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WEST OF WATERLOOVILLE FORUM

23 June 2005

CREATING A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY IN THE WEST OF WATERLOOVILLE MAJOR DEVELOPMENT AREA.

REPORT OF CLAIRE HUGHES, COMMUNITY INITIATIVES MANAGER, HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL

RECENT REFERENCES:

None

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report sets out how a sustainable community in the MDA could be developed and considers what a sustainable community is, the key criteria and the community development programme for the MDA.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That a Community Strategy for the Waterlooville development be developed, setting out:

- the new community facilities and services that are required
- how and when they will be implemented
- and by whom, including details of developer contributions, long term management arrangements and role of a community worker.

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##### DETAIL:

### **1. What is a sustainable Community?**

- 1.1. Sustainable communities are places where people want to live and work now and in the future. They meet the diverse needs of existing and future residents, are sensitive to their environment and contribute to a high quality of life. They are safe, geographically accessible and inclusive, with good community governance. They are well planned, built, and offer equality of opportunity and good services for all.
- 1.2. Sustainable communities are diverse, reflecting their local circumstances. There is no standard template, but they should be:
- 1.3. Active, inclusive and safe, offering:
  - A sense of community identity and belonging
  - Tolerance, respect and engagement with people from different cultures, backgrounds and beliefs
  - Friendly, co-operative and helpful behaviour in neighbourhoods
  - Opportunities for cultural, leisure, community, sport and other activities
  - Low levels of crime, drugs and anti-social behaviour with visible, effective and community friendly policing
  - Social inclusion and good life chances for all
- 1.4. Well run, enjoying:
  - Representative, accountable governance systems
  - Effective engagement with the community at neighbourhood level
  - Strong, informed and effective partnerships that lead by example
  - Strong, inclusive, community and voluntary sector
  - Sense of civic values, responsibility and pride
- 1.5. Environmentally sensitive:
  - Actively seeking to minimise climate change
  - Protect the environment
  - Minimise waste
  - Make efficient use of natural resources
  - Protect and improve bio-diversity
  - Enable a lifestyle that minimises negative environmental impact and enhances positive impacts
  - Create cleaner, safer and greener neighbourhoods

1.6. Well designed and built, offering:

- A sense of place
- User friendly public and green spaces with facilities for everyone including children and older people
- Sufficient range, diversity, affordability and accessibility of housing
- Appropriate development that complements the local character of the community
- High quality, mixed-use, durable, flexible and adaptable buildings
- Buildings and public spaces which promote health and are designed to reduce crime and make people feel safe
- Jobs, key services and facilities should be readily accessible, especially by public transport, walking and cycling.

1.7. Well connected:

- Transport facilities, including facilities to encourage safe walking and cycling
- An appropriate level of local parking facilities
- Widely available and effective telecommunications and internet access

1.8. Thriving, featuring:

- Access to a wide range of jobs and training opportunities
- Sufficient suitable land and buildings to support economic prosperity, which also promotes the further economic prosperity of adjoining areas and pre-existing communities
- A strong economic base, featuring job and business creation
- A strong business community with links into the wider economy
- Economically viable and attractive locations

1.9. Well served:

- Well-performing schools, higher education institutions and other opportunities for life-long learning
- High quality local health care and social services, integrated where possible with other services

1.10. High quality services for families and children:

- Good range of affordable public, community, voluntary and private services
- Service providers who work in partnership beyond their own immediate geographical and interest boundaries

1.11. Fair for everyone:

- Recognise individuals rights and responsibilities
- Respect the rights and aspirations of others
- Have due regard for the needs of future generations

**2. Key criteria**

2.1. Before exploring what actions and facilities are needed within the MDA, there are several key criteria in enabling a sustainable community that have to be addressed:

- 2.2 Leadership and commitment
- 2.4 A vision for the community
- 2.9 Developing a delivery plan
- 2.11 Maximising use of school sites
- 2.13 Involving young people
- 2.15 Accessing services
- 2.17 Making the community work
- 2.19 Developing a safe and healthy community

2.2. Leadership and commitment

2.3. In order to ensure sustainability, leadership will need to come from within the community. In the absence of an existing community, this will need to be fostered by agencies through the Havant and Winchester Local Strategic Partnership. In the case of this new community, the overall leadership should recognise the two District Councils involved, the Parish Council in the Winchester area and the Community Board structure in the Waterlooville area.

2.4. A vision for the community

2.5. The community needs a vision, one that gives it an identity and identifies and addresses known barriers and issues. As we don't have a community to work with, this will need to be done around the existing Waterlooville community and with partners. It then becomes the basis for all media promotion of the development.

2.6. As the new community develops, we must ensure that they can quickly become influential in reviewing the vision and become engaged with the delivery process.

2.7. The MDA is currently being seen as a "bolt on" separated from the rest of the Waterlooville community, reinforced geographically particularly by Maurepas Way, but also to an extent by Hambledon Road and London Road. Considerable work needs to be done around integration with the existing community.

2.8. The media message, through the visioning exercise, can be used to counteract any potential feelings of separation and isolation and to reinforce the benefits for those coming to live in this new area.

2.9. Developing a delivery plan

2.10. To facilitate a cohesive community, a plan is needed to deliver the vision. Both local authorities have a key role in this, working with agencies and residents to develop a plan for delivering this community. The plan needs to incorporate a series of projects and events that deliver the vision, with lead "Champions" for each event sourced from within the community.

2.11. Maximising the use of school sites

2.12. The school site has the potential to be used by the community, offering lifelong learning to the whole community, therefore this needs to be taken into consideration when developing the site.

2.13. Involving young people

2.14. Although we don't yet have a community to work with, we need to work with other young people to establish their needs. There are structures in place within the borough to enable young people to have a voice.

2.15. Accessing services

2.16. A central point for residents to access medical and social services; doctors, dentist, health visitors, citizens' advice, housing advice. Local shops which can be sustained even in such close proximity to Waterlooville town centre.

2.17. Making the community work

2.18. There is land identified for business opportunities on this site; the new business providers will need to be engaged with the emerging community to help shape its identity.

2.19. Developing a safe and healthy community

2.20. Access to health facilities is crucial, not just medical facilities but specialist support, and activities for health. We need to eliminate the causes of anti-social behaviour and tackle any symptoms immediately.

**3. Community Development Programme for the MDA**

3.1. Stakeholder Identification

3.2. Stakeholders will need to be identified from existing networks; for example, the Parish Councils, Waterlooville Community Board, residents associations, Local Strategic Partnership organisations. Active resident involvement is crucial and work needs to be undertaken to identify the most effective way of engaging the wider community.

3.3. Stakeholder Event

3.4. A report by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and Community Matters, "Community Buildings," states that community centres need to be flexible and imaginative in response to changing community needs. Centres play a relevant role in making their communities healthier and stronger. A community centre should be accessible to all who live in the area and to people from the neighbouring area. This will help foster good relations between different communities. As well as built facilities, open space provision will be essential, however specific requirements will need to be agreed.

3.5. Establishing detailed requirements in respect of community facilities should flow from multi-agency and resident involvement. The most expedient means of

progressing this issue would be to hold some form of stakeholder event as part of the process of producing a comprehensive master plan for the MDA. This would include invited participants with a stake in community well-being as well as resident representatives.

3.6. The Church of England have already expressed an interest in being involved in the community development work for this area. Graingers have also indicated that they would contribute financially towards enabling the establishment of a Community Group to guide community development within the MDA.

3.7. Community Development Co-ordinator

3.8. Work is underway on investigating the potential for employing a Community Development Coordinator. This post would need to be secured for up to 10 years to enable the community to develop sufficient capacity to sustain community development. Funding for this role would need to be sourced, preferably as part of the developers contribution. The exact role of this post needs further consideration, however at it would as a minimum:

- Work with the Community Association
- Develop the initial vision with residents and develop plans to share and review this vision with new arrivals in the community
- Work with partners to develop, deliver and monitor an action plan
- Identify leaders in the community, starting with organisations such as the schools, church and community association
- Work with the new community, as it emerges, to engage new residents and identify community leaders

3.9. Existing community infrastructure

3.10. A review is to be undertaken of existing community infrastructure including, for example, community associations, resident associations and Parish Councils. A list will be compiled of existing community networks and activities in the locality and how these might relate to the new community.

3.11. The stakeholder event will provide an opportunity to compile a comprehensive picture of all requirements for the community. These will then be prioritised by the stakeholders in order to programme their delivery according to available funds.

3.12. Waterlooville Area Community Association (WACA)

3.13. The views of Waterlooville Community Association are also important, especially as they might be required to relocate in order to facilitate the integration of the MDA with Waterlooville. Contact and discussions with the Community Association has been made and is continuing. The Community Association have a key role to play in helping to integrate the new community within the wider Waterlooville community.

#### APPENDICES:

None