

WEST OF WATERLOOVILLE FORUM

31 March 2010

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - APPOINTMENT OF WORKER & UPDATE ON  
ACTION PLAN

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS (WCC) AND HEAD OF  
DEVELOPMENT & TECHNICAL SERVICES (HBC)

Contact Officers: Steve Lincoln Tel No: 01962 848110

Claire Hughes Tel No: 02392 446633

RECENT REFERENCES:

WWF38 – ‘Community Facilities and Resources’ – 14 July 2008

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Section 106 agreements with Grainger and Taylor Wimpey require the developers to provide the funds to employ a Community Officer for the MDA. This post will undertake a wide range of activity to create a strong social infrastructure, help engender community spirit and support effective integration between the new community and the existing communities of Waterlooville to the east and the rural parishes to the west.

The first instalment has recently been paid to Havant Borough Council by Taylor Wimpey - triggered by the first occupations on site. The report sets out the role and activities of the post at this early stage.

An update of the Community Development Action Plan is also included, detailing the progress on the actions included in the approved Community Development Strategy.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Forum notes the proposed arrangements for recruitment and appointment of the post of Community Officer (Newlands Common).

## WEST OF WATERLOOVILLE FORUM

31 March 2010

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - APPOINTMENT OF WORKER & UPDATE ON ACTION PLAN

#### REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS (WCC) AND HEAD OF DEVELOPMENT & TECHNICAL SERVICES (HBC)

#### DETAIL:

##### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 At its meeting of 23 June 2005 the Forum agreed to develop a Community Development Strategy for the MDA (WWF17 refers). The idea of the strategy evolved because it was felt that, if the MDA is to be considered an 'exemplar' development, as much emphasis would need to be given to the community infrastructure as would be given to the physical infrastructure. The Forum recognised that in order to achieve this, the community and other stakeholders would need to play an active and continuing role. The Forum adopted the Strategy on 20 July 2006 and requested an annual written update on progress made.
- 1.2 One of the necessary elements of the strategy and associated action plan is the appointment of a Community Officer who will initiate many of the planned actions.

##### 2 Community Officer (Newlands Common)

- 2.1 The Section 106 agreements require the developers to provide the funds to employ the Community Officer. This post will undertake a wide range of activities to create a strong social infrastructure, help engender community spirit and support effective integration between the new community and the existing communities of Waterlooville to the east and the rural parishes to the west. A job description for the post was presented to the Forum as an appendix to report WWF38 and is included again as Appendix 1 to this report. Also attached as Appendices 2 and 3 are a person specification and a draft work programme for the period 2010-2012.
- 2.2 The terms of the Section 106 agreements require payment in instalments of a total sum of £350,000, to meet the salary and all on-costs of a full-time Community Officer for a period of ten years plus a one-off set-up budget of £10,000. It also requires the funds to be paid to Havant Borough Council, which is the most appropriate body to employ the post. Havant has an existing team of locality-based community workers into which the new post would fit. The first instalment has recently been paid to Havant Borough Council triggered by the first occupations on site.

- 2.3 It was originally intended that the post of Community Officer (Newlands Common) would be recruited as a full-time post from the start. At that time both Wimpey and Grainger expected to commence building concurrently, leading to a significant number of early occupations. The changing economic climate and the desire to revisit the master plan has meant that the commencement of the Grainger development has been delayed, while the Wimpey development is now well under way. This means that only small numbers of new residents have moved in at the current time. With new residents now living on the development, there is a need for a worker to begin the process of building social capital. However, the relatively small numbers currently in situ mean that it is too soon to recruit a full-time post.
- 2.4 It is proposed to initially recruit the post for 22.5 hours per week. This would allow a start to be made on creating social networks and supporting those residents that have moved in to their new homes. If the rate of house building progresses at the expected rate, it is intended that this would remain at 22.5 hours per week until the end of 2012, at which time it would increase to full time. Although Havant Borough Council will lead on the recruitment of this post, Winchester City Council and a representative of the Waterlooville community will be involved in the interview and selection panel. It is anticipated that the recruitment process will commence during April 2010.
- 2.5 Because of the part-time nature of the early years of the post, a proportion of the sum provided for in the Section 106 agreement would not be used in full by the end of the ten year period. It has therefore been agreed with the developers that the working budget for the Community Officer will be increased to £3,000 per annum. This would enable the post holder to meet basic costs such as hire of venues, printing of publicity material and production of resident satisfaction questionnaire.

### 3 Community Development Strategy progress update

- 3.1 Progress has been limited since the last update to the Forum in July 2008. The slippage in the start of the Grainger development has caused an equivalent slippage in the target dates for much of the community development work. It has always been the case that much of the work identified in the Action Plan would start once people move in to the development. That time has now come and the appointment of the Community Officer will be the catalyst for much of this work.
- 3.2 The target dates have been revised to reflect the slippage as shown in the updated action plan in Appendix 4. All actions fall into one of the following categories:
- Successfully completed
  - Ongoing
  - On target for completion (many of which will be achieved by the Community Officer).

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:4 SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND CORPORATE BUSINESS PLAN (RELEVANCE TO):

4.1 Successful delivery of the Community Development Strategy for the West of Waterlooville MDA would help in realising:

- (i) Priorities within the 'inclusive society' outcome of the Winchester District Community Strategy.
- (ii) Havant Borough Council's corporate priority of 'Social Inclusion'.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

5.1 The cost of employing the Community Officer will be funded through the Section 106 Agreements, with the first instalment having already been paid to Havant Borough Council by Wimpey Homes. However there will be ongoing officer time required to provide management and supervision of the post holder and their work programme.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

6.1 The employment of a Community Officer will help address some significant risks that could affect the West of Waterlooville MDA in the future:

- (i) Poor integration between the new community and the neighbouring communities that already exist, which could lead to fragmented services and a divided community.
- (ii) Lack of support networks and community activity, which could lead to isolation of residents and poor community spirit.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

Section 106 Agreements

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1: Draft job description, Community Officer (Newlands Common)

Appendix 2: Draft person specification, Community Officer (Newlands Common)

Appendix 3: Draft work programme, Community Officer (Newlands Common)

Appendix 4: Community Development Strategy Action Plan – Updated March 2010