

Aldridge South and Streetly Local Neighbourhood Partnership – 6th December 2005

Funding Priorities for Action

Portfolio: Community Engagement
Service Area: Neighbourhood Services
Wards: Aldridge Central and South, Streetly

Summary of report

The purpose of the report is to inform Members of Aldridge South and Streetly Local Neighbourhood Partnership of progress to date with the funding priorities.

Recommendations

- (1) For the LNP to support the Redhouse Estate Environmental Scheme and note the project will be formally assessed by the LNP Project Team to ensure they meet all of the agreed criteria.
- (2) For LNP members to note the progress of current projects to date
- (3) For the LNP to review progress at the next meeting

Redhouse Estate Environmental Scheme

This project proposal seeks £500 to purchase valuable training resources for trainees recruited onto an Intermediate Labour Market programme in construction, landscaping, grounds maintenance, horticulture and gardening.

Redhouse Estate in Aldridge has secured revenue funding through the European Programme 'Equal' which is matched to funding contributions from Walsall Council (in kind revenue), Walsall Housing Group (actual capital) and Groundwork Black Country (actual / in kind revenue). A new partnership group has been set up to manage the project made up of Redhouse Residents and Tenants Association, Walsall Council, Walsall Housing Group, Groundwork Black Country, Local Neighbourhood Partnerships, Black Country Community Arts and Redhouse School.

A key aspect of the project was to undertake extensive community consultation to determine what issues affect the neighbourhood. These were undertaken in April and June 2005, comprising of doorstep research, questionnaires and public consultation events which piloted a consultation model to undertake research through 'Placecheck', a nationally recognised framework. These events helped to promote, shape and agree the project activities should be around improving the social and economic well being of residents by delivering training and employment through an environmental theme, thus creating tangible benefits to the neighbourhood.

The schemes will tackle key environmental issues identified by residents whilst providing a valuable training resource to young unemployed people who will be placed on an Intermediate Labour Market programme. Local residents in the area will play a key part in ensuring the funds are utilised on worthwhile schemes by encouraging their participation in decisions that affect them and their neighbourhood. The key focus of the project is about developing the skills needed for people, to live, work, and develop their geographical area thus building their capacity to continue their work beyond the live of the project.

Groundwork Black Country are managing a 35 hour training programme which started on 8th August 2005 and currently five trainees have been recruited onto the scheme. Marketing and publicity on the estate through posters and flyers has encouraged four young people from the estate to express an interest in the programme and they are currently going through the application stage. The ultimate aim of the project is to recruit as many young people as possible from the estate therefore tackling the issue of the anti-social behaviour and encouraging young people to take ownership and responsibility of improving their local environment.

The purpose of this LNP proposal is to secure £500 which will be used to purchase training materials in order for the ILM trainees to undertake landscaping schemes. The funding will contribute to the cost of gardening tools, shrubs, beds, outdoor plants, bulbs, gravel, woodchip, soil, sand, turf, trees.

Progress

- Additional funding for summer play schemes, possibility to link with the summer programme

Awaiting Evaluation Report. The £3,000 allocated by the LNP was spent on the following activities:

Redhouse YC - Arts & Crafts, RAF Cosford & Think Tank
Blackwood Road YC - Personal Safety
Aldridge Manor House - Driving Theory

Aldridge Manor House -Have A Go! Sports
Libraries & Heritage - Poetry Writing and Children's Illustrator
sessions

- Railway line hotspot by Hardwick Wood – underage drinking, drugs, access

This project was put forward to Safer Walsall Borough Partnership. The proposal falls outside the Borough Hot Spots, therefore not funded under the Securing Local Neighbourhoods Programme. Possibilities of this being pursued with LNP funding are being considered.

- Streetly Association, refurbishment of changing rooms

£10,000 has been allocated to Streetly Association for this work. 3 quotes have been received and a contractor has been chosen to undertake this work. A further update will be provided at the meeting.