

DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

HELD AT GROVE HOUSE, HIGH STREET NORTH, DUNSTABLE

ON MONDAY 17TH JULY 2006

Present: Councillor Mrs B M Boatwright (Deputy Town Mayor), Councillor Mrs S A Newton (Chairman); Councillor T C Colbourne (Vice-Chairman); Councillor A J Fairbairn with Councillor Mrs J K Fairbairn, Mrs H Hupton (Deputy Town Clerk) and Mr M McGann (Youth and Community Manager).

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Mrs C M Gresham (Town Mayor); Councillors A Bray, J Freeman and Mrs A Stock and Mrs K Winton (Performance and Environment Manager).

208 INQUORATE MEETING

There being insufficient Members to constitute a quorum those Councillors present agreed to continue with the meeting and to submit recommendations on all items for adoption at the next Council meeting.

209 MINUTES

RECOMMENDED: that the Minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on 8th and 22nd May 2006 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

210 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Members declared their interest in the items indicated:

Councillor Mrs Boatwright	Dunstable Old People's Welfare Association	Prejudicial Interest
Councillor Mrs Newton	Peter Newton Pavilion	Personal Interest

211 SOCIAL SERVICES

The Deputy Town Clerk updated Members on discussions with County Officers regarding the Councils' partnership work which had included a recent meeting to consider formalising funding arrangements for the Older People's Healthy Living Project. It was noted that, due to changes in officer responsibility, Mr Alan Armitage would no longer be attending meetings of this Committee.

212 OLDER PEOPLE'S HEALTHY LIVING PROJECT

The Deputy Town Clerk presented the progress report of the Performance and Environment Manager in her absence. The Dunstable Old People's Welfare Association had now submitted its completed Big Lottery application. It was further noted that the project had been the subject of this Council's submission to the NALC Community Empowerment Awards 2006.

RECOMMENDED: that the report of the Performance and Environment Manager be

received.

213 YOUTH OUTREACH PROJECT

The Youth and Community Manager presented a progress report on current work with young people. In addition to the information contained in the report he advised that:

- a meeting was being arranged with Alcohol Service in the Community to consider a joint project targeting young people on the streets eg. midnight football
- Dunstable College had now been confirmed as the site for this year's temporary skate park. It was hoped that the balance of funding for this year's project would be secured from the 'extended schools' budget and the Police
- the arrangement for use of the Place by clients of the Townsend Centre would be on formal fee paying basis.

RECOMMENDED: i) that the report of the Youth and Community Manager be received

ii) that the Youth and Community Manager be authorised to develop proposals for the introduction of an annual youth award.

214 'TEEN COUNCIL' SUB COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDED: that the Minutes of the Meetings of the 'Teen Council' Sub Committee held on 5th June and 5th July 2006 be received.

215 MAYFIELD CENTRE

The Youth and Community Manager presented a progress report on events and activities taking place at the Mayfield Centre. Numbers of contacts at the Centre during the last 2 month period, in comparison to the previous year, had been as follows:

<u>Type of sessions</u>	<u>May</u> <u>2005</u>	<u>May</u> <u>2006</u>	<u>June</u> <u>2005</u>	<u>June</u> <u>2006</u>
Breakfast Drop-in	228	324	298	347
Young People's Information Drop-in	43	62	48	72
Homework Club	49	74	53	67
Parent and Tots Drop-in	237	194	202	206
Total contacts	557	654	601	692

RECOMMENDED: that the report of the Youth and Community Manager be received.

216 DOWNSIDE COMMUNITY CENTRE

a) Attendances

The monthly attendance figures for the last two-month period shown in comparison to those for 2005 were as follows:

<u>Month</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
May	817	1652
June	1192	2139

b) Regular Sessions

The total number of weekly sessions which had taken place during the last two month period shown in comparison to those for 2005 were as follows:-

<u>Month</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
May	22	26
June	33	33

c) Social Functions

The total number of social functions taken for 2005/2006 was 24 compared to 13 taken in 2004/2005.

d) General Update

Smile Youth Club had now been running for over a month with an average of 22 young people attending on a Friday evening. The Saturday morning session was even busier with an average of 49 young people attending.

Another new group teaching Ballet and Street Dance for 5 to 8 year olds had been running for 4 weeks with an average attendance of 15.

e) Downside Best Value Review

The Best Value Review meeting that was due to take place on 13th June had been postponed to enable discussions to take place with Community Representatives over issues raised regarding the Council's wider work on the Downside Estate.

RECOMMENDED: that the report of the Performance and Environment Manager be received.

217 PETER NEWTON PAVILION

The Bedfordshire Football Association had reported that their weekly groups were continuing to do well. Both the Pilates and Salsa classes were proving popular. The Playgroup also now had a few more children attending. Bookings for social functions remained steady.

218 GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS 2007/2008

RECOMMENDED: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Grants Sub Committee held on 9th June 2006 be received.

219 SUMMER ACTIVITIES

The Deputy Town Clerk reported that all arrangements were now in hand for the 2006

programme of summer activities.

220 STEPPINGLEY HOSPITAL

Members raised the following questions in response to the public consultation on the proposed re-provision of community-based intermediate care beds currently located at Steppingley Hospital:

- Does a sufficient number of intermediate care beds exist at alternative venues to meet the needs of a growing elderly population? Where are they located? Are any of them in South Bedfordshire?
- Would the closure of Steppingley result in redundancies and/or redeployment? (Members were keen to see the skills and experience of existing staff retained.)
- Standards of care would possibly vary from venue to venue. How would the Primary Care Trust ensure a consistent high standard?
- If the closure resulted in an overall loss of beds, would this affect the current provision for 'respite care'?
- Do the proposals take account of the local growth agenda and the resulting impact of the huge projected increase in population?

It was agreed that the Deputy Town Clerk would invite a representative from the Primary Care Trust to attend the next meeting of Finance and General Purposes Committee to present further information in response to Members' queries.

221 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: that, in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted the Press and Public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting.

222 PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS

RECOMMENDED: that the report be received and the Officers be authorised to continue to pursue measures for securing the future of services at The Place and the transfer of activities from the Mayfield Centre to the new Children's Centre.