

WEST OF WATERLOOVILLE FORUM

11 July 2013

UPDATE FROM COMMUNITY OFFICER (WEST OF WATERLOOVILLE)

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

Contact Officer: Jaime Bridges Tel No: 023 9244 6378

RECENT REFERENCES:

Minutes 22 March 2013

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

A progress report on the work of the Community Officer for the West of Waterlooville MDA

RECOMMENDATION:

That the report is noted.

That a representative of the Waterlooville Churches be invited to a future meeting to present the role and planned activities of the Community Minister.

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#### DETAIL:

#### 1 Introduction

1.1 Jaime Bridges was appointed as Community Officer for the West of Waterlooville in February 2013 and covers both the Taylor Wimpey and Grainger parts of the development. She is employed by Havant Borough Council but works across the whole of the West of Waterlooville area (and the surrounding community where this is relevant to integration) and is paid for by developer's contributions. Jamie succeeds Mark Maitland who has now moved to other community work on behalf of Winchester City Council.

1.2 The key objectives for the Community Officer remains the same and are as follows:

- To facilitate the creation of a cohesive community that is integrated with the existing community that adjoins it;
- To facilitate the active involvement of all sectors of the community in sustainable community activity and encourage sustainable lifestyles;
- To enable the community to develop experience, skills and knowledge, to strengthen their capacity to make improvements to the quality of life of their community and the local environment.

#### 2 Community Development

2.1 *Old Park Farm Residents Association*; since the last Forum meeting the Community Officer has supported the Residents Association to adopt their constitution and identify key priorities. These include:

1. Working with Taylor Wimpey on the pavements and road management.
2. Being involved in the development of the Western Open Space.
3. Addressing the problems at the Play Park.
4. Creating a Phase II Management Plan and encouraging residents to take pride in their community.

Having appointed a proactive Chair, the Residents Association is actively recruiting members and at a Social Evening in June there were over 20 residents present. The Residents Association has taken responsibility for the two Noticeboards on the development and continue to keep them up to date.

In addition to the 'Friends of Old Park Farm' Facebook page there is now an Old Park Farm Residents Forum which provides another useful way of sharing information and building relations with different groups of residents. The Residents Association are keen to participate in future meetings concerning the West of Waterlooville, including the West of Waterlooville Forum, however as the majority of meetings are day time this is very difficult as most residents have work commitments.

- 2.2 *Anti Social Behaviour in Old Park Farm/Taylor Wimpey Development:* There has been an increase in anti social behaviour over the past four weeks, with a group of young people on push bikes visiting the development and accessing the building site. A multi agency task force has been formed with Winchester City Council Community Safety Team, the Police, HCC Accredited Community Safety Officers, Radian, Happy Valley Children's Centre (Denmead) and Motiv8. It is hoped that an increase in police presence on the development will deter the young people and reassure the residents, and that pressure on Taylor Wimpey to review security of the building site will help resolve this problem. Work with Radian to address issues with a very small number of properties is ongoing as is the development of a short term youth work programme with a view to securing funding for a longer term project.
- 2.3 *Community Officer Accommodation:* The Portakabin for the Community Officer has been installed on the Berewood site; furniture has been secured and is due to be delivered imminently. This will provide a base on site for the Community Officer, however as it is situated within the active part of the building site it will not be accessible to the public for sometime.
- 2.4 *Berewood Occupation:* With the first occupation on Berewood expected in early July, a new 'Resident Information Form' has been developed to form part of the welcome pack for future Residents. By obtaining email addresses the Community Officer is able to keep residents updated and the form will also provide information on the make up of households moving into the development to aid service planning. It also enables the Community officer to gauge interest in developing community groups and activities when sufficient houses are occupied. It is hoped something similar can be used with Guinness Hermitage tenants (the affordable housing provider for Phase 1).

### 3 Community Projects & Initiatives

- 3.1 *Old Park Farm/Taylor Wimpey Events:* Two events took place in the spring - an Easter Event saw the installation of the first community Noticeboard and was very well attended with very positive feedback from residents. In May a 'Play Safe' event was arranged in partnership with Winchester Community Safety Team and other key agencies to address concerns of local residents. Unfortunately the weather was atrocious and this impacted attendance with very few adults participating. A group of children and young people did take part and some useful feedback on future activities was obtained. Further events will be held in the summer through the Public Art Programme based on this information.

- 3.2 *West of Waterlooville Community Minister:* Three Churches in Waterlooville have been working together to secure funding for a Community Minister for the West of Waterlooville. Rev. John Thompson has been appointed and will represent the Churches of Waterlooville. He takes up his post in September. Meetings have taken place with Grainger and it is likely the church will be renting one of the larger properties in Phases 2. In the meantime it is likely he will live off site with his family. Meetings have been planned to discuss how the minister can work together with partners and can complement the wider role of the Community Officer (Further detail and introduction in the Appendix).

#### OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

##### 4 CORPORATE STRATEGY (RELEVANCE TO):

- 4.1 Successful delivery of the Community Development Strategy for the West of Waterlooville MDA would help in realising the key objective of 'Safer and More Inclusive Communities'.

##### 5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1 The cost of employing the Community Officer (Newlands) is funded through the Section 106 Agreements.
- 5.2 There will be ongoing officer time required to provide management and supervision of the post holder and their work programme. This will be provided by Havant Borough Council for foreseeable future.

#### BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

#### APPENDICES:

Appendix – Community Minister

## Appendix

### Community Minister for the West of Waterlooville Development



We are delighted to announce that a newly ordained Baptist minister, Rev. John Thompson, will represent the Churches of Waterlooville on the new three thousand five hundred homes development to the west of Waterlooville in Hampshire.

By having a Christian minister living at the heart of the community, available for at least half of his time, we hope to help build a community with soul, seeking the wellbeing of the people who will live at Berewood and Wellington Park by building and encouraging networks of care, practical help, friendship and faith. The post will be in combination with a half-time ministerial appointment at Waterlooville Baptist Church.

Phase 1 of the Berewood site is now being built and occupation will start from this summer (2013). John will take up his post in September, moving onto the site with his wife Lisa and their four children as soon as a suitable property becomes available. About 300 of 450 homes have already been built or are in process in the northern development off Hambledon Road (Wellington Park). The two sections will eventually join up with a village centre and employment in an extended business park.

Working as a connective, creative, bridge builder and 'minister' in and for the community, and in partnership with developers, the councils, and other agencies we envisage a number of opportunities for a faith based worker.

- To network with the council and developers, representing the churches of Waterlooville and Purbrook.
- To facilitate good communication ecumenically, initially pointing people to existing churches where they already have an affiliation.
- To make connections and develop relationships with resident groups and services providers.
- To enable community initiatives and events.
- To develop fresh expressions of Church.
- To offer and enable pastoral care and support.
- To listen to and represent voices within the community.
- To be a visible, hopeful, and compassionate presence.
- To enable connections with local health centres, schools and community groups.
- To live and respond to 'crossing place' opportunities to explore life and faith.
- To encourage dialogue with and between the different expressions of faith.

With the resources of the state stretched as never before, this is an exciting opportunity to help build the established type of community which many will remember as being safe, friendly, and mutually supportive.

Issued by St Georges Church, Waterlooville, Waterlooville Baptist Church,  
Sacred Heart and St Peter the Apostle RC Church, Parish Church of St John the Baptist, Purbrook.

With our decision on the 15th May to call John Thompson we are now able to publicise his appointment both to WBC and to the wider community, including the developers and the local and county authorities. The document to the left has therefore been produced in conjunction with the other Waterlooville churches to provide information to the various congregations and other groups involved in the Berewood and Wellington Park developments. At a very encouraging meeting of the churches who are listed on the leaflet on the 20th May there was a strong feeling from the other churches that at last the project is moving forward and an expressed willingness to not only support the idea, but also to look at any possible ways to make a financial contribution.