
Halesowen Area Committee – 10th March 2010

Report of the Area Liaison Officer

Report of Halesowen Area Committee Working Groups

Purpose of Report

1. To inform the Committee of issues raised and matters recommended for approval (if any) arising from meetings of the Working Groups.

Background

2. Attached, as an appendix is a report of the work undertaken by the Halesowen Area Committee (Community Renewal) Working Group to date.
3. There is no information to report at this time with regard to the Halesowen Area Committee (Cradley/Windmill Hill Regeneration Plan Delivery) Working Group.
4. An update will be given at agenda item No 14 of this meeting with regard to the Halesowen Area Committee (Halesowen Town Centre Development) Working Group.

Finance

5. There are no direct financial implications arising from the report.

Law

6. Section 111 of the Local Government Act, 1972 enables the Council to do anything that is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of its functions.

Equality Impact

7. This report takes into account the Council's Equality and Diversity Policy and there are no direct implications for children and young people in the report.

Recommendation

8. That the Committee notes the contents of the information as contained in the report and appendix to the report.



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Bill Baker

Area Liaison Officer

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List of Background Papers

None

Halesowen Area Committee 10th 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 made by the Working Group in progressing and updating the Halesowen Area Committee Community Renewal Plan.

Background

2. At their meeting on 18th January The Working Group was given an update on the Plan by the Area Community Renewal Officer (ACRO) as follows:-
 - Fatherless Barn – The start date for the Play Pathfinder Scheme, and meetings to take forward the garden/allotments had been delayed until February by the inclement weather.
 - All off-licences in Police Neighbourhood 30 (Hawne & Halesowen Town) had joined the Social Responsibility Scheme, and were displaying the relevant notices.
 - Substance misuse was not a particular problem at the present time, but the ACRO was asked to contact the relevant team to ensure help was available to prevent escalation.
 - The Healthy Towns Project was progressing, and Members asked to be included in any discussion.
 - Police were now holding a mixture of surgeries and PACT meetings, and complaints were made about dates of the latter being inconvenient for some members. Not all members were being advised, and insufficient notice was also an issue. The ACRO agreed to take this up with the Police, and consideration will be given to the new Sector Inspector attending meetings of the Group in the next Municipal Year.
3. The Area Community Renewal Officer updated the meeting on the Cradley and Foxcote Anti Social Behaviour Working Group, and the diversionary activities put in place through Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP). The composition of the Working Group was advised to members, and the reason why it applied to this specific Ward explained. Some concern was raised about anti-social behaviour in other Wards, and members were assured that work was on-going in extending to other areas through PAYP, and the Social Responsibility Scheme. Members asked to be kept informed.
4. The Area Community Renewal Officer updated the Members on plans for the new Hope Centre to replace the Lighthouse Project in Andrew Road. The Group had been constituted, officers elected, a bank account opened,

insurance arranged, and security issues and other information put in place. Arrangements for a temporary Licence to cover the transition period to Lease negotiations are being made. This allowed the Centre to be open although not fully operational. Funding requests were being prepared to cover running costs. The Mayor had been invited to perform the official opening, and would be held on 3rd March 2010, and members were invited to attend.

Finance

5. In line with the draft local community plan, Area Committees plan 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

6. 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.

Equality Impact

7. The objective of Community renewal is to promote inclusion and social cohesion. Community renewal plans target those most in need in terms of deprivation. Information is collected through each CR intervention or consultation to monitor the exclusivity 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 frequently design the response to local issues - such as youth PACT, Junior rangers, Breakfast clubs, Dance groups, football league, homework mates, places to play , young consultants, intergenerational work

Recommendation

8. That Committee Members note the report and accept the Plan as a working document for the year ahead, and with the Community Renewal Service reporting progress to the Committee through the Working Group.



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Linda Sanders
Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services

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List of Background Papers

None