

**North Dudley Area Committee 23 September 2009**

**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 development of the North Dudley Area Committee Community Renewal Plan.

**Background**

2. The Community Renewal Plan for 2008/09 was presented to North Dudley Area Committee in July 2008 and the establishment of the Working Group was approved by that meeting.
3. The Working Group met on four occasions during the municipal year 2008/09 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 re-established to bring community groups together, including those "hard to reach" groups.  
Priorities within the plan were identified and once targets achieved they were added to the Achievements and Completions spreadsheet.
4. At the meeting held on 3 March a discussion paper on youth issues was presented by the Community Renewal Officer to enable Members to focus on some of the work being carried out in this area. To build on this the Area Team Leader for the Youth Service attended the May meeting to present the Area Plan for the Youth Service.
5. 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.

**6. Report from Working Group**

- 6.1 The Working Group met on 20 July 2009.  
Terms of Reference - it was resolved that subject to the inclusion of the following set of principles the terms of reference be endorsed.  
The Area Community Renewal Officer should
  - Act as a catalyst to bring parties together
  - Be a catalyst to empower community groups

- Be the catalyst to convert Members wishes into actions as agreed through the Community Renewal Plan
- Enter and leave areas as soon as a group has been established and is sustainable
- Ensuring that everybody knew where to go if progress was not being made and intervening as appropriate
- Keeping members informed of progress

6.2 Methods of communication with Members were discussed and a paper will be presented to the next working group to agree on appropriate methods.

6.3 Work Programme - It was resolved to revise and update the work programme and report back to the next meeting of the Working Group. Proposed activity in areas not previously covered such as Wallbrook and Grosvenor will be included in that work programme so that lessons learnt elsewhere might be spread to other areas.

6.4 Invitation of partners - The working group resolved that following election, the Chair of the Community Renewal Forum be invited to attend future meetings of the working group as a co-optee.

## 7. **Completions and achievements**

7.1 Summerhill Community Association, Coseley has become a constituted organisation empowered to run the community centre and increase the use of the centre for community activities.

7.2 The annual Gornal fun day was successfully held on 4 July with in excess of 1000 people attending. The voluntary organisations that form the Fun Day Committee are improving the event each year and have become well established and able to organise this family event which contributes to community cohesion. The groups all raised funds to continue their work for the next 12 months including trips and activities for young and old and estate improvements.

7.3 The PAYP (Positive activities for young people) programme for 2008/09 engaged 70 young people in Lower Gornal various activities including boxing, mechanics, football and dance.

7.4 The 6 week Fairplay project (partnership with West Bromwich Albion FC) which was delivered in Clayton Park, Coseley and The Quarry, Upper Gornal engaged 63 young people on a Friday evening in sport activities.

## 8. **Current and planned key activities**

8.1 Development of new programme of PAYP activities in the Gornal area. Targeted young people have been engaged and a steering group established. Partnership with Connexions, Youth Service and West Midlands Police

8.2 Dudley Play partnership - the Community Renewal Officer is a member of the partnership which is leading on the Play Strategy and encompasses the delivery of new/refurbished play areas for Lower Gornal, Hurst Hill, Sedgley and Upper Gornal.

- 8.3 Healthy Communities Challenge Fund - Silver Jubilee park has been identified as the healthy, family hub for North Dudley. A stakeholder event was held on 17 August to communicate plans and seek the views of the community and other stakeholders. Engagement with the stakeholders is a partnership between Leisure and Culture and Community Renewal.
- 8.4 Progress the development of a volunteer led youth club/café at The Quarry with partners from the community, youth service, Prince's Trust, West Midlands Police and ward members
- 8.5 Development of the North Dudley Community Renewal Forum. The first meeting was held on 27 May and the second on the 17 August. All community groups who attended felt this would a positive means of working together in North Dudley to solve issues and enable their views to be heard by the North Dudley Area Committee Community Renewal Working Group.
- 8.6 Wallbrook, Coseley - establish a partnership with appropriate agencies to consider proposals for this estate and develop a way forward to deal with community priorities and issues.
- 8.7 Grosvenor, Lower Gornal - establish a partnership with appropriate agencies to consider proposals for this estate and develop a way forward to deal with community priorities and issues.

### **Finance**

9. 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

### **Law**

10. 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.
11. 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.

### **Equality Impact**

12. 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.
13. 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

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

### **Recommendation**

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



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### **List of Background Papers**

*Community Renewal Strategy*  
*North Dudley Area Committee Community Renewal Plan.*