

**GROUNDWORKS TRUSTS PANEL
WEDNESDAY, 13TH APRIL, 2011**

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

together with:-

Jamie Ferneyhough	Groundwork Dearne Valley
Alan Hartley	Groundwork Dearne Valley
Janet Johnson`	Groundwork Dearne Valley
Rob Saw	Groundwork Dearne Valley
Caralynn Gale	Groundwork Creswell Ashfield and Mansfield
Jamie Glazebrook	Groundwork Creswell Ashfield and Mansfield
Nick Barnes	Greenspaces, RMBC
Tracie Seals	Sustainable Communities Manager, RMBC

32. INTRODUCTIONS/APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Sharman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from:-

Councillor R. S. Russell	RMBC
Councillor G. Smith	RMBC
Councillor K. Wyatt	RMBC

33. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE PANEL HELD ON 19TH JANUARY, 2011

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 19th January, 2011 were agreed as a correct record.

34. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

Reference was made to the following:-

- (i) Future of the Future Jobs Fund

It was reported that all places were filled and that the scheme had closed nationally to new starters and at the moment Groundwork Dearne Valley had the funding until early September.

- (ii) Retirement of Councillor Iain St. John, Cabinet Member for Culture, Lifestyle, Sport and Tourism

Reference was made to the retirement from the Council of Councillor St. John.

Councillor St. John acknowledged the splendid work of both Groundworks and their volunteers and also their work at national level.

The Chairman thanked Councillor St. John for his attendance at meetings over the years, and the Chairman of Groundwork Dearne Valley wished Councillor St. John a long and happy retirement and thanked him for the work he had done with the Trust.

35. QUARTERLY REPORT - GROUNDWORK CRESWELL ASHFIELD AND MANSFIELD AND CRESTA LIMITED

Caralynn Gale, Education Manager, Groundwork Creswell, Ashfield & Mansfield and Cresta Limited, introduced the quarterly report for the period 1st January to 31st March, 2011.

Jamie Glazebrook highlighted the following achievements for the quarter:-

Projects worked on:-

Ravenfield Ponds:- clearing trees, flood detritus and repairing the dry stone wall

Harthill:- clearing Doctor Lane and Glebe Farm allotments

Brinsworth Church:- repairs to wall prior to installing security fencing

Trans Pennine Track:- landscape maintenance

Treeton Youth and Community Centre:- heavy clearance work at front of building; installation of wooden panels and metal railings

Ulley:- prepared dry stone walls on Morthen arm; awaiting delivery of stone to finish the rebuild

Community Task Force:- there were a number of participants who were coming to the end of the programme with no job outcome but were keen to stay on the programme rather than going back to the JobCentre. It was reported that InTraining had advised that the programme could be extended to 1st June and for 13 weeks after.

One World Schools – Youth Re-engagement programme:-
Anston Stones Wood – work continued on general clearance.

Ex-Offenders “V” Programme – New Horizons - volunteer programme targeted at young ex-offenders aged between 16-25. It was reported that the Trust was targeted to work with 60 ex-offenders over 2 years and actually worked with 81 in total. 73 volunteers achieved accreditation, and the retention rate for attendance was over 82%.

Pit wheel in Thrybergh:- awaiting feedback from client

Safety scheme for young children in Rotherham: Cresta was looking for a contribution from Rotherham towards the cost of installation of equipment. Cresta was keen to meet with officers in Rotherham to access viability.

Treeton – new building works

Swimming complex in Dinnington – the Construction arm was in discussion and quotations had been submitted. Groundwork was keen to link with 2010 Rotherham Ltd and their preferred contractor.

Community Learning:- it was reported that Robert Bird had been appointed as the new Community Projects Officer and he had been establishing links with parish councils and engaging with communities.

Newsletter:- reference was made to Councillor Sharman's visit to some of Groundwork's active 'Community Task Force' sites where he met some of the participants.

Funding:- it was reported that Groundwork had appointed a Development Manager to work on funding bids.

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

36. QUARTERLY REPORT - GROUNDWORK DEARNE VALLEY

Janet Johnson, Executive Director, Groundwork Dearne Valley, introduced the quarterly report covering the period 1st January to 31st March, 2011.

The following items were highlighted:-

Jamie Ferneyhough reported on:-

Rawmarsh and Parkgate:-

- planters on St. Nicholas Walk had been rejuvenated with assistance from young volunteers from the local community.
- Fitting Future for the Fitz:- funding had been obtained from the Community Wildlife Big Lottery Fund.

Maltby:-

- Maltby Craggs – footpath project funded through the COMMA Aggregate Levy Fund, with labour provided through the Future Jobs Fund.
- China Town – phase of work completed. Project focused on small scale works with partners to get residents involved and develop the community.

- Maltby Crags Infant School Wildlife Garden – 2 workshops had been held and visit to Maltby Crags had taken place for a Geocaching activity. Groundwork was looking to secure funding for further activity.

Chesterhill:- work in this area was now winding down. Evaluation of the Magna Lane Green Corridor project was taking place (worked on by NEETS and Future Jobs Fund team). Liaison continued with Dalton Parish Council.

Play Pathfinder:- activity had now ceased.

Turning the Corner Programme:-

- Reference was made to a number of youth engagement projects, many involving working with a professional artist for art/graffiti on shop fronts.
- Rawmarsh Skate Park facility now finished.
- Success of the Gun and Knife Crime residential involving young people identified as at risk of becoming involved in these areas. Groundwork was looking for funding to roll this out and deliver further projects.

Miscellaneous Regeneration Projects:-

- Brampton Bierlow BMX Track Sports Development:- activities continued and events on site had been scheduled. Groundwork was in the process of site improvements for a peripheral track. Only positive comments about the track had been received.
- Thorpe Hesley BMX Facility – working with “Friends of” to explore feasibility of a facility off Barnsley Road.

Dearne Valley Eco-Vision:-

Continued working in partnership with the Sheffield City Region team. Reference was made to the concept and vision for the Dearne Valley and its industrial background. Reference was made to structures below the Special Board and to representation on the Eco-Vision Group. Specific activity had included:-

- Green Doctors delivering small scale measures to increase energy efficiency.
- Completion of Community Champion training

Cadbury Spots v Stripes (linked to sponsorship of the 2012 Olympics):-

- Continued working in partnership with Greenspaces Team and the Sports and Active Recreation Team
- events with Rockingham TARA

Rob Saw reported on:-

Alternative Curriculum Programme:-

- Continued work with Milton and Swinton High Schools.

- Delivering to a further 5 schools with funding from 14-19 ESF funding stream.

NEETS (Rotherham)

- Cohort 3 commenced – due to end November – 15 on programme.
- Awaiting decision re: ESF submission for NEETS contract 2011-2013.

Future Jobs Fund:-

- Completed recruitment for final phase (due to end August)
- 236 participants recruited over the programme
- success rate of 30% into work immediately on leaving
- worked on 4 sites within the Borough (Maltby, Rawmarsh, Ulley, Thrybergh) and on Public Rights of Way

Bikes4All:-

- Dr. Bike session held at Wath Park funded by Greenspaces was very well attended with requests for regular sessions around other BMX venues
- unsuccessful bid for the Rotherham Bikeability contract
- submission of a bid by the Council to the Local Sustainability Transport Fund for the development of a “Community Cycle Library” and it was anticipated that Groundwork would assist with the delivery of training to NEETS.

Groundwork Environmental Services (Dearne Valley) Ltd

- No work undertaken recently.

Future Developments:-

Work Programme:- Serco was one of two successful Primes for South Yorkshire and Groundwork had been chosen as a preferred sub-contractor by Serco and was waiting for further information regarding the contract.

Janet Johnson reported on:-

Local Action 21:-

- Rotherham in Root Festival attended and interactive workshop delivered around healthy living and sustainable food. 60+ participants attended the event from all over the Borough.
- Clifton Park Food Fair – Groundwork would showcase locally grown produce from their allotment facility at Spring Garden, Bolton-on-Deerne.
- Continued attendance at the Sustainability Partnership and hoping to be able to input into RMBC’s Allotment Strategy.

Members present discussed the following:-

- (i) Availability of the COMMA Aggregate Levy Fund next year. It was reported that it was sometimes not available in a particular

- area and that this changes over time
- (ii) Availability of Landfill Tax Credits
- (iii) Coronation Park play area – in need of renovation
- (iv) WREN – may be able to put money into projects which benefit the north of the Borough – the Council still had Third Party Funding available. It was suggested that a few well targeted bids might be successful.

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

37. GROUNDWORK CO-OPERATION IN ROTHERHAM

Janet Johnson, Executive Director, Groundwork Dearne Valley read the following statement prepared by the three Executive Directors of the Groundworks Trusts (Dearne Valley, Sheffield and Creswell, Ashfield and Mansfield):-

“In these difficult times, Groundwork is looking to work more efficiently across the whole of South Yorkshire;

to reduce duplication;

to share resources and expertise within the staff teams;

and improve value for money, practical delivery, and the range of projects offered to our partners and to our beneficiaries.

In practice, this means two things. On the one hand, Groundwork Dearne Valley and Groundwork Sheffield are exploring ways of working very closely together, effectively operating to one business plan and as one staff team, but retaining the two separate charitable trusts.

This will introduce the name ‘Groundwork South Yorkshire’ which should more clearly indicate the operational area we cover (as the name ‘Dearne Valley’ often does not at present) and will, in time, provide one point of contact for all operations in this area.

This may lead to the establishment of a joint venture company, to be known as ‘Groundwork South Yorkshire’.

A steering group of trustees from both trust Boards, including Councillor Shaun Wright, has been established to take the process of closer co-operation forward in detail.

The objectives of the organisation, the work we do, the methods of delivery and relationships to partners will remain the same.

Secondly:- we are also exploring ways of working more effectively across Rotherham with Groundwork Creswell, Ashfield and Mansfield, to improve

clarity; maximise the strengths of both trusts in the borough and improve communication with partners and stakeholders.

Through the discussion we are aiming to put in place a Service Level Agreement between Groundwork South Yorkshire and Groundwork Creswell, Ashfield and Mansfield that builds on these strengths and identifies who the main contact will be for each operational area, which will assist future communication between Groundwork and the Council.

Again, the aim is to ensure that Groundwork can achieve its maximum potential in addressing the regeneration issues faced by people in Rotherham, particularly young children, young people, and the vulnerable in the community; providing access to education, training and jobs and business opportunities; and addressing neighbourhood issues using the environment as a focus to achieve this.”

38. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman raised the issue of whether Groundworks were experiencing funding difficulties.

Janet Johnson reported that Groundworks now had the settlement from the DCLG. However this was less than before and there would be less next year and tapering. This funding would then be divided between the regions. Groundwork was in discussion about how to drill that down as it was based on how well each Trust had done in the past against output measures set by Government in 2009/10 and the Index of Multiple Deprivation with tweaks towards environmental factors. There would be a proportion of money for Rotherham, Doncaster, Barnsley and Sheffield. However it was pointed out that in some areas it was more difficult to get projects off the grounds and therefore some leeway was needed in allocating the money. The challenge for Groundwork was to maximise the use of the money.

39. TO CONFIRM THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PANEL AS:-

It was agreed:- That the next meeting of the Panel be held on WEDNESDAY, 13TH JULY, 2011 at 2.30 p.m. – Town Hall, Moorgate Street, Rotherham. S60 2TH