

WEST OF WATERLOOVILLE FORUM

28 February 2012

UPDATE FROM COMMUNITY OFFICER (NEWLANDS)

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

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RECENT REFERENCES:

WWF64 – Progress report on the West of Waterlooville MDA

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

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

RECOMMENDATION:

That the report be noted.

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#### DETAIL:

#### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 Mark Maitland, the Community Officer at WCC, was appointed as Community Officer for Newlands in a temporary capacity in early September 2010, working for 2 days per week.
- 1.2 The key objectives for the Community Worker 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.

#### 2 Community development

- 2.1 *Neighbourhood Agreement* – Forum members will recall that a number of issues have been identified since the Community Officer started in post, many of which relate to inconsiderate behaviour of some residents. It was decided to work with residents to develop a Neighbourhood Agreement for the development which would reinforce to residents the standard of acceptable behaviour expected and to confirm the obligations and responsibilities the various agencies such as councils, police and developers have in supporting the residents. The agreement is almost complete and will be circulated to members of the Forum in due course.
- 2.2 *Residents' Association* – During the development of the Neighbourhood Agreement, the residents involved expressed a desire to establish a Residents' Association, to represent the views of residents living on the new development. A number of residents have expressed an interest in the Residents Association and a further meeting is planned within the next couple of weeks to progress the idea.
- 2.3 *Community Lettings Plan* - There is a community lettings plan for the West of Waterlooville development to inform the allocation of affordable housing and

in doing so help ensure a stable and sustainable community. However, after a number of noise and antisocial behaviour incidents it has been decided to review the lettings plan to determine if anything more can be done to ensure that properties on this development are allocated to more suitable tenants. The review of the lettings plan is identified as a key priority for the Councils and Radian in the Neighbourhood Agreement.

2.4 *Incidents of Antisocial Behaviour* – For the reporting period 1<sup>st</sup> October 2011–9<sup>th</sup> February 2012. Crime Reports Command Central reported 8 incidents for Dukes Meadow area which break down as follows:

- 1 arson
- 1 damage other
- 1 vehicle related nuisance
- Anti Social Behaviour personal
- 1 Anti Social Behaviour Nuisance

Whilst this appears to be a substantial drop from the 44 incidents reported at the Forum during the last meeting in September 2011, it should be noted that the data source and the period being reviewed for that meeting was for 12 months. Broken down those figures would actually equate to approximately 20 incidents as a comparison to the reporting period referred to in this report. However it is hoped that initiatives such as the introduction of the Neighbourhood Agreement and establishing a Residents Association will continue to have a further positive impact.

2.5 *Local elections* – The meeting room at the community office was used as a polling station for residents of Duke's Meadow at the recent Hampshire County Council by-election.

2.6 *Councillor Surgeries* – These were held regularly between September and November 2011, but overall attendance was low so further surgeries have been suspended until more people have moved onto the development. WCC Councillor surgeries will continue to be held in Denmead at All Saints Church on the first Saturday of the month between 10am and 12 noon.

2.7 *Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)* - There are a number of questions that are regularly asked by residents and partner agencies alike. In response, a series of FAQs have been added to the WCC website, so that the information is available at all times. The FAQs will be updated regularly and can be found at  
<http://www.winchester.gov.uk/Business/Planning/LocalDevelopmentFramework/LocalPlan/MajorDevelopmentAreas/General.asp?id= SX9452-A7862F31&cat=8043>

2.8 *Arts Panel* – The panel has met twice and has commissioned Claire Halstead and Steve Geliot to develop a public art strategy for the development.

2.9 *Portsmouth Diocese* - A meeting with the Portsmouth Diocese was held on 9 January 2012 which established a mutual willingness to try and work more closely to serve residents of the development. As a consequence the Community Officer and Jacky Wilson (WoW Implementation Officer) have been invited to attend the Waterloo Church Forum on 14 February 2012.

2.10 *Play Area* – The play area on the development was opened to residents on Monday 6 February 2012.

### 3 Community projects & initiatives

3.1 *Health Walks* – One of the more successful projects to be introduced is the Health Walks. An invitation in the form of a Christmas card was sent to 500 households from the new development as well as from the neighbouring area. The first walk took place in January and they have continued every Thursday since with an average of ten walkers for each walk. Unfortunately participants have all been from the neighbouring areas and no Duke's Meadow residents have signed up for the walks, but the Community Officer will continue to promote the initiative at every opportunity.

3.2 *Billy's Lake* - Work continues on a Project Management Plan, which has recently involved meetings with WCC Planners, The Environment Agency and representatives from SSE and the National Grid. A major funding application to the Heritage Lottery is on the verge of being submitted and if successful, will enable the start of significant works on the site, including a topographical survey for the whole site. The submission of the Lottery application will hopefully coincide with the signing of the lease for the site. In the meantime volunteer activity continues to take place with another litter pick organised for Wednesday 15 February 2012.

3.3 Denmead Youth Partnership, held a Christmas craft & activity workshop for young people on 19 December 2011, though only 2 families (4 people) from the development attended.

3.4 A number of other initiatives and/or projects are under discussion, including a Beaver/Cub group and provision of Adult Education Classes.

### OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

#### 4 SUSTAINABLE CORPORATE STRATEGY AND CHANGE PLANS (RELEVANCE TO):

4.1 Successful delivery of the Community Development Strategy for the West of Waterloo 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 Winchester City Council for the period during which a Winchester City Council officer is undertaking the role.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

APPENDICES: None