

**GROUNDWORKS TRUSTS PANEL
WEDNESDAY, 13TH OCTOBER, 2010**

Present:- Councillor Sharman (in the Chair); Councillors Falvey, R. S. Russell and St. John.

together with:-

Alan Hartley	Chairman, Groundwork Dearne Valley
Nick Illingworth	Groundwork Yorkshire & Humber
George Griffith	Chairman, Groundwork Creswell
Caralynn Gale	Education Manager, Groundwork Creswell
Janet Johnson	Executive Director, Groundwork Dearne Valley
Rob Saw	Development Manager, Groundwork Dearne Valley
Nick Barnes	RMBC Principal Project Development Officer
Steve Mellard	RMBC Streetpride Landscape Manager

17. INTRODUCTIONS/ APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

Apologies for absence were received from:-

Councillor J. Burton	RMBC
Councillor K. Wyatt	RMBC
Andy Shaw	Community Delivery Manager, Streetpride

18. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE PANEL HELD ON 14TH JULY, 2010

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 14th July, 2010 were agreed as a correct record.

19. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

It was reported that Sam Upton, had moved to Groundwork Leicester. Caralynn Gale had been appointed Education Manager, Groundwork Creswell.

20. QUARTERLY REPORT - GROUNDWORK CRESWELL

Caralynn Gale, Groundwork Creswell, Education Manager, introduced the quarterly report which covered the period 1st July to 30th September, 2010.

The following items were highlighted:-

Canklow School – Community Task Officer had been working with learners making paths, fencing and general landscape improvements

Ravenfield Park –

Anston Stone Woods – stream clearing and removal of rubbish. It was pointed out that there may be further opportunities to work with the Parish Council.

Cuckoo Walk/Chesterfield Canal – path clearing and general tidy of walkways

Cresta Limited – in conjunction with the PCT work had continued to install child safety measures as part of a national scheme.

Ex-offenders ‘V’ programme – referrals of ex-offenders who take part in 50 hours of conservation volunteering.

Working in partnership with Intraining, who refer 18 to 24 year olds on a 13 weeks intensive work programme.

Construction Services – currently discussing the development of a swimming pool complex in Dinnington. Reference was made to the Council’s relationship with DC Leisure and issues relating to competition in the area. It was reported that a planning application had been submitted and was recommended for refusal.

Throapham Estate – it was reported that initial discussions had taken place between the Council’s Countryside Manager and Groundwork Creswell. It was also pointed out that there was an old orchard which was floristically rich and or which a management plan was being drawn up.

It was agreed:- (1) That Caralynn would:-

(i) check the planning application regarding the swimming pool proposal at Dinnington.

(ii) contact the Countryside Manager regarding the discussions on Throapham Estate, and the old orchard management plan.

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

21. QUARTERLY REPORT - GROUNDWORK DEARNE VALLEY

Janet Johnson, Executive Director, Groundwork Dearne Valley, introduced the quarterly report covering the period 1st July to 30th September, 2010.

The following items were highlighted:-

Rawmarsh and Parkgate Village Regeneration:-

skatepark completed; opening of the Rosehill Victoria Park Play area; litter pick by young volunteers.

Fitzwilliam Canal – a funding application was submitted to Community Wildlife to hold community fishing events, install interpretation boards and benches, bins and picnic site.

Maltby Village Regeneration:-

Natural play provision now open; work commenced on entrance feature at Tickhill Road (noting this was Objective 1 funded but ran out of time); Manor Fields gym equipment; continued support for Model Village Neighbourhood Agreement.

Chesterhill:-

NEETS team: Magna Lane Green Corridor - continued working on the installation of a path along with stream vegetation management:

Inclusion of Thrybergh Youth Club in a community arts project.

Play Pathfinder:-

Noting that this project was now coming to an end and that cuts in some of the funding meant it had not been possible to carry on with the volunteer programme, which would have seen local residents and children taking on ownership for their play area.

Reference was made to the particular success of the facilities installed at Clifton Park.

Local Action 21:-

Continued discussions with Rotherham's Policy Officer about the future of LA21; support to VAR and Children and Young Peoples' Services to develop a food focused project "Rotherham Roots".

Continued work on completing Green Check but noted the funding difficulties.

'Turning the Corner' Programme:-

Groundwork had been visited by the organisers of the countryside programme who were pleased with progress.

Schemes included:-

Wingfield Path project; Wingfield Enterprise project; Wingfield Back to Nature Summer Activities; Alpine Shops – Rockingham; St. John's Green – Kimberworth Park; Wingfield Community Garden; Fellowsfield Way – Kimberworth; Chaucer Road project and Ridgeway Shops – East Herringthorpe; Rawmarsh Skatepark; Gun and Knife Crime residential; Dream Scheme

Dearne Valley Eco-vision:-

The initial Green Doctors had finished their work placement and Groundwork was seeking further funding to continue to deliver free home energy advice etc to households across the Rotherham Dearne Valley. Liaison was taking place with Rotherham's officers to avoid duplication. Green Doctors were working with landlords, 2010 and housing associations carrying out small changes and sign posting to bigger schemes.

Brampton BMX Track Sports Development:-

Work continued with funding from Spaces for Sport programme to promote cycling and healthy activity.

Alternative Curriculum Programme:-

Rob Saw, Development Manager, reported that pupils had only just commenced the new academic year and had undergone health and safety induction and starting to develop their portfolios. 21 pupils were currently attending training. It was anticipated this number would increase after half term.

NEETS co-ordinated Response Fund (Rotherham):-

This programme continued with Rotherham through ESF and other funding. Programme for Cohort 3 had been extended to continue until October, 2011.

Group 2 had been successful and had completed key skills programme and most were moving on to modern apprenticeships, college or alternative training programmes.

Future Jobs Fund:-

Tranche 2 – had been working in teams of up to 15 trainees with a training officer on a range of programmes working with the Council to enhance the Council's statutory work e.g. creating equestrian steps in Thurcroft/gate repairs at Whiston for the public rights of way section.

Bikes4All:-

Maltby Cycle Project:- successful project came to a close in July.

Bikeability:- work continued to train children in schools in Rawmarsh. Concern was expressed that helmets were not insisted on and the Council's Health, Welfare and Safety Committee would like schools to be encouraged to ensure children wear helmets. It was confirmed that Groundworks had sufficient and did provide them and did encourage their use.

Dr. Bike:- Groundwork had been contracted to provide Dr. Bike service to schools prior to delivery of Bikeability training.

Dearne Valley Eco-Vision:- Groundwork continued to support community consultation and involvement and street surveys had been done in Wath town centre to ask people what they think could be delivered. A photographic exhibition had been held to inspire people to have some pride in the Dearne.

Cadbury Sports v Stripes:-

This was a new programme to encourage people to be active and photos had been up-loaded on to the Cadbury's website. Groundwork continued to work with Rotherham's Sports Development Team.

Those present also made reference to the following:-

- Wingfield Mural
- St. John's Green
- Community Garden adjacent to Wingfield School
- designing play areas and play equipment to prevent accumulation of litter and facilitate easy cleaning
- removal of metal tree guards so that the sweeper can pass over

It was agreed:- (1) That both Groundworks Trusts be thanked for their assistance with the Play pathfinder programme, especially Jenny Yates for her involvement with the consultation and the landscape design team.

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

22. JOINT PRESENTATION:- ADULT EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMME IN ROTHERHAM

Caralynn Gale, Rob Saw and Janet Johnson gave a joint presentation covering the following:-

Groundwork Creswell focussed on:-

- supporting local people with employment and training opportunities
- support long term and recently unemployed young people

- equipping clients with new skills

Community Task Force:- Groundwork had been sub-contracted by a large training organisation "Intraining" to work with 18 to 24 year olds from Rotherham to provide 13 weeks work experience, confidence building, team building to benefit the local community. This had been a successful project.

Since 5th May worked with 166 learners and Rotherham Job Centre. Retention rate = 98%.

Future Jobs Fund:- 2 phases involving 18 to 24 year olds. There were some vacancies at the moment in Rotherham for those unemployed 9+ months. This provided 6 months paid full time employment (25 hours per week) and possible permanent employment after 6 months. The last phase to join would be March 2011.

Groundwork Dearne Valley focussed on:-

- long track record of delivering employment programmes (e.g. ILM's previously), linked to the village programme work.
- changes in funding and schemes' requirements
- still recruiting local people and training them
- ¾'s of current project team had joined and worked their way up

Future Jobs Fund:-

- setting of a target in the Business Plan re: numbers through the Future Jobs Fund
- national bid in conjunction with national housing foundation to target 8,500 people through the programme
- Tranche 1 – November 2009 – 50 places increased to 56 – completed March 2010
- Tranche 2 – commenced March 2010 – 180 places in 3 groups of 60
- the final Group would complete August 2011

The process:-

- applicant identified by local Job Centre
- interviewed by Groundwork
- offer of place on 26 weeks programme
- 25 hours on programme per week of which 4 hours devoted to information, advice, and guidance on CV building and job search techniques and job applications
- a 'job ready' programme
- immediately secured work for 35% of participants or to move into future education/training, 12 weeks later 65% in work or training

Programme designed around Green Teams undertaking a range of environmental projects, woodlands, public rights of way, hard and soft landscaping; working in conjunction with Parish Councils, Heritage

Community Trust, Canute England, RMBC's Streetpride and Greenspaces, country park rangers, PROW officers and woodland officer. Also worked with schools to create allotment areas and wildlife gardens.

Survey of 1st intake showed only 3 had previous job history.

Groundwork had to ensure Value for Money out of the programme - copies of four case studies were distributed to those present.

12 weeks later:- 4 still in the same job; 4 still got a job; 9 succeeded in getting a job; 4 were still trying; 2 had gone into further training. There was no one who had not had an interview. These would continue to be tracked for 12 months. On the new Work Programme proposals indicate that people had to be tracked for 3 years.

Programme would cease August 2011.

Groundwork was looking to align itself to deliver a new work programme in conjunction with other organisations to create Consortium projects. This would mean that Groundwork needed to be sub-contracted at the pre-qualification stage. It was however pointed out that the staged payment approach was difficult for many organisations including Groundwork.

Green Doctor:-

5 Future Jobs Fund trainees taken on as Green Doctors. Training to visit people in their homes and offer energy advice and fit simple measures and sign post to other green schemes. This scheme had been successful.

In summary:-

Work focussed on preparing people to work or get back to work by offering a wide range of accredited and non-accredited qualifications. The work provided work experience, job search skills, self belief and confidence, team building, motivation and sense of community.

The Chairman referred to the Coalition Government's October Comprehensive Spending Review and possible impact on funding available for both Groundworks and the Council.

Both Groundworks were thanked for their informative presentation and asked that a similar presentation be given to the next meeting and that a seminar for all Members of the Council be arranged in the New Year.

23. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was reported that Mr. George Griffith, Chairman of Groundwork Creswell, would be retiring shortly. Mr. Griffith wished to record his thanks to the Councillors and officers for their co-operation and help over the years.

The Chairman also thanked Mr. Griffith for his contribution to meetings and on behalf of the Panel wished him well.

24. DATE, TIME AND VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING

It was agreed:- That the next meeting of the Panel be held on Wednesday, 19th January, 2011 at 2.30 p.m. in the Town Hall, Moorgate Street, Rotherham.