



CAI.05 13/14

Challenge and Improvement
Committee

11 June 2013

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Subject: Community Activity

Report by:

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Purpose / Summary:

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on the Localism Team activities and to consider how the Service can further develop.

RECOMMENDATION:

That a Member/Officer working group be established to consider and review the Localism Programme and assist with the development of future action plans including, current internal funding streams, Member activity and Community involvement.

IMPLICATIONS

Legal: None as a result of this report
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Financial: None as a result of this report
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Staffing: None as a result of this report

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights: None identified
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Risk Assessment:

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities:

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Key Decision:

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Localism Team has been in place since June 2012. Although the Localism programme was introduced 18 months ago. The key objective of the service being to help communities to help themselves and others and increase community resilience.
- 1.2 The primary objectives of the Community Action Officers (CAOs), in particular, has been:
1. To develop and build relationships with partners within their areas, including voluntary and community groups
 2. To develop a comprehensive knowledge of their area
 3. To develop and identify areas for agile working within their areas to make themselves both available and known within their communities
 4. To promote internal and external funding streams
 5. To support and facilitate initiatives within their areas
 6. To develop their individual "Specialisms"
 7. To empower communities to help themselves

2 PRIORITIES

- 2.1 The main priorities for the team for the coming year (2013/14) are as follows:
- To increase the amount of external funding secured in West Lindsey
 - To ensure that applications to and spend of internal funding streams is secured
 - To increase the number of volunteers in West Lindsey
 - To build on the work carried out over the past nine months
 - Intensive work on the priority areas which are South West ward and Park Springs, Gainsborough, and the ex-MOD sites, including Scampton.

3 OTHER PRIORITIES

- 3.1 To support and contribute towards West Lindsey District Council Strategic initiatives within their areas.
- 3.2 To contribute towards the themes and objectives within the Corporate Plan.
- 3.3 To support and contribute towards identified community priorities through facilitation and empowerment.

4 A SUMMARY OF WORK THAT IS CURRENTLY TAKING PLACE WITH SUPPORT FROM THE CAOs

4.1 Gainsborough

- Traineeships – working through the GAIN (Gainsborough Area Improvement Network) group to develop youth employment opportunities potentially as part of a national Government initiative.

- South West Improvement Group – working with local residents to develop community projects and to source funding to deliver them.
- Community Payback clean up schemes have taken place in Gainsborough South West Ward, Gainsborough North Ward (at the request of Gainsborough Town Council), and Gainsborough uphills.
- Support to the Youth Council.
- Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) pro-active initiatives being developed in conjunction with partners to tackle environmental issues at identified “hot spot” areas within Gainsborough.
- Support and development of Gainsborough markets.

5 CAISTOR

5.1 A Dog Fouling campaign being developed in conjunction with Councillor Caine to take place in Caistor and Keelby by the Anti-Social Behaviour team and partners.

5.2 Community Payback initiatives have taken place in the Town.

5.3 Brookenby – work that is being undertaken by Community Lincs

- The Community Centre continues to be developed.
- A feasibility study has been carried out in relation to renovation of part of the community centre.
- Partnership work with the Parish Council and the Community is on-going in relation to management of the community centre.
- An active sports group is being supported through identification of potential funding streams.
- A skate park project is being developed, including identification of potential funding streams.
- Community Payback clean ups have taken place and these include litter picking and painting of the Community Centre.

6 MARKET RASEN

6.1 A Market Rasen Summit was facilitated on 25th April for the main groups working in Market Rasen with the aims of developing a ‘Vision for Market Rasen’ and to develop a joined up group to develop the Market Rasen Community.

6.2 Working closely with a range of community organisations including the Town Council, Market Rasen Business Improvement Group (MR BIG), Market Rasen Community Development Trust (HUB), Rasen Heritage Group, Shop watch, De Aston School, and MR RUG (Rail Users Group) which is a new organisation trying to improve rail provision for Market Rasen. Support, including funding advice, is being given to assist in developing their ideas and schemes to improve Market Rasen.

6.3 Action is ongoing to develop Leisure provision in the Town and forms part of the WLDC Leisure Review. Daytime provision of Children’s Ballet and Street Dance Classes starts on 29th April.

6.4 The CAO works regularly from the Festival Hall.

6.5 Community Payback initiatives have taken place in the Town and funding has been committed by Market Rasen BIG to use the team in Market Rasen once a month

6.6 **Newtoft**

- Work is ongoing to support the Community Hall Project. The group has developed a business plan and has been offered further funding to support this from the WLDC Community Assets Fund. The group is looking to finalise an Expression of Interest for Capital funding for the project to the BIG Lottery supported by WLDC and CAN.
- A Community Payback scheme is being set up.

6.7 **Normanby and Omwby by Spital**

- Initial advice has been provided to Normanby and Omwby by Spital to develop a combined playing field facility and how to develop community consultation for the project.

7 **TRENT**

7.1 **Scotter**

- Work is ongoing in conjunction with the local Policing Team and North Lincolnshire Council in relation to the provision of street sports in conjunction with Kirton Lindsey and Messingham
- The CAO works from Scotter Eau Community Centre once a week as a 'drop in' and this has been advertised locally.

7.2 **Hemswell Cliff**

- Hemswell Cliff Ball Park and playing field, has had significant support from the CAO and once ownership is transferred to the Parish Council, will be the only facility in the village owned by the community. Advice and support has, and will continue to be given, in relation to development of the areas and for funding for this scheme.
- Monthly Community Payback clean ups are taking place and a scheme was carried out to clean up the ball park. The local community have actively participated in these initiatives.
- Ball Park Committee being formed (to include members of both Parish Council and Residents group).
- A consultation with young people is being developed in conjunction with Community Lincs and Lincolnshire County Council, including a community consultation event.
- A newsletter is produced for the village.
- Development of a Community Led Plan is being supported and it is hoped to use the same consultation event as Ball Park Committee to get ideas and support for a Community Led Plan.
- Work is ongoing in working with the Market to reduce the amount of litter affecting the village.

- Support is being provided to develop summer events including the Jubilee Games and the Big Lunch and possible summer sporting events.
- Graffiti, fly tipping and unsightly garages have been dealt with in conjunction with Preim

7.3 **Other**

- East Ferry: is starting to work towards developing a community facility. Advice has been given in relation to the Community Chest grants to replace an old Noticeboard and spruce up parts of the village.
- Blyton Village has received assistance in looking at developing a Community Led Plan and progression of this will be decided at the Parish Council's AGM. The plan would include the future of the Village Hall as well as other community facilities.
- Hemswell Village Hall has received funding advice.
- Close liaison with Community Lincs is ongoing in relation to support for Community Led Plans and Village Halls.
- The CAO produces a bi-monthly news sheet on current activities and future developments in the area
- Specific advice has been given to Willoughton Football Club, who have not previously bid, for funding for repairs to their changing facilities.

8 **WITHAM**

8.1 Looking to identify and secure funding in Langworth for the village hall, play equipment, etc through and with the Village Hall Committee and the Mother and Toddler Group.

8.2 Providing advice and support to Parish Councils in the area.

8.3 Discussing issues around Planning and transport with the local members.

8.4 **Scampton**

- The Community Action Officer is working closely with Gill Angel, the RAF Community Development Officer.
- Providing support and funding advice to the ROSE Committee (Regeneration of Scampton).
- A skate park and other facilities are in the initial stages of development in conjunction with Gill Angel.
- Working towards developing a community transport scheme which may be extended to Hemswell Cliff. A task and finish group is being considered to look at potential options of transport for the Ex-MoD communities.

9 **FOSSDYKE**

9.1 Looking to identify and secure funding in Kettlethorpe for the village hall, play equipment, etc through and with the Village Hall Committee and the Mother and Toddler Group.

9.2 Providing advice and support to Parish Councils in the area.

9.3 Saxilby have a community warden scheme in operation.

9.4 Working with Torksey Action Group – the owner of the castle wants to gift the castle to the group, with conditions attached to the gift.

10 **CONCLUSION**

10.1 West Lindsey District Council has made considerable investment in the Localism team to ensure that communities are better able to help themselves and become more vibrant and sustainable in the future. It is crucial that the team deliver outcomes that are measurable and contribute towards the Corporate Plan key themes and objectives. Although much good work has already taken place over the past nine months it is crucial that this good work acts as a platform, along with development and support, to achievement of tangible and measurable targets, particularly in terms of securing additional funding in the District, increasing the number of active volunteers, and working effectively and intensively in the priority areas.