

**North Dudley Area Committee 3 February 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 development 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 four 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.

**Report from Working Group**

5. The Working Group met on 14 January 2010 and discussions were held about the current work plan activities.
  - 5.1 Issues brought to the working group by members included reports of underage drinking with alcohol allegedly being obtained from a local off licence. Although due to action taken by Trading Standards and the Licensing Committee to temporarily revoke the licence, the situation has marginally improved.
  - 5.2 Dangerous parking is causing concern for local residents in Upper Gornal and this has been brought to the attention of local ward members. Actions to resolve the problem are being taken by West Midlands Police and Traffic and Road Safety, Directorate of the Urban Environment.

- 5.3 Councillor Mrs Ridley raised concerns regarding the one way system in Roseville. She also reported on a meeting between Ward Councillors, the Group Engineer, Traffic and Road Safety, local residents and representatives of CENTRO at which it was agreed that there would be changes to the bus stop in Green Street. Signage in the area would be investigated.
- 5.4 Councillor David Stanley raised concerns that the parking problems for the railway station have still not been resolved.
- 5.5 The Chairman of the working group resolved to report concerns of obstructive and dangerous parking to the Police.
- 5.6 The working group approved the updated Community Renewal Plan.

## 6. **Completions and achievements**

- 6.1 The North Dudley Community Renewal Forum have elected a Chair to be co-opted to the Area Committee Community Renewal Working Group.
- 6.2 The Employment Skills and Training survey of Sanctuary Housing Association tenants has been completed and the results will be evaluated to decide on further work necessary e.g. adult and family learning courses, community information event.
- 6.3 A football project developed in partnership with West Midlands Police, Youth Service, Coseley School, Sports Development and the Area Community Renewal Officer on a Friday evening is proving very successful at engaging young people through sport. The project is set to continue for the foreseeable future with young people being given the opportunity to achieve Level 1 in Football Coaching to ensure the project is sustainable for the future.

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

- 7.1 Grosvenor Estate  
The Area Community Renewal Officer is working in partnership with Sanctuary Housing Association on the worklessness agenda on the Grosvenor estate. Following a survey of the housing association's tenants a community information event/jobs and training fair is being planned for March which will be open to all residents of the neighbourhood and surrounding areas.  
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 March.
- 7.2 Wallbrook Estate  
The Area Community Renewal Officer is engaging with the community of Wallbrook through their fun day planning committee to develop further tenant involvement. Further work is planned through the worklessness agenda which will involve setting up a Neighbourhood Employment and Skills Partnership (NESP) for Coseley East in partnership with the Regeneration Team from the Directorate of Urban Environment.

### 7.3 Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP)

A programme for young people in the Gornal area is taking place with partners from Community Renewal, Youth service, Connexions and the Police. The programme is aimed at changing the behaviour of a targeted group who are at risk of causing anti social behaviour or criminal activity. The programme includes workshops, mentoring by Young Advisors and activities. Good progress is being achieved by this programme.

### 7.4 Youth Café

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. There have been some set backs due to the lack of volunteers. The volunteer from the Princes Trust is currently advertising for volunteers.

### 7.5 North Dudley Community Renewal Forum

The North Dudley Community Renewal Forum met on the 19 January 2010. A workshop was held at this meeting "Being an effective representative". The workshop was held to ensure all members of the forum understand the role they have in relation to their own organisations and how they can represent their ideas to the North Dudley Area Committee Community Renewal Working Group. At the end of the workshop, the forum elected a chair, David Allen, who will be co-opted to the Working Group for a period of 12 months. The forum will meet again in March prior to the working group.

### 7.6 Neighbourhood Services Group

The Neighbourhood Services Group is co-ordinated by the Area Community Renewal Officer and involves officers from the Local Authority e.g. Housing, Green Care, Waste Management and Enforcement, Schools, Extended Services, Community Safety, and various other statutory organisations e.g. Police, Fire Service and Housing Associations to work in partnership to resolve problems and identify where joint working can be more effective and avoid duplication of services and make best use of resources. Issues raised by ward members and local residents are brought to this group via the different organisations.

7.7 North Dudley Community Education Network is to re-launch following the decision to widen the remit of Coseley Community Education Network. Work with partners to develop this network is taking place and an event is planned for 25 February. 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.



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