

WEST OF WATERLOOVILLE FORUM

12 November 2012

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:

WWF65 - Update from Community Officer (Newlands) – 28 February 2012

WWF64 – Progress report on the West of Waterlooville MDA – 13 September 2012

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 Winchester City Council (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 ***Old Park Farm Residents' Association*** – The OPFRA is working towards formally adopting its constitution at an open meeting in January 2013. The current focus is on developing direct communication and relationships with key organisations such as Taylor Wimpey, Trinity Estates and Radian.
- 2.2 ***Neighbourhood Agreement*** – A final draft of the agreement was produced in October 2012, though unfortunately Taylor Wimpey was not willing to sign up to the agreement. The agreement has been distributed to residents on the development and an electronic copy is posted on the WCC and Havant Borough Council (HBC) websites and will be available soon on a new OPFRA website.
- 2.3 ***Community Worker*** – Since September 2010, the Community Officer at WCC has been filling the post of Community Officer for Newlands for 2 days per week. This enabled the role to be established quickly and with minimum cost, but the long-term intention (as set out in the S106 legal agreement) was always for the post to form part of the Community Team at HBC to take advantage of the local links and connections that arrangement would bring.

- 2.4 It has been agreed by the two authorities that the time is right to make this change and interviews were scheduled to take place on 9th November. The post will now be filled on a full-time basis and it is likely that the new post-holder will be in place no later than the start of 2013. The current post-holder will revert back to a full-time role at WCC, which will allow an extended period of hand over to ensure continuity and consistency in the work. As part of their ongoing work across the District, officers from the Community Team at WCC will work with colleagues from HBC on evaluation of the community work undertaken and to support the Parish Advisory Group.
- 2.5 **Community Office** – Unfortunately use of the Taylor Wimpey compound as a community office had to stop, as it was required to revert back to a site compound as work on phases 3 and 4 began. This means there is currently no fixed presence on site and is unlikely to be so until the first occupation on the Grainger site, at which point Grainger is obliged to provide a working place for the Community Officer.
- 2.6 **Community Newsletter** – Issue 8 was published in September 2012. It is hoped that in the near future the OPFRA will take on responsibility for the production and distribution of the newsletter.
- 2.7 **Waterlooville Community Forum** – The recently formed Community Forum is seeking to develop a Community Plan for the Waterlooville area, which will include the new development and contribute towards the integration of new and existing communities.

3 Community projects & initiatives

- 3.1 **WoWPod Community Event** – This took place on Saturday 15th September between 6PM and 9PM on the small area of open space in Dibber Road/Baler Lane. The event included craft sessions, performances from local bands, poetry readings and a hog roast, as well as the unveiling of the WoWPod. The event also enabled OPFRA to promote itself and sign up a few new members, and provided an opportunity to hear first hand from local residents about their concerns and aspirations for their area. The event was very successful with approximately 50 residents attending.
- 3.2 **Billy's Lake** – A Community Ranger was appointed in September 2012 to oversee the implementation of works to the Billy's Lake site, funded through the Heritage Lottery grant of £77,000. Unfortunately delays with the lease have had the knock on effect of delaying work on site, but this situation should be resolved shortly. In the meantime work continues to support the volunteers for the project and the establishment of a 'Friends Group'.
- 3.3 **Health Walks** – Unfortunately the walks were suspended in September because of the declining numbers. Although participants have all been from the neighbouring areas rather than residents from the development, it has helped to promote the benefits that can arise from such development and contributed towards the integration of the new and existing communities. It is

hoped that the Health walks (or some similar activity) can be resurrected at some point in the future.

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 Winchester City Council for the period during which a Winchester City Council officer is undertaking the role.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

None

APPENDICES:

None