

WEST OF WATERLOOVILLE FORUM

17 January 2011

UPDATE FROM COMMUNITY OFFICER (NEWLANDS)

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

Contact Officer: Mark Maitland Tel No: 01962 848518

RECENT REFERENCES:

[WWF53](#) – Community Officer (Newlands) – 13 September 2010

[WWF47](#) – Community Development: appointment of worker and update on Action Plan – 31 March 2010

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

A progress report on the work of the Community Officer for the West of Waterlooville MDA and issues and concerns identified to date.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the report be noted.

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DETAIL:

1 Introduction

1.1 As Members will be aware the Section 106 agreement for the West of Waterlooville MDA ('Newlands' as the development is known) provides funding for the appointment of a person to assist in the development of a strong and well integrated new community as residents move in. Mark Maitland, the Community Officer at Winchester City Council, was appointed as Community Officer for Newlands in a temporary capacity in early September 2010, working for 2 days per week. Full details of the arrangement were set out to the Forum in report [WWF53](#) on 13 September 2010.

1.2 The key objectives for the Community Officer are:

- 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.

1.3 Work to date has primarily focussed on the first objective, that of achieving closer integration of the new and existing communities. This has involved meetings with a range of groups, organisations and agencies to explain the role and to identify any areas of concern or opportunities for a closer working relationship.

2 Resident and stakeholder feedback

2.1 In December 2010 a community survey was undertaken with Duke's Meadow residents (see Appendix 1). Responses from only 8 of the 60 households was disappointing (13% return rate): however, it raised some points worthy of note.

2.2 Waterlooville South Community Board has been discussing the Duke's Meadow development and the wider MDA proposals at its recent meetings.

- 2.3 The Community Officer has met with and discussed issues related to the development with a number of organisations since starting in post. This has provided feedback on behalf of those organisations involved and also anecdotal feedback on the views expressed to them by residents.
- 2.4 Things which residents identified as good about living in the area are:
- a) Close proximity and ease of access to shops and other facilities;
 - b) Development is well maintained and in good condition;
 - c) Quiet and peaceful area.
- 2.5 The issues of concern to residents and other stakeholders are fairly small scale and comments are only small in number. However, they are issues that can impact upon satisfaction with the development as a place to live if not addressed in the longer term. The following issues are all under discussion with the relevant officers and it is expected that appropriate solutions will be found where necessary. However, it seems appropriate to keep the Forum informed of the issues:
- a) As the development falls across two local authority areas, people living in the same street are having their bins emptied by different waste contractors on different days.
 - b) Currently the police response for any 101 or 999 calls comes from Havant even though the majority of the development falls into the Winchester District. Whilst this is manageable at present the issue will become more problematic as the development grows and a greater demand on police resources will be required.
 - c) Concern that there is not enough parking provision to accommodate residents, visitors or others such as delivery vehicles or emergency services. It should be noted that since Phase 1 of the development was approved, both Winchester City and Havant Borough Councils have adopted new Residential Parking Standards, which will be used to determine parking provision for future phases.
 - d) Waterlooville South Community Board is concerned that traffic management in the area is not looked at in a holistic fashion that takes account of all development in the locality. The County Council is the Highway Authority for Hampshire and ensures that development proposals across the whole sub-region do take account of one another. Each development is always tested cumulatively and not in isolation. This is clearly an area in which ongoing dialogue is required during the course of development to ensure that this work is communicated.

3 Community Projects and Initiatives

- 3.1 The main focus for community development work to date relates to the integration of new and existing communities. A project has emerged that may

help with this, namely improvements to an area known as 'Billy's Lake', which is close to Duke's Meadow behind the Jewson Builders Merchants in Soake Road. The intention is to bring together people from the surrounding communities, particularly young people, to make the site more accessible to the wider community. Improvements could include improved access to the site, cleaning up the rubbish from the area, management of the grassed areas and undergrowth and possibly providing a barbeque area on the site. An outline proposal (see Appendix 2) has been submitted to Jewson (the owners of the site) for consideration. Early indications are that the proposal is being considered favourably, but a formal response is awaited. If successful, the intention is to bring together interested parties and form a working group for the project, involving representatives from Duke's Meadow and other neighbouring communities.

- 3.2 A residents' meeting has been arranged for the evening of Thursday 27 January 2011 (7pm) at the Taylor Wimpey sales office. The meeting will provide an opportunity for residents to raise any concerns and to indicate what events and activities they would like to see. The meeting will also include a presentation by Denmead Neighbourhood Watch to outline the benefits of setting up a scheme. If there is sufficient interest, then a further meeting is likely in May/June.
- 3.3 Two issues of a community newsletter have been distributed to Duke's Meadow residents (see Appendix 3). The majority of residents who completed the recent survey identified a newsletter as their favoured way of receiving information on local news, events and activities. The aim is to identify people within the community who are willing and able to take on production and distribution of the newsletter.
- 3.4 Discussions are ongoing to secure a temporary facility on site to provide a base for the community worker, but which can also be used by local residents for small-scale activities such as coffee mornings, after school clubs or local surgeries. This would provide much greater opportunity to engage with local residents.
- 3.5 The management of the new community facility for the MDA is an issue likely to generate a significant amount of work. There are a number of options as to how the facility could be managed, all of which should include an element of community involvement. Once decisions are taken about the governance arrangements for the area and management arrangements for the facilities, work will need to be undertaken with residents to prepare them for their involvement. This work takes time to undertake effectively, so it is important that early decisions are taken and sufficient time is allowed for the necessary preparations to be made.

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) will be funded through the Section 106 Agreements, with the first instalment having already been paid to Havant Borough Council by Wimpey Homes.
- 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 Winchester City Council for the period during which a Winchester City Council officer is undertaking the role.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

Appendices 1, 2 and 3

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 Community Survey Results

Appendix 2 Outline proposal for Billy's Lake

Appendix 3 Community Newsletter