purpose of Report

1. To update the Committee on the progress to date of the Working Group and monitoring of the North Dudley Area Committee Community Renewal Plan.

Background

2. The establishment of the North Dudley Area Committee Community Renewal Working Group was approved by North Dudley Area Committee at their meeting in July 2008.
3. The Working Group met on four occasions during the municipal year 2008/09 and five times during the current municipal year, to develop and monitor the Area Community Renewal plan for North Dudley.
At each of the working group meetings the community renewal plan was considered and noted with further activities added where appropriate
It was agreed that North Dudley Community Renewal Forum be established to bring community groups together, including those "hard to reach" groups.
4. At North Dudley Area Committee on 24 June 2009 it was resolved that the North Dudley Area Committee Community Renewal Working Group be reappointed for the ensuing municipal year with its existing terms of reference and that the working group comprise the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Councillors Caunt, Mrs Ridley and Stanley.

5. **Report from Working Group**

- 5.1 The Working Group met on 10 March 2010 and discussions were held about the current work plan activities.
- 5.2 Members raised concerns that they had not all been invited to the recent Healthy Hub consultation event regarding Silver Jubilee Park.
- 5.3 Parking around schools was discussed and a member of the committee raised concerns about the danger to health from carbon emissions whilst parents keep engines running waiting for their children. The matter will be referred for a request to monitor air quality around schools.
It was resolved that a letter will also be sent to the Head teacher at Roberts Primary School advising of the working group's concerns regarding dangerous parking of parents delivering and collecting children from school.

5.4 Concerns were expressed regarding taxis illegally parking in Ettymore Road. The issue will be taken to the North Dudley Neighbourhood Services Group for a joint approach to the problem to be determined.

5.5 The working group approved the updated Community Renewal Plan.

6. Completions and achievements

6.1 A successful programme of February half term activities was delivered through joint working with Connexions, Extended Services and West Bromwich Albion Football Club at Coseley School, Bramford school and Dormston school

6.2 Intergenerational dj workshops have been delivered with the Gornal Fun Day committee and local young people. The group now feel confident to utilise the equipment previously purchased with a grant from North Dudley Area Committee.

6.3 A trip to the Houses of Parliament which was organised by the Oval and Tudor Tenants and Residents Association and Area Community Renewal Officer has taken place. The purpose of the trip was to encourage wider understanding of governance and government. Young people from North Dudley youth forum and residents took part in the trip.

6.4 Upper Gornal Voluntary Recreation Association have been successful in receiving funding through the Grassroots programme. This will enable the club to sustain activities in the future.

7. Current and planned key activities

7.1 Grosvenor Estate

The Area Community Renewal Officer and Sanctuary Housing Group are working in partnership to deliver a jobs, training, volunteering and information day at Zoar Church Hall in Lower Gornal on 7 April 2010. People who are currently claiming benefits will be targeted to attend the event, but it will also be open to other members of the public and young people looking for training, volunteering or job opportunities.

The Area Community Renewal Officer is also working with the local ward member, Housing Manager and Participation Development Officer from Housing Services to develop community engagement. A resident's meeting is planned for May.

7.2 Coseley East

A Neighbourhood Employment and Skills Partnership (NESP) will be established once the Regeneration Team has produced a Neighbourhood Employment and Skills Plan for the area.

The Area Community Renewal Officer is working in partnership with Bromford Housing Group to rejuvenate the Rainbow Community Centre. There are proposals to carry out improvements and repairs to the building. A re-launch of the centre is proposed to engage with the wider community and establish the centre for learning opportunities and possibly a job club.

7.3 Youth Café

A meeting of the steering committee will be taking place on 18 March to take forward new proposals to establish this activity.

7.4 North Dudley Community Renewal Forum

The Area Community Renewal Officer will continue to support this group. The chair of the forum has been co-opted to the Community Renewal Working Group and will represent the ideas, concerns and issues of the forum at the working group. Eighteen community groups are invited to this forum and further groups will be identified and invited.

7.5 Neighbourhood Services Group

The Area Community Renewal Officer will continue to convene this group and ensure that community issues and local ward member issues are brought to the group for joint actions and solutions by the partner organisations.

7.6 North Dudley Community Education Network held an event on 25 February to re-launch the network and recruit new members from the community and other partner agencies. The Area Community Renewal Officer and Extended Services Co-ordinator are continuing to work in partnership to support the network. The Charity's objects are to promote the benefit to the inhabitants of North Dudley who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress by reason of their social and economic circumstances, through the provision of access to education, training and development opportunities and support into employment and the provision of youth groups throughout the area.

8 **Finance**

The Area Committee Community Renewal Plan is developed in line with the overall Council Plan and priorities whilst encouraging innovation in the commissioning of activities from a variety of partners which will add value and achieve objectives for their area

9 **Law**

The Local Government Act 2000 placed a duty on local authorities to establish a Local Strategic Partnership to address collaborative working and develop a community strategy and local neighbourhood renewal strategy. Community Renewal is part of that approach.

Section 2 of the Local Government Act 1980 enables the Council to do anything which is likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic, social and environmental well being of the area.

10 **Equality Impact**

The objective of Community Renewal is to promote inclusion and social cohesion. The Community Renewal strategy targets those most in need in terms of deprivation.

Information is collected through each Community Renewal intervention or consultation to monitor the inclusivity and difference made for various groups and people involved. Where inclusion is an issue ACROs engage through various community or interest groups locally to design appropriate responses to different

circumstances

Where children and young people are involved they are directly consulted and involved in designing solutions.

11. **Recommendation**

That Committee Members note the report and continue to support the work of the Community Renewal team in community localities.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Sanders". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning.

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Linda Sanders
Director of Adult Community & Housing

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List of Background Papers
Community Renewal Strategy
North Dudley Area Committee Community Renewal Plan