

Area West Committee – 15th August 2007

7. Progress of the Ilminster Forum and Community Plan (Executive Decision)

Head of Service: Andrew Gillespie, Head of Area Development (West)
Lead Officer: Simon Fisher, Community Planning Support Officer
Contact Details: simon.fisher@southsomerset.gov.uk or (01460) 260373

Purpose of the Report

To inform Area West members of the updating of the Community Plan for Ilminster & surrounding area and progress of Ilminster Forum.

Recommendation

It is recommended that members note and support the developments of Ilminster Forum and the community plan projects.

Background

Ilminster Forum published and launched their Community Plan for Ilminster & surrounding area in April 2005.

Over the past two years Ilminster Forum have been working in partnership with SSDC, Ilminster Town Council and a number of local groups and organisations to implement a number of the projects identified in the Community Plan.

Since the launch of the Community Plan, further issues have been raised in Ilminster and with the increase in population due to the new housing developments, the Forum wished to widen their consultation and update the Community Plan.

Updating the Community Action Plan

Following public input arising from the successful open day on 3rd March 2007, as reported to Area West Committee on 18th April 2007, and ongoing work by Ilminster Forum, the Ilminster Community Plan has been updated.

The following items have been dropped or put on hold;

- Dental Survey – Has been turned down by the PCT.
- Fitness Centre – Facility provided by a private individual.
- Survey of Roads and Pavements – Need for insurance has made this difficult to accomplish.
- Public Transport Needs Survey – Put on hold following the introduction of the Nippy Bus, and the No 60 service linking Yeovil, Crewkerne, Chard, Donyatt and Ilminster.
- Walking Bus – Not enough volunteer parents could be found to run the project. It has been suggested that the project be reviewed in the new school year.

In addition the following items have been added to the plan;

- Formation of an Ilminster and District Disability Group, which is now up and running.
- Facilities Survey. In light of the belief that there are not enough meeting venues in Ilminster a questionnaire has been drawn up and distributed to users and providers of such venues to ascertain whether there is such a problem.

- The survey of road signs has been completed, and the information gathered has been sent to SCC Highways and the SSDC Officer responsible for street signs.

Further Information

The incorporation of Ilminster Forum is now complete and the Forum is now a company limited by guarantee.

As a result of issues raised under Crime and Fear of Crime in the Community Plan the Local Action Group will be holding an event about substance abuse. The event is aimed at parents and adults, and looking to provide them with information and advice. It will be held on 13th September in Greenfylde School Hall in the evening from 7 till 9pm.

Financial Implications

There are no new financial implications for the Area West Committee. Ilminster Forum was awarded £7,290 from the Area West Reserve to support its work and development projects from the Community Plan in 2005 - 2006 (15th June 2005).

Implications for Corporate Priorities

Supporting the updating of the Ilminster Community Action Plan will enable Area West Committee to address several of the Council's key Corporate Aims (2005-2012);

- Increase economic vitality and prosperity
- Improve the health and well being of our citizens
- Ensure safe, sustainable and cohesive communities

Other Implications

None.

Background Papers: *AWC Report – Progress of the Ilminster Forum and Community Plan – 18th April 2007*
AWC Report – Progress of the Ilminster Forum & Community Plan – 20th December 2006
AWC Report – The Progress of Ilminster Community Plan Projects – 18th October 2006
Memorandum and Articles of Ilminster Forum Ltd
The Ilminster Community Plan – April 2005