



**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORK
UPDATE ON TARGETED AREAS IN MOLE VALLEY**

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL'S LOCAL COMMITTEE
(MOLE VALLEY)**

26 SEPTEMBER 2007

KEY ISSUE

To report recent developments on the County Council's community development work within the District of Mole Valley, and recent partnership work contributing to the policy.

SUMMARY

The County Council's community development work aims to ensure that the particular needs of selected parts of the County underpin local service planning and delivery. The work initially targeted five areas across the County, one of which is North Leatherhead ward, within Mole Valley District. This report gives a full update of work undertaken and in progress in that area.

Smaller scale community development work is undertaken by County Council services, with partners, in a large number of areas, where a need is highlighted. In Mole Valley, a number of initiatives have been pursued in Chart Downs and Goodwyns, in order to tackle levels of social exclusion in these areas. This work is summarised in this report; a presentation at the committee meeting will further detail progress to date.

Key to much of this work has been the dedication of partners to produce significant and lasting change in the long term, and particularly to enhance the life chances of the younger generation.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Committee is asked to:

- (i) Note the initiatives in progress and in development in Leatherhead Common and Chart Downs, Goodwyns and North Holmwood;

- (ii) Agree that the Local Committee continues to monitor the work with County Services to ensure they are targeted towards community development areas.
- (iii) Consider ways in which members of both authorities could increase support to work in these areas where it is required.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Surrey is a county of considerable affluence with a very successful commercial sector, high levels of employment and generally low levels of disadvantage. However, there are many people in Surrey whose ability to participate in society maybe impaired, and who may not, for many complex reasons, be able to fully contribute to society and lead fulfilled lives. In November 2000 Surrey County Council adopted a Self Reliance Policy, in order to tackle deprivation in localities that are particularly in need of assistance. The three aims of the Self Reliance policy were:

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

2 ANALYSIS

2.1 The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2004 analyses the relative deprivation of the population in considerable detail. It is a useful tool in comparing the different needs of each area. It is also useful when highlighting where certain services or provision should be targeted.

2.2 Surrey's overall affluence can mask pockets of considerable deprivation, and the experience of deprivation can be greatly increased when less affluent communities are located close to areas that are substantially better off.

2.3 A previous report to this committee highlighted a number of areas with higher needs across the district including North Leatherhead and Chart Downs and Goodwyns.

3 NORTH LEATHERHEAD SELF RELIANCE AREA

3.1 Surrey County Council identified the North Leatherhead ward as a Self Reliance area in 2002/03 and a focus for community development work. This resulted in funding of £150,000 being allocated to the area over a three-year period. The aim of the funding was to provide initial funding for preventative projects to support long-term improvements for the area.

3.2 The Mole Valley Local Strategic Partnership also agreed that the ward would benefit from a concentrated effort by the statutory and voluntary agencies to work for the general development of the community.

- 3.3 The purpose of this focus was to assist in empowering local people to become more active and involved in their community, to attempt a united tackling of social issues in the area and to work against fear of crime.
- 3.4 The North Leatherhead Partnership was therefore formed, agencies such as Surrey County Council, East Elmbridge and Mid Surrey Primary Care Trust and Mole Valley District Council, coming to the table alongside Surrey Police, local schools, representatives of the voluntary sector and local residents.
- 3.5 To oversee the work of the partnership a development worker was also appointed, employed by Central Surrey Council for Voluntary Service. This development worker was to give time and effort to glue ideas, networks and people together. The worker was to be a bridge between agencies and local people to facilitate positive change.
- 3.6 The post together with the partnership has resulted in some very positive outcomes for North Leatherhead since 2003.

3.7 North Leatherhead Community Safety Group (NLCSG)

This group has been successfully established for several years and has been key in driving the much of the work in the area. They have taken an active lead in applying for grants and working closely with local groups, schools and others to run days away for children and families, as well as finding money for environmental development.

The group is comprised of local residents, local policing team, local fire service, local authorities and members and has been held up as an example of good practice for a neighbourhood panel across the district and county.

3.8 Kingston Road Recreation Ground

This area has experienced major redevelopment over the past four years and is an excellent example of a large and successful community lead project.

In the past year funding has been secured, with the help of partners, to build a football pavilion on the side of the Bridge Youth Centre; work is now underway to establish this project.

3.9 Leatherhead Common Casuals Football Club (LCCFC)

It is hoped that the sports pavilion will be the base for a community football club. In an effort to get this up and running the community development worker established the Leatherhead Common Casuals. The two squads are entered into the Surrey Youth Leagues are for under 16 and 17 boys and are supported by their parents.

3.10 Therfield School Sports College

Sports College

The involvement in the community of Therfield School over the last few years has been a credit to the Community Development Worker and the new teaching leadership staff. In 2005 the school was awarded Sport College status and as part of its action plan it was tasked with developing and putting in place a community programme. As a result, local projects have grown up with a specific aim to target anti-social behaviour and fear of crime.

Therfield Community Partnership (TCP)

This small group meets regularly to respond to community safety and policing issues. The group consists of the Community Development Officer, the Headteacher, Assistant Headteacher and the local police officer. The group is working to overcome community safety issues in and around the school.

Community Programme

As part of the Sports College application, the school was required to develop a community engagement plan. The first year saw the establishment of the Friday night 'Total Football' scheme and the mid week basketball club. It has also seen the expansion of the 'Mend' scheme for young people needing guidance in nutrition and exercise, as well as a self-confidence martial arts club, to build self-confidence in young people who may have been bullied.

The Community Programme will continue to work with Age Concern on their 'Coffee and Computer' morning. The Youth Development Service will also oversee the Drama Club, which runs out of the Leatherhead Theatre and saw a very successful production at the end of the academic year.

3.11 Children's Centre and All Saint Family Project

The Children's Centre has gone from strength to strength and has now reached full capacity. Having had a very successful first year, the team are now looking to embed what they have learnt and continue to grow.

A Citizen's Advice Bureau advice worker now works out of the Children Centre three days a week.

The Children's Centre has been held up as an example of best practice and the team have been approached to bid for the opportunity to coordinate the phase-three centres in Bookham, Fetcham and Ashted. The opportunity could bring increased funds and more outreach workers situated in these areas.

3.12 The Bridge and Liquid Connection

The Bridge has seen a period of uncertainty after personnel changes. However, support from volunteers and the temporary staff brought in by the Youth Development Service, has secured a continuation of service provision.

In September 2007, the Youth Development Service appointed a new Youth Development Worker for North Leatherhead. He has a mandate to work in partnership within the community as well as his core youth work. Various age groups are now being catered for and a more focused activities night is also planned, allowing young people to learn something new and build up a portfolio of development activities.

Alongside the Youth Development Team, 'Liquid Connection' will be utilising the site. 'Liquid Connection' has been vital in keeping the Bridge open and offering activities and evenings for young people during the week and weekends.

3.13 Local Policing Teams

The local policing team is committed to neighbourhood policing and has endeavoured to deliver a visible police presence in the area. Fear of crime is still the main issue and whilst high profile arrests and operations have aided the situation, the local team is keen to work with partners to ensure the community are able to contact the police with ease.

As part of this closer working with the community the local team attend the community safety focus group to give updates and focus on community priorities. The local Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) has also begun regular surgeries out of B@titude. , encouraging an informal dialogue with local people.

3.14 Environment, Housing and Residents Ownership

The improved street-scene and appearance of the area has been a credit to the partnership and residents. The regeneration of the recreation ground and the establishment of regular environmental visual audits ensure any flytipping or abandoned cars are removed quickly.

Community 'Clean-up' days and regular consultations have meant that those living in the area are once again feeling a sense of pride in the area. The housing stock transfer scheduled to take place in the autumn will see a boost of funds to the area and some regeneration work in partnership with local groups.

3.15 Bfree and B@titude

The youth café has been providing after-school entertainment for two years and has been actively supported both in time and funds by the partnership. B@titude provides a useful link to the community and the support it gives to local parents is vital. These two organisations are two key elements to the regeneration in the community.

3.16 Community Development Post

In August 2007 the Community Development Worker post became vacant and the role was reviewed.

In future, sports development will be driven through the team in Therfield School. The wider community development role will be delivered in four hours a week, enabling support, but acting as a catalyst for the area to continue its development as a self-reliant community. This will facilitate -

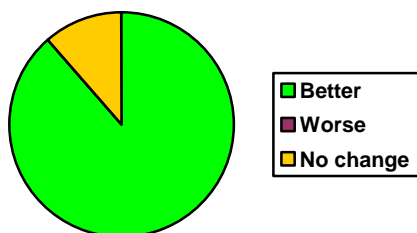
- 1) Keeping the partnership active and working together to the same outcome.
- 2) Maintaining a visible presence and becoming a signpost for those in the community. This will include regular walk rounds and a quarterly newsletter.
- 3) Engaging and empowering the community. As part of the over arching 'self-reliance' agenda it is hoped that the community will be able to take responsibility for projects, funding streams, community groups and development of the area. Whilst the agencies will continue to play a part, the establishment of schemes will come increasingly from the community.

3.17 Evaluation

As part of his evaluation the Community Development Worker undertook a partner and community audit survey in Leatherhead Common to ascertain a wider perspective on how partners and the community think the area has improved in the last 5 years.

Question: In comparison with 5 years ago in Leatherhead Common, are things better worse or the same in the following categories:

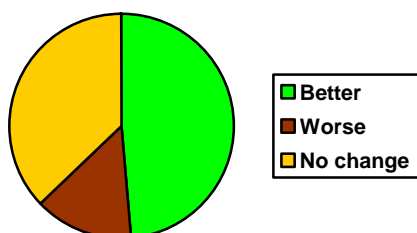
Policing



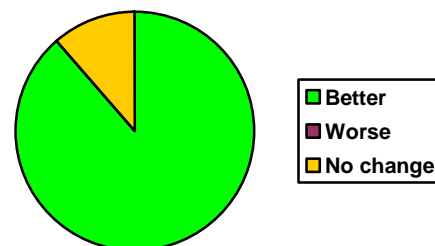
Youth facilities



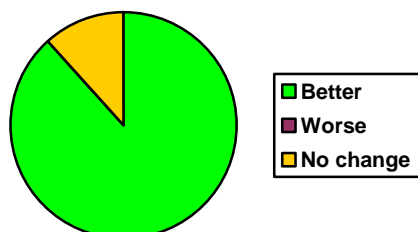
Fear of Crime



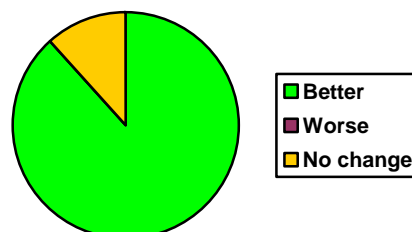
Environment



Social Inclusion



School involvement in the community



3.19 The results show a clear improvement over a period of five years when the work first started. There is still much to do with partners and community together, but there is a strong foundation on which to move forward.

4 CHART DOWNS, GOODWYNS AND NORTH HOLMWOOD

4.1 The area comprises of three distinct communities, each with its own identity and culture. IMD statistics (Index of Multiple Deprivation) highlight the Chart Downs, Goodwyns and North Holmwood as areas of need within Surrey, and in particular within Mole Valley.

4.2 A partnership combining statutory and voluntary agencies was formally established and includes Surrey County Council, Primary Care Trust, Mole Valley District Council, Surrey Police, schools, churches, representatives of the voluntary sector and local residents.

- 4.3 The Chart Downs, Goodwyns and North Holmwood Partnership aims to:
- Seek to influence, monitor and ensure co-ordination of services provided in the area.
 - Facilitate community consultation in planning projects relating to the area.
 - Liaise with partner agencies to raise awareness of community needs and lobby for support in delivering against these identified needs.
 - Assist the different communities in working together for the benefit of the whole community.
- 4.4 A Community Development Worker was appointed in June 2006 and employed by Central Surrey Council for Voluntary Service, funded by the partnership. The Development Worker's role is to initiate, facilitate and enable the partnership to achieve its community aims, acting as a champion for the local community.
- 4.5 An action plan has now been agreed with all partners. Current progress will be shared in a presentation to the local committee, by the Community Development Worker.

5 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The financial benefits of preventing greater future unemployment, reducing ill health etc, are allied to the social benefits of promoting the capacity of people in self-reliance areas to contribute to their own communities and society as a whole.

6 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Successful implementation of Self Reliance initiatives will provide a much wider range of life chances to socially excluded populations, ranging from young people to older residents in a variety of circumstances. The purpose of the Self-Reliance programme is to bring identified areas of deprivation closer to the Surrey average, and thereby increase the participation of the communities affected in the prosperity of the County as a whole.

7 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 One of the principal purposes of self-reliance is to assist communities in reducing crime and, in particular, the fear of crime. By addressing a lack of facilities, and by focusing on parenting and children's education and upbringing, it is intended that the tendency of poorly-supported young people to engage in anti-social and criminal behaviour can be reduced, and that a wider range of life choices available to them can promote more constructive patterns of behaviour.

8 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 Surrey is a county of considerable affluence with a very successful commercial sector, high levels of employment and generally low levels of disadvantage. However, there are many people in Surrey whose ability to participate in

society maybe reduced, and who cannot contribute fully to society and lead fulfilled lives.

- 8.2 The self reliance policy focused on targeting community development support both to the communities most disadvantaged and at risk, and in the most deprived neighbourhoods in Surrey. It has given a framework for better co-ordination of activity.

9.1 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.3 The benefits of achieving 'self-reliance' in communities include:
- Increased freedoms for individuals, better health and self-esteem;
 - By taking a preventative approach, Surrey County Council, and its partners can achieve long term savings;
 - Increased skills available to businesses and more people with money to spend;
 - Reduction in crime and disorder and traffic accidents.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS:	Local Committee funding bids