



OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (MOLE VALLEY)

Update on the key priority places in Mole Valley

23rd September 2009

KEY ISSUE

Successive iterations of the Mole Valley Community Plan and the wide community consultations in support of them have identified two geographic communities with greatest need as measured by the indices of multiple deprivation (IMD): North Leatherhead and the diverse areas south of Dorking, comprising Chart Downs, Goodwyns, North Holmwood and Rough Rew.

This has been backed up by the evidence of dedicated community development workers in each area, by major housing associations in the area, other service providers including the PCT and the police, by local Councillors and by the work of the CDRP (Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, which feeds into the LSP). Thus, both areas now have dedicated community development partnerships (The Leatherhead Common Partnership and the Links Partnership), which seek to bring together residents and service providers to solve problems and advance community spirit.

SUMMARY

This report will provide information on how partners have improved outcomes in the last 12 months in North Leatherhead (Leatherhead Common Partnership) and the area South of Dorking (Links Partnership). The report will also detail work planned for the future that partners intend to deliver.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Committee (Mole Valley) is asked to:

- (i) Note the report
- (ii) Recognise the work of partners in improving outcomes for Mole Valley priority places
- (iii) Comment on and support the work in these key priority places in Mole Valley

1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Partners in Mole Valley work together through the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP). Partners include Mole Valley Housing Association, Mole Valley District Council, the Primary Care Trust, Surrey Police, Surrey County Council, Surrey Council for Voluntary services. The LSP has strong links with the Mole Valley Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership.

The work programme of the partnership has been based upon the local community plan. However, the partnership has recently reorganised itself to support more closely the co-existing Countywide Community Plan (A Vision for Surrey in 2020), and the priorities agreed by the Surrey Strategic Partnership (SSP).

The Surrey Strategic Partnership has identified five thematic priorities as follows:

- Safer and Stronger Communities
- Children and Young people
- Economic Development
- Health and Wellbeing
- Housing, Infrastructure and Environment

Many of these themes and their specific priorities and targets are especially relevant to the two geographic areas identified above. Other priorities and targets either apply more generally to Mole Valley's population, or are not a priority for the district currently.

The Mole Valley LSP's remit is therefore:

- Target delivery of interventions that support Surrey Strategic Partnership's themes in Leatherhead Common and the area south of Dorking covered by the Links Partnership
- Identify other specific communities or sectors where targeted delivery against Surrey's themes is required and plan to meet these specific needs
- To do so in a way that maximises value for money

2 ANALYSIS

NORTH LEATHERHEAD

2.1 Statistical analysis of area

Between the 2004 and 2007 Indices of Multiple Deprivation there have been some notable improvements in some of the outcome measures. Crime and Disorder stands out as a significant improvement, an issue which featured as a top priority in the initial community consultation conducted in 2003. In the 2007 IMD, one of the Super Output Areas in North Leatherhead has fallen 399 places in the County from 117th to 516th place and North Leatherhead In general does not feature in the top crime and disorder areas in the district. Equally, North Leatherhead no longer registers as the top area for deprivation in the District, although one of the Super Output Areas incorporating Clements Mead has the 2nd highest deprivation score (district-wide) and 42nd in the County, rising to 6th countywide for income deprivation affecting older people. This statistic, combined with anecdotal evidence, has resulted in the need for the Partnership to focus on older people and this has been incorporated into the new action plan.

2.2 Completed and current projects with outcomes

In Leatherhead Common, partnership working has delivered significant improvements across the board ranging from a reduction in crime and anti-social behaviour to increased youth provision and better relationships between residents and local service providers. The partnership approach usually involves the development and delivery of projects within an agreed priority area and the three main themes in the action plan are currently older people, young people and community safety. There is much going on in the area however the projects listed below are projects which would not happen without a partnership approach to delivery.

Older People's Event for North Leatherhead residents was held last year to identify issues and raise awareness of key local services, as well as bringing older people in the community together. This project contributed to health and wellbeing objectives as well as the safer and stronger communities objective. This project has provided the basis for future work in 2009.

Football Development Plan - the football development plan and sports pavilion were launched at Easter and a programme to provide football coaching over the next three years started in August 2009. The existing outcome is that an average of 10 - 30 young people are playing football at least twice a week and this is a valuable diversion and contributes to health and wellbeing objectives.

North Leatherhead United - supported by the partnership and linked to the development plan, this initiative will focus on a youth football team for the area, providing a valuable diversion and contributing to healthier lifestyles.

MTB Cycling Project - this is an intergenerational project whereby adult ride leaders take young people on supervised bike rides in the district. The

scheme has taken between 8 - 10 young people at a time out into the countryside and this contributes to health and well-being and community safety objectives.

North Leatherhead Community Group - the group has contributed significantly to improving community safety in the area and has recently delivered a range of projects including the development of a website which helps to signpost residents to local services and information.

Planned future projects and expected outcomes

Community Garden - this is an intergenerational project, which aims to provide a garden area for residents and community organisations to grow their own vegetables. It is hoped that this will not only facilitate resident involvement and contribute to a safer and stronger place to live but will also act as a central point for community initiatives ranging from adult learning to a space for older people to socialise and build relationships with younger generations. Work parties are scheduled throughout August and September.

Community facility for older residents - this is on the action plan and could ultimately be linked to the community garden as this area contains a suitable facility for socialising and for other community purposes. This is only a proposal at this stage although it would really help to meet identified local needs.

LINKS PARTNERSHIP

2.3 Statistical analysis of area

The LINKs area rose to become the highest area of deprivation in Mole Valley in the 2007 Indices of Multiple Deprivation. In particular the Goodwyns super output area rates as the top area for deprivation in Mole Valley and as the 27th area most in need countywide rising from its 49th place in 2004. Significantly Goodwyns has the 8th highest deprivation score for education and skills countywide. Other areas of concern include income (19th) employment (24th) Health deprivation and disability (51st) living environment (46th) Income affecting children (37th) The Chart Downs area also saw a rise from its 186th place on the IMD 2004 to a place of 106th on the IMD 2007 with areas such as education and skills, barriers to housing and income deprivation affecting both children and older people. The aim of the LINKs partnership and action plan is to improve the quality of life in the area to the south of Dorking encompassing Chart Downs, Goodwyns, Rough Rew and North Holmwood thereby maintaining and developing a 'sense of community', and to enhance, strengthen and consolidate the existing local infrastructure and services.

2.4 Completed and current projects with outcomes

St John's School - The school sits in the heart of the Links' area and in 2007 went into special measures. Much of the partnership work has gone into

supporting the school and developing projects which will strengthen the school's intrinsic value to the surrounding community. In May 2009 St John's came out of special measure and is now a satisfactory school with rising standards. The school site has enormous potential for community development and the following projects are underway.

Holmwood Building and Community Learning - Links plan is to refurbish this building which sits on the St John's School site. The partnership has already run successful learning courses both within and outside of Links plan is to refurbish this building which sits on the St John's School site. The school opening hours. Capital Funding from SCC will deliver the refurbishment programme and the building will become an excellent centre for IT, learning courses and youth provision. East Surrey College has transferred many of its courses previously run out of Dene Street in Dorking to the Holmwood Building. We are seeing increasing numbers of local residents engaging with learning and the further development of the Holmwood Building will meet one of the Partnership's key objectives to improve education and skills. Chart Downs Club has also run several successful courses during 2009 for local residents.

Multi-sports facility - Evidence such as the Dorking Town Health check Report indicted a need for a multi-sports facility in the south of the district. Links Partnership agrees that St John's would be an ideal site for this. The current astro-turf on the site is worn out and unsuitable for lettings or all weather use. In 2007 MVDC gave a grant of £100,000 towards the replacement and upgrading of the astro. SCC has now confirmed that they will fund the new multi-sports facility in partnership with MVDC. It is envisaged that this will really support development of the North Holmwood Football Club and other local sporting activities.

Play Farm- Links formed a Play Farm Team to develop a community farm and growing space in the paddock at the rear of the School site. A 5 year development plan and budget has been developed and funding bids are currently being considered by Johnson's Wax and Wates for the initial groundworks and fencing. During 2009 several community work days were held and allotments created initially for the children to grow vegetables etc. The Farm will be open for local residents outside of school hours and will encourage social cohesion and healthy living.

Community swimming pool conversion to all weather facility - the school pool re-opened to the community during the summer holidays of 2008 providing a good local facility for families. MVDC have now given a £15000 grant towards an all weather retractable roof. Links are seeking further funding of £15000 in order to start works.

B-Spoke- The off-road mountain bike project continues to grow and now has 44 regular cyclists aged 9 to 16 years from the local area participating. The project is the only youth provision in the Links area. Funding is now being sought through the Grassroots Fund for £5000 for the training of 12 new Ride Leaders, equipment replacement and First Aid Training.

King George V Playing Fields - These fields sit at the heart of the Links' area and the Partnership works together to support the provision of activities which contribute to healthy lifestyles, help to tackle anti-social behaviour and improve the environment including the development of the pond. The skate park was completed in 2007 and has proved popular with local young people... The remaining work constitutes two distinct projects:

Football Development Plan - Building the Pavilion, improving the playing fields and football development by April 2010. A bid submitted to the Football Foundation for £198k was successful. MVDC are putting in £300k. Costings for the project are around £500k. The Pavilion will begin to be built in the autumn of 2009.

Environmental Regeneration Project - £70k of Mole Valley funds have been earmarked for this project as a primary to get external funding in to create a better green space in KGV. The aim will be to work with other partners, specifically the Forestry Commission to develop a holistic area for socialising, and recreational opportunities for young and old, interacting with nature. The project is scheduled for 2010/11

Loud and Proud - Funding was achieved from "Creative Communities" to launch a Community Choir in April 2009. The Choir has a membership so far of around 35 people aged 8 to adult and draws a healthy mix of local residents as well as members from across the district. It has already performed at the local School fair and will be performing in Dorking on 26th September. Funding is being sought to continue the Choir post April 2010 when the current funding runs out.

Goodwyns' Community Group - "Putting the "good" back into Goodwyns" The residents group newly formed in 2008 has held successful community days including bulb planting and information evenings. Several Car Boot sales have now taken place on the School site bringing local residents together and the Friends of the School have provided refreshments.

Planned Future Projects and Expected Outcomes

Many of the current projects are still to be completed as outlined above however one key project is the further development of Youth Provision in the area.

Meetings have been held within the partnership and SCCYS to development and seek to implement a regular youth club situated in the Links area and beginning in January 2010. It is hoped that ProjX will work with local volunteers to run a weekly club.

3 CONSULTATIONS

- 3.1 Community consultation in North Leatherhead and Links has been conducted with both residents and service providers and this has provided the basis for the new partnership action plan.

4 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Partnership working is essential to finding ways to deliver improved services in a more cost effective way. The Local Strategic Partnership seeks to align partners' mainstream core business and resources to realise the 2020 vision. This is reflected at the local level with the need to align services to good effect wherever possible.
- 4.2 There is no new money to fund the Local Strategic Partnership therefore priorities are addressed through the community development officers, and where partners have indicated that they are prepared to commit and have capacity to deliver improvements.
- 4.3 There are also wider economic and financial benefits to improving outcomes for these priority places by making Mole Valley a better place to live and work.

5 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Data is regularly analysed to inform decision making in the Local Strategic Partnership with regards to communities or sectors in Mole Valley, which may need to be prioritised by the partnership.

6 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Local Strategic Partnership was established against the Surrey Strategic Partnership, of which one the themes are Safer and Stronger communities. The work that the Local Strategic Partnership is doing towards Safer and Stronger Communities is detailed in the report.

7 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 Partners will continue to work together to improve outcomes for Mole Valley's priority places.

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