

**GROUNDWORKS TRUSTS PANEL
WEDNESDAY, 16TH JANUARY, 2013**

Present:- Councillor Akhtar (in the Chair); Councillors Andrews, Beck, Sharman, Smith and Swift; together with:-

Jamie Ferneyhough	Groundwork Dearne Valley
Janet Johnson	Groundwork Dearne Valley
Lucy Cheetham	Groundwork Dearne Valley
Caralynn Gale	Groundwork Creswell, Ashfield and Mansfield and Cresta Ltd
Ian Simpson	Groundwork Creswell, Ashfield and Mansfield and Cresta Ltd
Nick Barnes	Leisure and Greenspaces, RMBC

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Rushforth, R. S. Russell and Wright and from Mr. A. Hartley (Groundwork Dearne Valley).

13. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 10TH OCTOBER, 2012

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 10th October, 2012 were agreed as a correct record.

14. QUARTERLY REPORT - GROUNDWORK CRESWELL

Members welcomed Mr. Ian Simpson, recently appointed as Community Officer and Development Manager with Groundwork Creswell, Ashfield and Mansfield and Cresta Limited. Caralynn Gale and Ian Simpson (Groundwork Creswell, Ashfield and Mansfield and Cresta Limited) reported on the quarterly progress of the various projects for the period 1st October to 31st December, 2012, which included:-

(a) One World Schools-Youth Re-engagement Programme – building project at Ulley Country Park and reservoir;

(b) partnership working with CTS Training on the Foundation Learning Programme, including accredited learning and a range of community projects;

(c) apprenticeships centred upon young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs) – courses include construction and horticulture;

(d) Cresta Construction have submitted an application for planning permission to place a Colliery Wheel on the site of the former Silverwood Colliery at Hollings Lane, Thrybergh (this project is being carried out in partnership with the Parish Councils in that area);

(e) continuing to promote the Groundworks Trusts in the Rotherham Borough area and with Parish Councils.

Agreed:- That the contents of the report be noted and the progress being made be welcomed.

15. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN FOR MALTBY AND THE 'JUNIOR WARDENS' PROJECT

The Panel received a presentation from Lucy Cheetham (Community Project Officer, Groundwork Dearne Valley), concerning the following two projects in Maltby:-

(a) Maltby Town Council Plan – to identify future projects for Maltby

Based on 2002 community plan, the new neighbourhood plan will identify future projects to be undertaken in Maltby. Questionnaires were delivered to all properties in the town and an Internet, on-line survey was also used. There is to be a training event and a project planning event with Town Councillors and with Area Assembly representatives. After that, a report will be written describing the projects being planned.

(b) the 'Junior Wardens' Project

The project aims to instill community pride in young people and helps them to improve the local environment. Principally involving pupils aged 7 to 11 years, one case study is taking place with the Maltby Craggs Junior School in and around the Birks Holt and 'chinatown' areas. The project is funded to 31st March 2013 (in part by this Council and in part by Community First). Officers from the Borough Council's Housing Service and from the South Yorkshire Housing Association are also working on this project. Endeavours are being made to obtain funding for a Borough-wide scheme, similar to the one based at Maltby.

Members thanked Lucy for her interesting and informative presentation.

16. QUARTERLY REPORT - GROUNDWORK DEARNE VALLEY

Janet Johnson and Jamie Fernyhough, Groundwork Dearne Valley, described the progress of projects for the period 1st October to 31st December, 2012, as set out in detail in the submitted report, which included:-

(a) Neighbourhood Regeneration – at Aston and at Rawmarsh;

(b) Community Well-being – the Cleaner Greener Litter project in various parts of the Borough area; in addition to the Maltby Neighbourhood Plan (Minute No. 16 above, refers);

(c) Young people's projects – Turning the Corner project; BMX bicycle projects at Brampton Bierlow and at Rotherham (with a funding application to Sport England); development of the National Citizenship Programme from January 2013; Junior Wardens project with Maltby Craggs Junior School; Alpine shops project at Rockingham; redevelopment

of shops area at ST. John's Green, Kimberworth Park;

(d) Dearne Valley Eco-Vision – community engagement, food growing; the Hidden Gems project;

(e) Local Food – raising awareness of the Rotherham in Root campaign;

(f) Biodiversity – bat boxes at Fitzwilliam canal; assessment of sites to place bee hives; Dearne Valley Green Heart project;

(g) Health Activity - establishing new Healthy Walking group in Wath upon Dearne; involvement with the Rotherham Adult Service Consortium about the way in which Groundwork Dearne Valley may support the delivery of activities after approval of the bid to NHS Rotherham to reduce visits to the Accident and Emergency Unit;

(h) Green Infrastructure – support for the Friends of Greenlands Park, North Anston; bulb planting at various locations in the Borough area; artwork at Coronation Park, Rawmarsh;

(i) Volunteering - continue actively to seek and recruit volunteers into numerous roles within the Trust;

(j) Rotherham ESF 14 - 19 Funded Activity - continued delivery to both the 14-16 and 16-18 programmes;

(k) Alternative Curriculum Activity continuing to work towards horticultural qualifications in partnership with local comprehensive schools; undertaking bicycle maintenance training with local schools;

(l) Level 2 Horticultural Apprenticeship Programme – recruitment of full-time apprentices.

Agreed:- That the contents of the report be noted and the progress being made be welcomed.

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Reference was made to the following issues:-

(1) the Memorandum of Understanding agreed by the local authorities and the Groundworks Trusts; Parish Councils are advised to contact the Trust which is responsible for that Council's area.

(2) Rotherham MBC, budget position 2013/2014 and 2014/2015 – it was confirmed that the current level of funding provided by the Borough Council to the Groundworks Trusts will continue for the 2013/2014 financial year; however, the public sector financial outlook remained severe and therefore the Borough Council was now notifying the Groundworks Trusts that there would be no guarantee of any funding

beyond 31 March 2014.

18. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Groundworks Trusts Panel be held at the Town Hall, Moorgate Street, Rotherham on Wednesday, 10th April, 2013, commencing at 2.30 p.m.