

Willenhall Local Neighbourhood Partnership – 10th January 2007

LNP Funding

Summary of report

The purpose of this report is to inform the LNP on the progress of the projects the LNP have agreed to fund to date from their £33,000 resource allocation for 2005/2006 and £15,000 allocation for 2006/2007

Recommendations

The LNP is asked to:

1. To note progress on projects
2. That project champions feedback progress at the next LNP meeting
3. The LNP consider the projects under '*Proposed projects*' section and take decision to fund or not fund the proposed activity.

Progress on projects 2005-2006

Activity	Allocated	Spent
Christmas Lights for 2005	£11000	£9496
Community Safety	£5160	£0
Youth Engagement	£11000	£0
Summer concerts	£855	£855
Christmas lights for 2006	£4985	£0
Totals	£33000	£10351
Total amount remaining to spend - £22649		

Youth Engagement Project - The beginning of the youth consultation work will start in January at which point Youth workers will be grouping young people together to start the process. The Youth Opinions Unite team will join the process mid February. Any queries in regards to the youth consultation should be directed to Nigel Patterson, District Youth Worker 01922 650441 pattersonn@walsall.gov.uk

Community Safety – the LNP had previously explored the idea of funding a community warden from their community safety allocation of funds, however due to the uncertainty of funding for wardens discussions came to a halt. It has now been suggested to resurrect this idea therefore the idea of funding a community warden has been outlined within the '*proposed projects*' section below.

Progress on projects 2006-2007

Activity	Allocated	Spent
Short Heath/Lane Head - improve War Memorial on High Road	£5000	£0
Willenhall South - improve War Memorial on Little London which will enhance the current investment to improve the monument;	£5000	£0
Willenhall North village green - improve open space adj. to Rugeley Avenue going onto Forest Gate/Lichfield Road	£5000	£0
Totals	£15000	£0
Total amount remaining to allocate - £0		

Willenhall War Memorial, Town Centre

The projects tenders have been issued to contractors to receive their quotes for completing the works. A lighting design is being developed for the central cenotaph and the comments received from the consultation exercises have been incorporated into the landscape designs. Tenders will be received in January at which point a contractor will be appointed. Once on-site the contractors are estimated to complete the works in eight weeks.

Forest Gate Open Space, New Invention

A press release detailing the funders and the overall aim of the project was produced and sent to the papers on the 5th December. Groundwork attended the Christmas Fair/Switch on event on the 9th December. Over 25 local residents were consulted on the idea of providing a village green on the open space. A draft questionnaire has been set out to steering group for comments. This questionnaire will be used to consult with the immediate residents but may also be used to help pilot a new consultation tool on the internet with a variety of other surveys. This questionnaire will be undertaken in early January as well as consultation with the other stakeholders not yet involved. The sketch designs are to be drawn up late January and will take into account all of the comments from the different consultation.

Lane Head War Memorial, Short Heath

The possible design improvements to this site will be looked at by Regeneration in the new year

Proposed Projects

- Community Wardens – falling within the community safety funds allocation it has been suggested the LNP explore the possibilities of allocating some funds towards funding a community warden to work across the LNP. Overall costs for a warden for one year is approximately £25000, this includes all associated costs to employing a warden. The total costs exceeds the current LNP community safety allocation therefore the idea is for partners to support the project by match funding LNP funds and thus raising the total required. Funding such a scheme would meet priorities for the LNP and its partners therefore partners can also benefit from their contributions.
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Contact Officer

Parpinder Singh

Senior Neighbourhood Partnerships Officer

Tel: 01922 654722 Mob: 07921872231

Email: randhawasinghp@Walsall.gov.uk
