

DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, GROVE HOUSE, HIGH STREET NORTH, DUNSTABLE

ON TUESDAY 14TH JANUARY 2008

Present: Councillor Mrs B M Boatwright (Town Mayor); Councillors T C Colbourne (Chairman), Mrs C Gresham, J Harnett, M Hearty, A E Green, A Fairbairn, J Freeman, Mrs S A Newton and Mrs A Stock

In Attendance: Mr D Ashlee (Town Clerk) and Mr M McGann (Head of Community and Young People's Services)

Apologies for Absence: Councillor C Meakins-Jell

10 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 6th November 2007 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

11 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following members declared their interest in the item indicated:

Councillor Mrs Boatwright	Cordova	Personal Interest (Member of Management Committee)
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12 OLDER PEOPLE'S DAY CARE SERVICES

The Head of Parks and Cemetery Services submitted a detailed progress report on the continuing success of this service and highlighted recent activities arranged for club members.

13 VULNERABLE ADULTS POLICY AND PRACTICE.

The Head of Parks and Cemetery Services submitted a report outlining the Council's requirement to develop a Vulnerable Adults Policy as part of the conditions of contract with Bedfordshire County Council for the Older People's Day Care Services contract.

RESOLVED: that a recommendation be made to Finance and General Purposes that the Council adopt the Vulnerable Adults Policy as now amended.

Action: Head of Parks and Cemetery Services

14 CONFIDENT COMMUNITIES FUND

The Town Clerk updated the Committee on details of Bedfordshire County Council's consultation on the revised proposals to devolve £80,000 of expenditure to Dunstable Town Council for 08/09 financial year to target initiatives that support community safety within Dunstable.

RESOLVED: that the following projects are submitted as the Town Council's application to the Confident Communities Fund:

Action	Potential Expenditure	Category	Comments
Refurbishment of the Mayfield Centre	£50,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug and alcohol prevention • Young people • Crime prevention/visible deterrents 	This option is aligned to the aspiration of keeping the Mayfield Centre open and will lead to a complete review as to what services and functions are delivered from the Mayfield Centre.
Parks signage	£12,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crime prevention/visible deterrents • Environment 	This option would target the main parks in Dunstable and would include an initiative to promote a hotline for residents to report graffiti/vandalism and would also help to promote a safer environment within our parks.
Smart water	£5,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crime prevention/visible deterrents 	This option is favoured by the police and would be targeted in the first instance to areas with a high incidence of burglary.
Part fund additional youth offending worker	£12,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug and alcohol prevention • Young people • Crime prevention/visible deterrents 	This initiative would be developed with the Youth Offending Team and would ensure dedicated youth offending work in Dunstable. It would require additional funding from other sources and any arrangement would be for a 1 year period only and would not have any ongoing financial impact on the Council.

Action: Town Clerk

15 YOUTH OUTREACH

The Head of Community and Young People's Services reported on current youth outreach work which continued in all areas of Dunstable. Over the Christmas holiday period 38 young people received information on safe drinking and risk taking behaviour.

The Head of Community and Young People's Service reported on the success of the Meadway Allotment Project with 10 young people completing the three weeks, and the continued work to encourage young people within the Spoodell area to participate in the spring to grow their own fruit and vegetables.

16 MAYFIELD CENTRE

The Head of Community and Young People's Services reported that the centre Christmas opening programme was well attended. The homework drop-in was busier than usual as young people attending schools and colleges completed project and course work before the

Christmas holidays. The Parents and Tots attendees again arranged a Christmas party with support from local organisations.

17 PLAY STRATEGY

The Head of Community and Young People's Service presented a report on the development of a Play Strategy for the district area of South Bedfordshire. The strategy promotes a firm commitment to the value of children and young people as well as a clear vision for play in the South Bedfordshire for the next five years detailing the aims, objectives and policies for play.

The Play Strategy has seven objectives namely:

- Objective 1 Champion the needs of children and young people and raise the profile of play throughout the district
- Objective 2 Empower and enable children and young people to control the direction of their own play.
- Objective 3 Develop accessible and exciting play environments in South Bedfordshire
- Objective 4 Increase play value in design and implementation of play space (integrating the design of play areas within the development planning stage of developments).
- Objective 5 Develop a co-ordinated multi-agency approach to play.
- Objective 6 Make play sustainable for children, young people and their communities.
- Objective 7 Support the development of qualified workers and volunteers in play.

Underpinning each objective is an action plan that sets out specific actions to be undertaken by the partnership. There is still further work being undertaken in the development of the 5 year action plan.

The development of the strategy led to a successful application to the Big Lottery Fund of £244,000 to support the objectives.

18 FUNDING FOR THE PLACE IMPROVEMENTS

The Committee received the report of the Head of Community and Young People's Services on the works being undertaken at The Place financed by funding secured by the Teen Council.

Members considered a request for additional funding of £5,300 for the replacement of the floor covering in the main hall and additional outside lighting to the front façade. This funding also supported the monies secured by the Teen Council of £7,650 from the Youth Opportunities Fund.

RESOLVED: that a recommendation be made to Finance and General Purposes for the Council to authorise the funds to be released from identified earmarked reserves for General Projects

Action—Head of Community and Young People Services

19 **DRAFT BUDGET 2008/2009**

The Committee considered the draft budget for 2008/2009.

RESOLVED: that the draft budget be approved and forwarded to Finance and General Purposes Committee with a recommendation to introduce a pricing concession of £0.50 for siblings being booked onto the Council's play schemes.