
North Dudley Area Committee 15 September 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 2009/10, 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 23 June 2010 it was resolved that the North Dudley Area Committee Community Renewal Working Group be reappointed for the municipal year 2010/11 with its existing terms of reference and that the working group comprise the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Councillors Mrs Ameson, Mrs Ridney and Stanley.
5. **Report from Working Group**
The Working Group met on 18 August 2010.
 - 5.1 It was resolved that Councillor Stanley be elected as Chairman of the Working Group for the ensuing 2010/2011 Municipal Year.
 - 5.2 It was resolved that the Community Development Officer (Community Centres) be invited to attend the next meeting of the working group to update on the current position regarding Community Centres
 - 5.3 It was resolved that an update report on the Staysafe Project be brought to a future meeting of the working group.
 - 5.4 Dates of future meetings as follows:
Thursday 21 October 2010 at 6pm
Wednesday 5 January 2011 at 6pm
Thursday 17 February 2011 at 6pm

6. Completions and achievements

- 6.1 The weekly job clubs at Rainbow Community Centre, Coseley and Kent Street Centre, Upper Gornal started on 26 and 20 July respectively and the pilot programme will end week commencing 27 September. Once the evaluation of the project has been completed a decision will be made to determine if the job club has been effective in these venues and if it will continue in the future.
- 6.2 Upper Gornal Recreation Association supported by the Area Community Renewal Officer have been successful in their capital allocations bid to upgrade lighting at their centre. This work is planned during September.
- 6.3 Gornal Fun Day was held on 10 July. Around 1500 people attended the day which gives local people the opportunity to come together at a community event for all the family. The event is organised annually by a planning committee which consists of Upper Gornal Methodist Church, Upper Gornal Pensioners Club, Oval and Tudor TRA, ward members and individuals in the community, supported by the Area Community Renewal Officer. Funding for the event this year was received from Grassroots and income from previous year's events.
- 6.4 Wallbrook Fun Day was held on 31 July. Approximately 200 people attended the event which is organised annually by a committee of local residents. Support for the event was received from West Midlands Police, Midland Heart Housing, FHM builders and Community Renewal Services.

7. Current and planned key activities

7.1 Coseley

At least £1 million of Lottery good cause funding has been allocated to the east of the Coseley ward which includes Summerhill, Rainbow and Wallbrook estates. The funding is part of the Big Local Trust programme and will be available over the next ten years to help turn neighbourhoods into better places to live by identifying local issues and developing skills.

BIG will be working with a wide range of local organisations.

The Big Local Trust will help local people and partner organisations set up local funding schemes

Progress will be reported to this Committee at regular intervals as well as through the Working Group.

7.2 Rainbow Community Centre

On the 19 June the Rainbow Community Association re-launched the centre following redecoration and installation of a new kitchen.

Consultation with members of the community revealed that residents wanted to see more activities at the centre e.g. adult and family learning courses and activities for children and young people

New tables and chairs have been purchased following a successful bid to this Committee for a capital allocation.

A successful bid to Grassroots will enable a Breast Cancer Awareness event to be held in October, Christmas crafts sessions during November and a series of courses in January 2011.

7.3 The Quarry Youth Café

The youth café was launched on 16 July with a successful barbeque with around 30 young people attending.

Funding for the youth café has been provided through Connexions Positive Activities for Young People and High Arcal School which funds staff from Sedgley Kids Club. Further funding opportunities will be sought to ensure the future of the youth café.

Two volunteers have been recruited who will work alongside Sedgley Kids Club and will be offered training through Dudley MBC youth service.

7.4 North Dudley Community Renewal Forum

This forum is becoming well established and the members are working well together to address common issues. They meet regularly and report issues to the Community Renewal Working Group through their chair.

The Forum has elected two members to attend North Dudley Community Education Network and one member to attend Civic Heart.

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 Tenants and Residents Association

The Area Community Renewal Officer is working with the Participation Development Team to establish new tenants and residents associations where a need has been identified for example Grosvenor and Wallbrook estates in Coseley.

7.7 Healthy Heart Activities

A project to address health inequalities, focussing on exercise and healthier lifestyles will be developed in partnership with the Healthy Towns Project Manager incorporating the North Dudley healthy hub - Silver Jubilee Park, Clayton and Cannon park, Rainbow Community Centre, local schools, youth centre, children's centre and other partners in the Coseley 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