

APPENDIX 2: EXTRACT FROM 'MOLE VALLEY COMMUNITY STRATEGY - CONSULTATION DRAFT', MARCH 2002

NEIGHBOURHOODS WITH PROBLEMS

What You Said

- Leatherhead is an area of particular need – environmental, social and welfare problems, particularly in North Leatherhead.
- Other areas with particular problems are in North Holmwood, and Box Hill. There are also some pockets of rural deprivation.

Suggested actions included:

- Promote a community appraisal in North Leatherhead.
- Revive the North Leatherhead partnership.
- Work with existing/new residents association in North Leatherhead and help them to achieve some early success.
- Jointly fund a community worker (or several) to work in the areas with greatest problems.

Context

The three communities identified have well-established socio-economic environmental problems. Until the North Leatherhead Focus Group was established, there were no currently active partnership groups working in any of the three communities. Because the range of problems extends beyond the sphere of any one agency or sector, there is no clear lead or overall community strategy, although the problems faced by these communities, particularly North Leatherhead, are generally recognised. As a result, recent projects have tended to be very specifically focussed, often facing major resource problems, and are not necessarily tackling the most severe problems.

Goal

Social exclusion will be reduced and the quality of life in those neighbourhoods with particular problems is improved.

What We Are Committed To Doing

North Leatherhead

- Establish a high-level commitment to a Partnership for North Leatherhead (MVDC/SCC, 2002)
- Apoint a Neighbourhood Manager for North Leatherhead, working to the Partnership (PCT/MVDC, 2002)
- Review the needs/aspirations of local groups for premises in North Leatherhead and seek a common solution. This would require bringing together representatives of the different groups to offer an opportunity to think on a larger scale than any one group can do independently. (MVDC/SCC, 2002)
- Undertake a Community Appraisal of North Leatherhead, including a Planning for Real exercise. (N/Manager/SVSC, 2002)
- Develop a Neighbourhood Action Plan for North Leatherhead based on the priority issues arising from the appraisal and agreed by community and agencies. (N/Manager, 2002)

- Establish a Neighbourhood Partnership for North Leatherhead with representatives of the community and services for joint planning and prioritising. (N/Manager, 2003)
- Support the development of a community-driven Neighbourhood Action Team in North Leatherhead to make use of Land Fill Tax Credit funding (MVDC, 2002)
- Continue support to the All Saints Family Project in securing funding from mainstream and grant sources, and in providing professional support. (MVDC/SCC, ongoing)

NOTE: ACTIONS BEYOND THIS IN NORTH LEATHERHEAD WILL BE BASED ON CONSULTATION AND SET OUT IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION PLAN

Box Hill and North Holmwood

- Review current evidence of need in Box Hill and North Holmwood and develop a proposal paper for consultation with members, services and the communities themselves. (MVDC/SCC, 2002)
- Undertake consultation with the communities and representatives of Box Hill and North Holmwood on identified issues for which we can seek a partnership solution. (MVDC/SCC, 2002)
- Develop an Action Plan for Box Hill and North Holmwood to reflect agreed priorities arising from consultation, to include quick wins and longer term objectives. (MVDC/SCC, 2002)
- Ensure that links are made and maintained with other strategies active in the three areas – Community Safety, Community Learning, Health Improvement Plan etc. Members of the Forum to influence strategic development to reflect priorities emerging from consultation. (All agencies, ongoing)
- Review and investigate the 2001 Census data when available to update our understanding of the needs ‘hot-spots’ and develop/adjust actions accordingly. (SCC/MVDC, 2003).

Additional Things We Would Like To Do

- Sustainable mainstream funding support for proven success, e.g. All Saints Family Project
- Develop a community council – this could be the Neighbourhood Partnership.
- Longer hours for the Bridge Youth Centre
- A safer recreation ground (Kingston Road) – Also make the football pitch useable with proper changing rooms
- Better community use of/access to Therfield School, SCC Area Office facilities (e.g. ICT suite)
- More places for older people to go at times that are convenient for them
- Improvements to the physical environment to make North Leatherhead and North Holmwood more attractive
- Other aspirations for all three communities will come from the appraisal / needs analysis work being proposed – e.g. access to services/facilities/ leisure is an issue for residents of Box Hill.