

**GROUNDWORKS TRUSTS PANEL  
WEDNESDAY, 14TH APRIL, 2010**

Present:- Councillor Wyatt (in the Chair); Councillors St. John, R. S. Russell, Smith and Swift.

together with:-

Darren Pollard	Group Construction Manager, Groundwork Creswell
George Griffith	Chairman, Groundwork Creswell
Sam Upton	Education/Training Manager, Groundwork Creswell
Janet Johnson	Executive Director, Groundwork Dearne Valley
Alex Evans	Rotherham/Doncaster Team Leader, Groundwork Dearne Valley
Rob Saw	Development Manager, Groundwork Dearne Valley
Nick Illingworth	Interim Regional Manager, Groundworks Yorkshire and Humberside
Asif Akram	Project Development Officer, RMBC Culture and Leisure Services
Wendy Foster	RMBC Place Shaping Officer

**1. INTRODUCTIONS/APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillor Wyatt welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

He explained that he was chairing the meeting as Councillor Sharman was recovering from a knee operation.

Apologies for absence were received from:-

Councillor Sharman	RMBC
Councillor Falvey	RMBC
Andy Shaw	RMBC Streetpride Community Delivery Manager
Nick Barnes	RMBC Principal Project Development Officer
Steve Mellard	RMBC Landscape Delivery Manager
Tom Bell	RMBC Neighbourhood Investment Manager
Alan Hartley	Chairman, Groundwork Dearne Valley

**2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE PANEL HELD ON 20TH JANUARY, 2010**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2010, were

agreed as a correct record.

### 3. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES**

The following issue was raised:-

#### **Page 6 – Minute No. 5 re:- Turning the Corner:-**

It was clarified that at the last meeting this was in the application stage for the BIG Lottery. The bid had now been sent and was being considered by the BIG Lottery Fund.

### 4. **QUARTERLY REPORT - GROUNDWORK CRESWELL**

Darren Pollard introduced the quarterly report which covered the period 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2010.

Sam Upton, Education Manager, highlighted the following:-

#### **Improvements to a number of recently installed play areas:-**

It was reported that this had been put on hold during the winter, and a meeting with Nick Barnes was to be arranged to discuss a potential programme.

#### **Work on Play areas:-**

Work was projected to be complete in April at:- Woodhall Lane, Harthill and Skipton Road, Swallownest

Davies Court, Dinnington:-

Groundwork had been awarded a small planting scheme involving local residents. Members present noted the current state of the grounds at this home.

**It was agreed:-** (1) That the issue of ground maintenance and management at this home be discussed with the Cabinet Member for Adult Services and Health.

#### **Fixed wheel at Thrybergh:-**

A design for this work had been presented.

#### **Child Safety Measures:-**

It was explained that this was in conjunction with Sure Start Centres. This was a RoSPA scheme to improve safety for children up to 2 years of age and was based on A & E reports of accidents to young children. It was a fixed term programme which would end in March 2011.

#### **Ex-Offenders “V” Programme:-**

It was reported that this was a voluntary programme and therefore was not counted towards reparation hours.

**Employment:-**

Groundwork had secured the contract for delivery of a new employability programme – Community Task Force. The trust was meeting Simeon Leach, Economic Strategy Manager, and Andy Shaw, Streetpride Community Delivery Manager, to formulate a possible work programme. Groundwork asked those present whether there was a suitable base/classroom from which they could deliver this activity in particular the 5 hours employability skills.

Members of the Panel suggested consideration of Treeton Parish Council's Cyber Café; Aston Parish Hall; Anston Library. Members noted the difficulty Groundwork may have in paying rent, and suggested further discussion about the programme and what it delivered.

**It was agreed:-** (2) That this item be kept on the agenda for future meetings.

**Community Learning:-**

.It was reported that the post of Community Development Worker had been out to advert, and short listing would take place next week.

**It was agreed:-** (3) That the contents of the report be noted.

(4) That Groundwork Creswell be thanked for their informative report and continued involvement in projects.

**5. QUARTERLY REPORT - GROUNDWORK DEARNE VALLEY**

Janet Johnson introduced the quarterly report which covered the period 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2010.

Alex Evans highlighted the following:-

**Rawmarsh and Parkgate Village Regeneration**

Work had focussed around the key project - the skate park, and planning permission had been granted conditionally. The tender process was being progressed. However a complaint had been made and was being dealt with by Andy Lee, RMBC Operations Manager. Members present stressed it was crucial that the WREN funding was not lost, and pointed out that the planning process had been carried out.

**It was agreed:-** (1) That an update on this issue be presented to the next Panel meeting.

**Sandhill Playground**

It was reported that there was some uncertainty about the future of the playground and therefore discussions were taking place with the Wentworth South Area Assembly and RMBC Greenspaces. It was proposed that consultation be carried out on the site in May/June having noted the issues of the location of the site and vandalism.

**It was agreed:-** (2) That an update on this issue be presented to the next Panel meeting.

### **Maltby Village Regeneration**

Work had continued with the Play Pathfinder project, and the construction of the play area on the West-side of Rotherham Road open space had been completed. Groundwork was working with Living Streets to look at rectifying the access issues at the site.

Abbey Reach:-

Reference was made to a visit by MP's.

Tickhill Road Entrance feature:-

This had received planning permission.

Manor Fields:-

Groundwork and the Maltby PCSO's were looking into installing some outdoor gym equipment on a green space in Maltby.

### **Chesterhill**

Magna Lane Green Corridor:-

Work continued on access and it was hoped to link into the Local Transport Plan to include a new footpath. The Future Jobs Fund team were carrying out work along the stream.

St. Gerard's School:-

Groundwork continued to work with the school on the development of a wildlife garden

Former bonded warehouse site:-

Groundwork was helping the Area Assembly with consultation on a community art wall. The newly appointed "Turning the Corner" youth worked had assisted with sessions at the youth club.

### **Play Pathfinder**

Janet Johnson reported that most sites of the Year 2 had been completed. The final site was due for completion in early April, together with some minor works.

Jenny Yates had been asked to continue to work around the programme to develop voluntary input from locals to help the future maintenance of the playgrounds.

It was noted that a site at Packman Way, West Melton had been replaced by Henley Rise, Thornhill. It was suggested that the future of the Packman Way site needed to be investigated.

Concerns was expressed about the location of some of the play area signs and it was reported that in some instance there had been no

consultation with the Parish Council.

**It was agreed:-** (3) That the issue of the location of the play area signs be discussed with Nick Barnes and Jenny Yates.

### **Local Action 21**

Rob Saw reported on –

Abbey School:-

Continued work to support the school at the South Yorkshire Leadership Academy on CO2 reduction.

Rotherham Environment Forum:-

Attendance at a meeting of the forum focussing on 'Pay As You Save' and 'The Single Conversation'.

Green Check:-

Work continued with various schools, noting Rawmarsh Community School the first secondary school to adopt the programme. Groundworks Business Plan included the recruitment of a volunteer to build capacity around this.

Turning the Corner:-

Noting the appointment of the new Youth Worker, Carole Foster, funded from a regional bid in partnership with the NE region to the BIG Lottery fund.

### **Miscellaneous Regeneration Projects**

Brampton Bierlow BMX Tack:-

Work continued with the Parish Council and Football Foundation to plan Years 2 and 3 which had to be delivered by the end of May 2011, and to make best use of funds. The Parish Council was keen to encourage more new young users.

Swinton Playing Fields:-

The consultation report had been passed to RMBC Green Spaces to feed into the Playing Pitch strategy.

### **Alternative Curriculum**

Work had continued with Milton School, and at Swinton Comprehensive School this had included preparation of portfolios as evidence towards their new Horticultural Qualification.

### **NEETS**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> cohort were working towards their horticultural qualifications. Those present discussed the issue of providing apprenticeships, and it was noted that the Horticultural Trust had funds available for training. It was pointed out that this needed long term programmes of work which Groundworks struggled to obtain. It was reported that the Rother Valley Country Park may be offering opportunities. The Council was also looking

into this.

**It was agreed:-** (4) That Rob Saw would investigate funding available for the provision of apprenticeships.

### **Future Jobs Fund**

Reference was made to the impact of the outcome of the forthcoming national election on this Fund. Work had been carried out in the North of the Borough for Brampton Bierlow Parish Council, and with Green spaces and Streetpride in Rawmarsh, Wath and Swinton. Groundwork was planning to fill 60 more places in the next few months, and look at working on more urban activities e.g. ginnels and works accessed within the public domain. Over the life of the programme Groundwork anticipated engaging 180 people.

It was reported that the Council was looking at 240 people, and that the Council had been shortlisted nationally in the work programme "Access All Areas"

Groundwork reported that the aim was to put redundant people back into work. However, current experience was with those who had never been in work. Everyone agreed that the programme was working well.

### **Bike4All**

The Cycle Project in Maltby had now moved to the Academy. In Dinnington delivery would commence shortly of the City and Guilds 3993 (Cycle Maintenance and Repair) qualification.

Bikeability – this had replace the former Cycling Proficiency Test. The project was being developed using reclaimed bikes which youngster repaired. Once they had passed the test they were able to keep the bikes. Concern was however expressed in terms of health and safety. It was confirmed that all youngsters on this programme were provided with helmets, lights and a bell.

It was also reported that Groundwork paid mileage allowance to any of their staff who travelled by bike and insisted that a helmet was worn.

### **Deerne Valley Eco Vision:-**

Groundwork continued to develop working relationships with Sheffield City Region Eco Vision Team and the local authority, and had attended the EcoVision Core Group. Janet Johnson, Executive Director, had given a presentation on the 'Green Doctor' programme.

### **Steps to Nature – Access to Nature Lottery Funding bid**

Groundwork was working in partnership with Green Spaces and NHS Rotherham. If the bid for funding was successful this project would facilitate access to the natural environment within 5 identified areas of Rotherham for people who traditionally have poor access to green spaces.

The 5 proposed sites for this project were:-

- Maltby Common
- Thrybergh County Park
- Boston Park (Canklow)
- Bradgate Brick Pits
- Catcliffe Flash – Treeton West

**It was agreed:-** (5) That the report be received and contents noted.

(6) That the officers from Groundwork Dearne Valley be thanked for their informative report and continued involvement in projects.

## 6. OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARTNERSHIP WORKING - UPDATE/DISCUSSION

Janet Johnson referred to meetings with the Chair of this Panel about ways in which both Groundworks could contribute by 'Changing Places, Changing Lives' in Rotherham and helping to meet the goals of the Rotherham Sustainable Community Strategy 2005-2011 and the Corporate Plan 2005-2011, as well as delivering improved performance for many National Indicators in the Local Area Agreement and adding to the Comprehensive Area Assessment.

Nick Illingworth distributed copies of an Executive Summary of the range of Groundwork programmes and how they fit with the themes of Rotherham's Local Strategic Partnership.

It was explained that the work programmes had been group according to priority, with Priority 1 being active programmes currently being delivered in Rotherham; Priority 2 – projects Groundwork would like to see developed in conjunction with RMBC Green Spaces and Green Check. The overall report contained details of each of the programmes.

Those present discussed the promotion of allotments and raised the following points:-

- the current unmet demand in Rotherham
- Link with Future Jobs Fund
- Issues of maintenance and management of sites
- Need to link with Parish Councils as well
- Need to set up smaller starter allotments
- Assistance with site clearance for new allotment holders
- Experience of both Groundworks Trusts of developing and delivering allotment programmes

Those present welcomed the information about the variety of work carried about by both Trusts. Groundworks asked for the opportunity to discuss this document further.

**It was agreed:-** That the overall report be submitted to the Panel in sections for further discussion.

**7. PROPOSED CHANGES TO REPORTING FORMAT TO REFLECT JOINT WORKING**

Janet Johnson raised the issue of the reporting format for reports submitted to the Panel. The suggestion was made that the reports could be better integrated and include reference to Local Strategic Partnership themes and National Indicators.

The Chair stated that the current reporting format was helpful and that minutes of Panel meetings were submitted to the Cabinet and were made public.

**It was agreed:-** That the decision be left for both Groundworks to decide.

**8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There were no further items of business.

**9. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PANEL**

**It was agreed:-** That the next meeting of the Panel be held on WEDNESDAY, 14<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2010 at 2.30 p.m. in Bailey House.