

DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL

NOTES OF THE MEETING OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

HELD AT GROVE HOUSE, HIGH STREET NORTH, DUNSTABLE

ON MONDAY 22ND MAY 2006

Present: Councillor Mrs C M Gresham (Town Mayor), Councillor Mrs B M Boatwright (Deputy Town Mayor), Councillor Mrs S A Newton (Chairman); Councillor T C Colbourne (Vice-Chairman); Councillors A J Fairbairn, J Freeman, B F Ralley and Mrs A Stock with Councillor Mrs J K Fairbairn, Mrs H Hupton (Deputy Town Clerk), Mrs K Winton (Performance and Environment Manager), Mr M McGann (Youth and Community Manager), Mr A Elvin (Connexions) and Ms O Davies (Connexions)

Apologies for Absence: Councillors A Bray, J Harnett, C M Meakins-Jell and Mr A Armitage (Bedfordshire County Council).

145 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 13th March 2006 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

146 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

147 CONNEXIONS

The Bedfordshire and Luton Connexions' Chief Executive and Dunstable Connexions' Team Leader presented detailed information on the local work and development of the Connexions service. Planning of the service, which covered Bedfordshire and Luton, was taking an increasing account of more local needs. The long term strategy for the service would continue to develop in line with the Government's 'Youth Matters' Agenda. Connexions were hoping to work more closely with other agencies, including Bedfordshire County Council and Dunstable Town Council, to develop services for the 21st Century by building on new technology. It was hoped that a seminar of those agencies currently working at The Place would soon be arranged to assist in this process.

148 SOCIAL SERVICES

The Adult Services Manager had again been unable to attend the meeting. It was noted that a response to the Committee's query regarding current arrangements for supporting members of the Older People's Healthy Living Project was still awaited. Officers were accordingly in the process of setting up a meeting with other County Council representatives to discuss future support.

149 OLDER PEOPLE'S HEALTHY LIVING PROJECT

a) General Update

The Performance and Environment Manager presented a detailed progress report on the continuing success of this project, which currently had a combined membership of 53. Over the last 2 month period a total of 16 referral visits had been made. From these visits new members had joined both groups but it had been necessary to start a waiting list. The project was currently receiving referrals from Social Services, Age Concern, local GP Surgeries, self referral and word of mouth.

It was noted that the trip to Clacton planned for June would now take place in September.

b) Dunstable Old People's Welfare Association

Work continued on the Big Lottery application which was due for submission by 19th July. A number of isolated older people, community groups and all local doctor's practices had been surveyed in order to gauge support for and willingness to work with the proposed project.

150 SRB YOUTH OUTREACH PROJECT

a) Dunstable Youth Outreach

Longer evenings had led to an increase in the number of complaints of young people causing nuisance. Particular problems had been highlighted in Mentmore and Luton Road Recreation Grounds and outreach workers would be targeting these areas.

b) Downside Youth Outreach

Outreach workers had also been targeting the Mayfield shops area in response to an increase in the number of young people gathering there.

c) Dunstable Board Riders

A positive meeting had recently taken place where arrangements for storage and funding had been agreed with a view to siting the temporary skateboard park at Queensbury School for the summer holidays. Whilst representatives from the Police had attended, their input had not been viewed as helpful by others present. The Deputy Town Clerk advised that officers were seeking an urgent meeting with the Police to discuss partnership work around the town centre.

d) Dunstable Teen Council

Young people had identified a need to be democratically represented and a steering group had been formed to look at having an elected committee of young people working alongside Dunstable Town Council's existing Committees. The group, who had called themselves 'Dunstable Teen Council', had prepared flyers and posters to promote a young people's committee. The 'Teen Council' planned to visit schools, colleges and other establishments to try to reach as many young people in Dunstable as possible, with a view to holding elections either later this year or early next year. The 'Teen Council' was keen to meet with Councillors to fully understand the implications of being elected to represent other young people.

To assist in moving this initiative forward a Sub-Committee comprising of Councillors Mrs Boatwright, Colbourne, A Fairbairn, Freeman, Mrs Gresham, Mrs Newton and Ralley was appointed to consider joint working arrangements with the 'Dunstable Teen Council'. An initial meeting of the Sub-Committee would be held at 7.30pm on Monday 5th June at Grove House.

e) 'The Place'

There had continued to be a steady increase in the number of young people attending all the drop-in sessions. An increasing number of other organisations also continued to use 'The Place' to meet with young people on a regular or ad hoc basis. A drama teacher was also in the process of opening a group for young people that would start at 'The Place' in June, taking place on Tuesday evenings between 5.15 pm and 6.45 pm.

Total attendances by young people at drop-in sessions for the last 2 month period were as follows:

<u>Month</u>	<u>2006</u>
March	302
April	260

151 MAYFIELD CENTRE

The Committee received the report of the Youth and Community Manager on events and activities taking place at the Mayfield Centre. Numbers of contacts at the Centre during the last 2 month period had been as follows:

<u>Type of sessions</u>	<u>March 2005</u>	<u>March 2006</u>	<u>April 2005</u>	<u>April 2006</u>
Breakfast Drop-in	149	210	219	242
Young People's Information Drop-in	38	46	41	57
Homework Club	41	62	53	63
Parent and Tots Drop-in	167	231	210	260
Total contacts	395	549	523	622

Members congratulated those involved in winning for Downside the best overall float in the recent Dunstable Carnival.

152 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>
March	900	2208
April	842	1522

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>
March	25	42
April	23	26

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

The Committee noted that a booking had been made by the Smile Youth Club to provide activities for young people on Friday evenings and Saturday mornings commencing in June and accordingly granted their request to store specified items of equipment. Members also approved a request from the Downside Action Group to provide Youth Club facilities on a Monday evening, including the storage of specified items of equipment if requested. The Dunstable Town Band would accordingly be advised that the Centre would not be available for rehearsal on Monday evenings.

e) Downside Best Value Review

At the Best Value Review meeting held on 11th April it had been agreed that members of the Review Team would begin visits to other providers of similar services to that of Downside Community Centre to make comparisons. To date members of the Review Team had visited Meadow Way Community Centre in Leighton Buzzard and Beecroft Community Centre in Dunstable.

153 PETER NEWTON PAVILION

The Bedfordshire Football Association had reported that their weekly groups were doing well, especially the Tea Dances. A Pilates class had started at the beginning of May and a new Salsa class would be starting at the end of May. Bookings for social functions remained steady.

154 GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS 2007/2008

A meeting of the Grants Sub-Committee was arranged to take place at 2.00 pm on Friday 9th June at Grove House to approve arrangements for the allocation of grants for 2007/2008.

155 SUMMER ACTIVITIES

The Committee noted progress in arrangements for the 2006 programme of summer activities. Publicity for the scheme would be issued from the end of May, through local schools, posters, leaflets, in the Talk of The Town and on the Town Council's website.

156 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.

157 PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS

The Deputy Town Clerk was authorised to continue to pursue a range of measures for securing the future of services currently provided at The Place and Mayfield Centre. These would include the submission of further correspondence and reports to both Bedfordshire County Council and the forthcoming meeting of the Dunstable Liaison Forum.