



**OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE  
(MOLE VALLEY)**

**UPDATE ON MOLE VALLEY'S HEALTHCHECKS AND PARISH  
PLANS**

**3 DECEMBER 2008**

**KEY ISSUE**

To update the committee on the status of Mole Valley's two Healthchecks in Leatherhead and Dorking and to briefly update members of the parish plans.

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS**

**The Local Committee (Mole Valley) is asked to agree that:**

- (i) To note the report

## 1 Leatherhead Area Partnership

- 1.1 The **Leatherhead Area Partnership** an Ltd Company has just recorded its second Annual General meeting. Currently the Company has nine elected directors, and two nominated members, one from MVDC, and one from SCC. There are fourteen members but the company hopes this will soon increase, as the aim is to have representation from as many community and interest groups as possible.
- 1.2 Three priority projects were identified: The River Mole, The High Street and Church Street. The Riverside improvements were largely completed by the end of July providing the resurfaced path between the Town and Thorncroft bridges, where access has been improved, and the new path to the Football Club, where disabled parking is to be provided. Four new benches, litterbins and eight wildlife information boards have been installed. The projects to make improvements in the High Street and Church Street have been frustrated by the lack of funds and changes within Surrey County Council's Highways department.
- 1.3 Two of the SEEDA matched funded projects have made good progress. Director Di Stirling has facilitated with Surrey Passenger Transport Group the improvements on the 479 route and Director John Howarth organised the research into the feasibility for a social enterprise at the Clubhouse, which they are now assessing. He, with the Chamber of Commerce and Business Link, are now initiating a Business support programme for micro and start up businesses.
- 1.4 Going forward Directors have now decided on a slight change of emphasis which prioritises engagement with community organisations to assess what issues they want to address, to offer help where appropriate in say conducting surveys and consultations and then to concentrate on fund raising as their main contribution. In order to implement this changed emphasis of focus the team will aim to improve working relationships with Members, stakeholders and potential delivery partners.
- 1.5 For more information please visit: <http://www.leatherheadtomorrow.co.uk>

## 2 Dorking Needs Action

- 2.1 Dorking DNA (Dorking Needs Action) launched their Healthcheck report in autumn 2007. A subsequent public meeting enabled the core team to prioritize projects and develop an Action Plan. Initially these focused on exploring better use of the footpaths in and around the town, working on improving access at both stations Dorking main and Dorking Deepdene and developing off road cycle routes to the West and South of the Town. A team has also explored the possibility of a heritage and visitor centre for Dorking, but after a joint review with the team running the Dorking Museum they were glad to agree that their plans to develop the museum would meet the needs identified in DNA research.
- 2.2 The team then decided to follow the Leatherhead example setting up as a Company Limited by Guarantee but with the intention of becoming a charity.

2.3 The current priorities of DNA are :

- To develop a bid into the SEEDA Small Rural Towns Programme – working closely with MVDC, the team are looking at a number of different elements focusing on improving the vitality of the town centre. These include improving footpaths within the towns, improving the promotion and facilities of the market, and improving facilities for cycle parking. If successful the team will be looking to implement these projects in 2009/10
- To increase the membership of DNA by seeking to invite representation from local organisations. The first AGM will take place before the end of March 2009

2.4 For further information please visit: <http://www.dorkingdna.org>

### **3 Parish Plans**

#### **Bookham Village Plan**

- 3.1 Following public meetings over the summer, a very enthusiastic group of local residents has come forward to carry out what is being called Bookham Vision with the strap line of “your voice shaping our future”. The Team will be following the methodology of the Market Town Healthcheck( HC). Recently the HC process has been reviewed by a small team from the South East Rural Towns Partnership led by Chris Windrige, the Chair of the Caterham ABC (former HC committee and now moving to become a Town Partnership), who has been working for Action for Market Towns. Chris will be helping and supporting the Bookham team particularly on the data collection and completion of worksheets.
- 3.2 As well as the wider Forum and Steering Committee, there are five Working Groups covering, Transport and Access, Social and Community, Environment, the Economy and Promotion and Communications. Additionally the Steering Committee has a group of Consultants giving assistance.
- 3.3 The first phase, concentrating on fact finding from publicly available sources and raising awareness of the project, is now well under way with public launch scheduled for 13<sup>th</sup> December.

#### **3.4 Parish Plans**

##### **Completed Parish Plans**

Brockham	Buckland
Capel (Coldharbour and Beare Green)	Headley
Leigh	Newdigate
Ockley	

##### **Plans in Progress**

Betchworth - Group are finalising their questionnaire

##### **Plans about to start**

Charlwood - planning to have an open weekend 21/01/09 to launch to the public

### **Parishes not yet engaged with idea**

Abinger  
Holmwoods

Mickleham  
Wotton

## **4 Main Issues**

- 4.1 Surrey Community Action holds a database on to which are loaded all the completed plans across Surrey. Whilst it can list all activities, with a status report, a resource now needs to be identified to enable this to be maintained and kept up to date. This includes monitoring progress in implementing plans. SCA is aware that many of the parishes are now successfully implementing actions, but we do not currently have up date information and equally important we do not know if some actions have fallen by the way side, and again resource is need to support this.
- 4.2 Some Parishes e.g. Leigh will be considering reviewing their plan but currently there is no funding available to help Parishes either with a review, or in fact to embark upon a plan.
- 4.3 The importance of encouraging good links between the communities with the plans and the District and County Council strategies and the Local Area Agreements.
- 4.4 Sustaining enthusiasm and interest when resources are reduced.
- 4.5 The SEEDA Small Towns Programme has offered eligible town the opportunity of funding if they can meet the criteria. Developing complex bids, which require match funding, without a dedicated resource has been a challenge and will continue to be so

## **5 CONSULTATIONS**

- 5.1 Each Healthcheck and Parish Plan relies on the support and input of the local residents and partners. Both the Leatherhead Area Partnership and the Dorking Needs Action groups have undertaken extensive consultation, which is available to view.

## **6 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The groups meet all equalities and diversity requirements.

## **7 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 Should crime and disorder issues be raised in the consultation process and be part of the final plan the groups under the guidance of the officers will feed these concerns to the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership and Surrey Police. If the plans contain specific projects related to crime and disorder the relevant partners will be consulted and the actions will be targeted together.

## **8 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 The Committee is asked to note the report and feedback any comments through the Local Committee and Partnership Officer.

## **9 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1 This is a briefing paper to ensure all members are aware of the two Healthchecks and the Parish Plans in Mole Valley. If additional information is required please contact the Local Committee and Partnership Officer.

## **10 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT**

- 10.1 Each Healthcheck and Parish Plan group will continue its work as detailed above and in the presentations. An annual report will be brought back to the Mole Valley Local Committee and the local members will be made aware of any progress.

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**BACKGROUND PAPERS:**