



## **OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (ELMBRIDGE)**

### **SELF-RELIANCE FUNDING**

**1 MARCH 2010**

#### **KEY ISSUE**

To inform members of the Local Committee of the intention to allocate £4,916 self-reliance funding to the Lower Green Community Association, to support Super Output Area 43UBGC0010 as an area of relative deprivation as based on the Multiple Indices of Deprivation 2007.

#### **SUMMARY**

In 2009/10 Surrey County Council identified a total sum of £59,000 to support Self-Reliance projects across the County. Of this total £4,916 was allocated to Elmbridge. As a member of the Elmbridge Community Partnership, Surrey County Council has historically sought to support the Elmbridge Sustainable Strategy by working in conjunction with the One Elmbridge Partnership. To this end it is proposed that the funding be allocated to Lower Green as an identified priority neighbourhood of the One Elmbridge Partnership.

#### **OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS**

**The Local Committee (Elmbridge) is asked to agree:**

- (i) To note that the one-off Self-Reliance funding available in 2009/10 and the proposal to allocate this funding to the Lower Green Community Association with £1,250 ring-fenced for youth provision in the community subject to the provision of a properly constituted youth group.
- (ii) That the Lower Green Community Association be required to seek the approval of the Area Director, in consultation with the Chairman

- and Vice-Chairman of the Local Committee, prior to spending the allocated funding.
- (iii) The appointment of a Surrey County Councillor as a board member of the Lower Green Community Association be advised

## **1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

### **1.1 Surrey County Council Self-Reliance Policy**

In 2000, Surrey County Council adopted a Self-Reliance Policy in recognition that there are many people in Surrey living in relative disadvantage. The policy aimed to:

- Target help on disadvantaged individuals and communities so that they could become more self-reliant and enjoy a better quality of life.
- Work on long-term solutions, which would break the dependency cycle.
- Work in partnership with other government organisations, the business community and the voluntary sector.

The Self-Reliance Policy is no longer operational and associated funding will not be available beyond 2009/10.

## **2 ANALYSIS**

2.1 Surrey County Council has previously allocated Self-Reliance funding to the One Elmbridge Partnership to support work in their five priority neighbourhoods which are as follows:

- Walton North
- Walton Ambleside
- Molesey South
- Cobham Fairmile
- Lower Green, Esher

2.2 The One Elmbridge Partnership and its members have worked extensively in all five priority neighbourhoods. As part of this work, the re-instatement of the Lower Green Community Association was supported, as the Association would provide Lower Green with a focal point for the community. Following consultation, it is proposed that the funding only be allocated to Lower Green to reflect the potential development opportunities the Lower Green Community Association could bring to the community if supported by partner agencies.

2.3 The Lower Green Community Association consists of the following committee members:

- Dave Short (Chairman)

- Joanna Fitzsimmons
- Jenny French (Secretary)
- Councillor David Archer
- David Nixon
- Jill Norris
- Claudene Howell

- 2.4 It is recommended that a Surrey County Councillor be appointed to sit on the Lower Green Community Association.
- 2.5 The Association is looking to promote the use of the Lower Green Community Centre as a venue for community based activity and are currently working in partnership with, for example, Elmbridge Borough Council Play Rangers and Burhill Children's Centre. However, to achieve this, it needs to ensure that the facilities provided are of a suitable standard for community use.
- 2.6 The Surrey County Council Youth Development Service is currently supporting two local young people in the development of a youth plan for the Lower Green community. To date, these two young people have secured funding and delivered activities for young people in the local area under the name "No Limitz". Activities currently delivered include quad biking, a beauty and make-up evening, a trip to High Ashurst activity centre and a street dance taster session. The Youth Development Service is providing professional guidance on the provision of youth activities, for example, assisting in obtaining CRB checks for the young people, providing opportunities for accreditation and ensuring risk and health and safety requirements are considered.
- 2.7 It is recommended that a youth work programme be developed in Lower Green by the young people with the support of the Youth Development Officer in consultation with the One Elmbridge Co-ordinator and Local Committee and Partnerships Officer (Elmbridge). To enable the implementation of this work programme, it is proposed that £1,250 of the Self-Reliance funding be ring-fenced for the provision of youth activities. This amount would also include the purchase of a secure cabinet for the Community Centre, in which any resources obtained for the provision of youth activities would be securely stored. Any equipment purchased for Lower Green, by way of Surrey County Council Self-Reliance funding, would remain the property of Surrey County Council.
- 2.8 It is recommended that any funding allocated to youth provision only be allocated if the Area Director, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, is confident that health and safety, risk and insurance implications have been properly considered and addressed. It is recommended that a properly constituted youth group be established in Lower Green aided by professional support and guidance.

### **3 OPTIONS**

- 3.1 The Local Committee has the option to decide whether or not to support the proposed use of Self-Reliance funding.

### **4 CONSULTATIONS**

- 4.1 The Local Partnerships Team has consulted with the following partners:

- Chairman & Vice-Chairman of the Local Committee
- One Elmbridge Partnership Co-ordinator
- Youth Development Officer
- Lower Green Community Association (Jenny French)

### **5 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The Area Director will ensure the projects achieve value for money.
- 5.2 The self-reliance funding must be allocated by the end of 2009/10 financial year.
- 5.3 If suitable projects are not identified, the Area Director may decide it is appropriate to retain the funding.

### **6 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The proposed commitment of this funding is aimed at supporting vulnerable people in the Lower Green community.

### **7 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The ring-fenced funding for the provision of youth diversionary activities may have a positive impact on the local young people and help prevent anti-social behaviour. The proposed youth plan will include issue-led sessions addressing, for example, substance misuse.

### **8 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 The support of the Lower Green Community Association is inline with the Surrey County Council Self-Reliance Policy and the priorities of the Elmbridge Sustainable Community Strategy.

### **9 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1 To aid the development of the Lower Green Community Association as a focal point for the local residents and ensure the provision of accessible services and support.

## 10 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

10.1 The Lower Green Community Association will be required to submit funding proposals to the Area Director in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

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