

**GROUNDWORKS TRUSTS PANEL
WEDNESDAY, 19TH JANUARY, 2011**

Present:- Councillor Sharman (in the Chair); Councillor St. John.

together with:-

Janet Johnson	Executive Director, Groundwork Dearne Valley
Alan Hartley	Chairman, Groundwork Dearne Valley
Rob Saw	Development Manager, Groundwork Dearne Valley
Jamie Ferneyhough	Operations Manager (Regeneration), Groundwork Dearne Valley
Caralynn Gale	Education Manager, Groundwork Creswell
Robert Bird	Community Projects Officer, Groundwork Creswell
Tracie Seals	Sustainable Communities Manager, RMBC
Nick Barnes	Principal Project Development Officer, RMBC
Steve Mellard	Streetpride Landscape Manager, RMBC

25. 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 R. S. Russell	RMBC
Councillor G. Smith	RMBC
Councillor J. Swift	RMBC
Councillor K. Wyatt	RMBC
Wendy Foster	RMBC Place Shaping Officer
Nick Illingworth	Groundwork Yorkshire & Humber

26. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE PANEL HELD ON 13TH OCTOBER, 2010

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 13th October, 2010 were agreed as a correct record.

27. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

The following issues were raised:-

- (i) removal of tree guards

It was explained that the Cabinet Member for Town Centres was keen to see area improvements e.g. around shopping centres, and removal of tree root guards would enable easier maintenance in these areas.

- (ii) the future of Future Jobs Fund

It was explained that Groundworks had until the end of March 2011 to complete filling the number of places they had available. Groundwork UK was currently looking at availability of spaces on the programme so it may be that the local Groundworks could increase their numbers because of the shortfall on delivery in other areas. More information would be available shortly. The current programme could conclude at the end of August.

28. QUARTERLY REPORT - GROUNDWORK CRESWELL

Caralynn Gale, Groundwork Creswell, Education Manager, introduced Robert Bird, Community Projects Officer.

With reference to the submitted quarterly report which covered the period 1st October to 31st December, 2010, Caralynn highlighted the following:-

Environmental improvements at:- Wickersley Gorse, South Anston, Anston Stone Woods, Ravenshead Dam, Harthill (roundabouts and allotments); Brinsworth, Killamarsh and Trans Pennine Trail.

Community Task Force:- it was pointed out that some clients were asking to stay on the programme for a further 13 weeks on a voluntary basis.

Future Jobs Fund:- Groundwork would continue to take referrals up to the end of March 2011 and employ clients for 6 months after that.

One World Schools – Youth Re-engagement Programme:- Groundwork continued to work with young people (NEET's) who were more suited to working outside of the classroom. Youngsters carried out work at Anston Stones.

Ex-Offenders "V" Programme:- it was reported that this programme was also coming to an end in March 2011. Currently referrals were from JobCentre Plus. Participants undertook 50 hours of conservation volunteering. Reference was made to the huge success of this programme.

Reference was made to the Coalition Government's proposals to release more ex-offenders from prison and it was thought this would be an issue for both the Council and Groundworks in view of the fact that the Government was not continuing these national programmes.

Education and Training:- potential partnership working with Groundwork Dearne Valley looking at working with schools in and around Rotherham was being explored, also with Intraining. This was for a 13 week intensive work experience course supporting young people who were finding it difficult to get employment due to lack of work experience and social

disabilities.

Community Task Force project:- continued working with 18-24 year olds from Rotherham who were unemployed and were referred by the Job Centres.

Development:- currently working on the design and construction of the pit wheel in Thrybergh.

Cresta:- was looking to work in partnership with the Council to continue the safety scheme (providing child safety gates/socket covers etc). It was pointed out that funding for the existing scheme would end on 31st March, 2011.

Construction Services:- currently in discussion about a new swimming complex in Dinnington, for which planning permission had now been granted, and Cresta was in the process of putting quotes together. Groundwork was keen to make links with Rotherham 2010 and their new partners.

It was agreed:- That officers from Groundwork Creswell be thanked for their informative report and continued involvement in projects.

29. QUARTERLY REPORT - GROUNDWORK DEARNE VALLEY

Janet Johnson, Executive Director, Groundwork Dearne Valley, introduced the quarterly report covering the period 1st October to 31st December, 2010.

The following items were highlighted:-

Jamie Ferneyhough reported on:-

Rawmarsh and Parkgate:- completion of skate park; successful bid from Big Lottery Fund Community Wildlife to carry out improvement works (benches, interpretation boards etc) to Fitzwilliam Canal.

It was pointed out that there should be a boost for projects from Lottery Funding after the Olympics.

Maltby:-

Rotherham Road Open Space:- small scale access works were being done as a continuation of the play pathfinder working with the Living Streets Project.

Maltby Crags:- successful COMMA Aggregates Levy bid to start improvements to Footpath 10.

China Town:- there was funding for activities up to the end of March.

Maltby Crags Infant School:- successful application to the Big Lottery Fund Community Wildlife to develop a masterplan.

Chesterhill:- NEETS and Future Jobs Fund team had extended path works on Magna Lane Green Corridor running alongside the stream. It was confirmed that the kickabout area on Arundel Avenue had been completed. A range of other small scale works were being carried out funded from the Area Assembly devolved budget.

Play Pathfinder:- the secondment of an officer from Groundworks to carry out consultation had now ended. A series of events had been held at the Rotherham Adventure Playground (RAP). It was confirmed that the main spend was complete with only a small amount of money remaining for after care and maintenance, and also a small amount to cover staffing of the RAP until the end of March 2011.

Everyone present commented on the good work that had been done through the Play Pathfinder project.

Turning the Corner:- this programme engaged young people full time and work had been undertaken on:- Wingfield Path project; Wingfield Enterprise Project; Wingfield Fired Arts Activities; Alpine Shops – Rockingham; St. John's Green – Kimberworth Park; Wingfield Community Garden; Fellowsfield Way – Kimberworth; Chaucer Road Project – East Herringthorpe; Rawmarsh Skate Park. A one night residential had also been held re: Gun and Knife Crime.

Reference was made to work around shopping parades and links with local schools to promote sale of items made by the youngsters to be sold in the shops.

Brampton BMX Track Sports Development:- After agreeing Years 2 and 3 of the Plan with Brampton Bierlow Parish Council and the Football Foundation Groundwork would be arranging further dates for activities for Spring 2011. However it was pointed out that the project was due to end May 2011. Reference was made to the location, use, construction materials and design of various other similar facilities in the Borough. It was noted that this particular facility attracted users from across the region to take part in activities.

It was agreed:- That a report of the future of this, and other similar facilities, be submitted to a future meeting.

Dearne Valley Eco-vision:- Groundwork had an officer seconded part time who was working closely with the Sheffield City Region Eco vision team to undertake consultation and community involvement. Key projects included the Community Champion training which commenced November 2010, also a Photography Exhibition of the Dearne Valley had been organised for February 2011 at Wath.

Cadbury Spots v Stripes:- a brief overview of this initiative was given noting that it was a partnership between Groundwork UK and Cadbury. It was explained that the aim was to engage with residents in competitive

activities as spots v stripes. Groundwork was working closely with the Council through Sports Development and Green Spaces to engage with community groups. Reference was made to the work with Rockingham 33 TARA.

Rob Saw reported on:-

LA 21:- there had been limited activity due to staffing changes and funding issues. 3rd party bids to fund the 'Global Food Programme' were unsuccessful as environmental issues were currently seen as a low priority. Reference was, however, made to the Dearne Valley Eco Vision.

Alternative Curriculum Programme:- work continued at Swinton Milton School and Swinton High School. However it was reported that the ending of EMA's had made a difference to the number of youngsters staying on at school/college.

NEETS Co-ordinated Response Fund (Rotherham):- this programme provided functional skills in English and Maths, together with an appropriate horticultural qualification.

Future Jobs Fund:- Groundwork was now working on Phase 2 (comprising 3 groups) with a final end date of August 2011. Work continued on many Council maintained sites – footpath maintenance at Maltby; riverbank improvements at Rawmarsh; maintenance at Ulley Reservoir; Thrybergh Country Park; Public Rights of Way and snow clearance for elderly peoples centres.

Bikes4All:- There had been no work in the last quarter. However, it was anticipated that work would recommence with further Bikeability training being delivered for Rotherham schools, together with some bike maintenance activity. More information would be available at the next meeting.

It was agreed:- That officers from Groundwork Dearne Valley be thanked for their informative report and continued involvement in projects.

30. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The following items were raised:-

- (i) Mr. Steve Mellard, Streetpride Landscape Manager

The Panel noted that this would be Steve's last meeting as he was retiring from the Council.

- (ii) Tackling Worklessness in Rotherham

It was agreed: That following the success of the seminar held on 7th January, 2011, both Groundworks be invited to present an up date on

their work in late 2011.

(iii) Groundworks' Funding

Reference was made to awaited information from the DCLG about funding for Groundwork UK. It was explained that the local Groundworks would have to bid into this settlement. Reference was also made to the "Big Society" and the Localism Bill and the role Groundworks could play.

(iv) funding pots for other Council promoted schemes

Funding was being sought for a footpath/access scheme at Anston Greenlands.

It was agreed:- That Groundwork Dearne Valley speak to Nick Barnes about the various providers.

(v) Future Jobs Fund – future maintenance of sites

It was explained that Groundwork would continue with the NEETS programme on a smaller scale and with more of a training element. Groundwork would work to ensure as much was completed as possible.

31. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE PANEL 2011- 2012

Consideration was given to the dates and times of future meetings of the Panel 2011 – 2012.

It was agreed:- That future meetings of the Panel be held as follows:-

2011

WEDNESDAY, 13TH APRIL, 2011

WEDNESDAY, 13TH JULY, 2011

WEDNESDAY, 12TH OCTOBER, 2011

2012

WEDNESDAY, 18TH JANUARY, 2012

WEDNESDAY, 11TH APRIL, 2012

WEDNESDAY, 18TH JULY, 2012

all at 2.30 p.m. at the Town Hall, Moorgate Street, Rotherham. S620 2TH
(subject to confirmation by letter/email)