



NOTES
OF THE MEETING OF THE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUP
TUESDAY 21 JANUARY 2014

Held at 7.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Pavilion Road, West Bridgford

PRESENT:

Councillors R L Butler (Chairman), S J Boote, N K Boughton-Smith,
T Combellack, L B Cooper, J E Greenwood, Mrs M M Males, G R Mallender

OFFICERS PRESENT:

D Banks	Executive Manager - Neighbourhoods
A Graham	Chief Executive
D Mitchell	Executive Manager - Communities
V Nightingale	Senior Member Support Officer
A Poole	Project Manager

APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE:

Councillor M G Hemsley

12. Declarations of Interest

There were none declared.

13. Notes of the Previous Meeting

The notes of the meeting held on Tuesday 29 October 2013 were accepted as a true record. Following a discussion it was felt that if any decision was not unanimous it should be stated, as had occurred on the HS2 discussion.

14. YouNG Network Group

Following a request by the Group the Chief Executive gave a presentation outlining the Council's ground breaking social media project. He stated that consideration had been given to how the Council could take forward the 2012 Olympic legacy to inspire a generation. As a result a project had been evolved to help young people develop their work skills and to further the Council's engagement with young people. The young people had created the brand for the group and the brand had subsequently been registered by the Council.

The project had started in September 2012 when the Council employed one student from each of the seven secondary schools in the Borough. A second group of students was recruited in September 2013. He informed Members that the project was driven by the young people and promoted local events, business, activities and services which were relevant to young people. Members were informed that the project established a relevant communications network as well as developing the social media and creative writing skills of the participants. It also strengthened the links between the seven secondary schools and with the Borough Council.

The Chief Executive stated that by employing the young people they gained experience of a working environment. They were paid £3.50 per hour and the first cohort had completed 1,220 hours in the first year, which equated to an approximate cost of £4,500 per annum to the Authority. Officers had been impressed that there had only been a 3.7% absence rate which was mainly due to vying school activities, and only 1.1% sickness absence.

As part of the project the group had worked with The Media Group on a video, had created an app, produced a newsletter, run a 'YouNG market' and worked on a health leaflet. They had also been consulted on the County Council's new youth facility in West Bridgford, created a website which included blogs and tweets about community events. Young people were informed about how to stay safe on line and the group wanted to carry out work on preventing cyber bullying. The challenges for officers and the group were to keep the site fresh and up to date within the time available.

One of the highlights of the year had been the YouNG market which had been organised, promoted and run by the young people themselves. The market had enabled young entrepreneurs to showcase their talents, whilst supporting the Council's aims to encourage and support economic growth. The Chief Executive stated that one of the stallholders had since moved into new premises and been able to grow his business. Following this success the new group of young people were arranging a market in Bingham on 1 March 2014.

The Chief Executive stated that initially the young people had been nominated for the project by their teachers; however, he was pleased to say that for the second year the nominations had come from the young people. The project had received many accolades from the young people, their parents and their teachers, especially on the personal development of the young people.

Members were informed of future events, one where the group would meet local businesses and secondly when the schools could meet with businesses to network and discuss how young people could gain the necessary skills and experience to gain employment.

Following a question the Chief Executive stated that he had shared the objectives of the project with other local authority Chief Executives. It was felt that, with funding, this could help many young people. It was noted that there were other agencies that either concentrated on the top 1% of the most academic young people or those young people who were already in trouble, or those that are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET). It was also recognised that career advice had been reduced and he felt that schools and businesses should discuss the best way forward for young people. He stated that this project was for the young people that did not fit into any of those categories and was not designed to replicate or duplicate any other agency.

With regard to apprenticeships it was stated that these were often available but not very well publicised. The Council had taken on a number of apprentices in various roles and was considering how it could finance more. Following concerns raised the Chief Executive stated that the limitations to the project were time and funding. He was pleased to say that two local businesses had offered support for the website and this could enable it to be developed to encompass young people from year 10 up to post graduate.

With regards to funding this could be achieved through the development of a community involvement company.

The Project Manager, in response to a question, informed the Group that the health issues leaflet had been raised by the YouNG group as part of the NHS Choose Well campaign. She stated that the group had felt that there was very little information available to help young people to make informed choices on health related matters. Members were informed that the Clinical Commissioning Group were involved and assisting the group. It was also important that the group developed their own ideas and were not seen to be led by the Council.

Councillor Combellack stated that as each group of young people moved forward then the principals of the project could be expanded beyond the Borough. She also gave Members information on the 'Say Yes' project which involved major businesses in the City of Nottingham giving young people six week apprenticeships. With regards to the group and their twitter feeds she wondered if local sports people could be involved as this would widen the message recipients.

The Group believed that this was a very worthwhile project and should be supported.

It was AGREED that the achievements and future priorities of the YouNG project be noted and that officers should explore further funding opportunities and the scope to expand the project out of Rushcliffe.

15. Assets of Community Value – Year One Review

The Executive Manager - Communities presented a report regarding the Council's process for recording assets of community value, which was one of the four new community rights contained within the Localism Act 2011. He stated that Cabinet had approved the process in December 2012 and had requested that this should be reviewed 12 months after it had been introduced. He stated that the Council had been proactive in promoting the scheme to the parishes via the annual conference and parish forums.

The Executive Manager – Communities explained that there had only been three applications made to the Council which was reflective of the small number of applications made across Nottinghamshire. Of the applications received two had been accepted. The third, the Manor House, Bingham, had failed the criteria as it had not been in community use. When the owners had been contacted it was noted that there had been some differences of opinions but no real objections to the process.

Following a discussion Members were informed that the right was not to buy the buildings but to register the building. Then if the owner wished to sell the property the Council would be informed and it, in turn would notify the interested parties, who would then have a period of six months to raise the funds. Although the owner was still not obliged to sell the property to the interested parties. Members also felt that this could be used to register

churches however the purchase price could be an obstacle. The Group noted that a nominated asset could be owned by the Council.

It was AGREED that the Group endorsed the current process and its continuation.

16. Community Right to Challenge – Year One Review

The Executive Manager - Communities stated that, similar to the previous agenda item, this was one of the community rights contained within the Localism Act 2011. He stated that the process had not been tested as there had not been any applications. Officers had contacted 40 other councils who had also not received any challenges. Nationally, officers only knew of two examples. Members were reminded that only certain bodies had the right to challenge; parish councils could challenge but the Borough Council could not.

Members queried if grass cutting could be a service where a challenge could be made. The Executive Manager - Communities stated that the Council worked in partnership with parishes and other organisations. When considering the costs it was often not efficient for small areas to take over responsibility whereas the partnership approach gave economies of scale.

The Executive Manager - Communities stated that the Council had considered, as part of the Leisure Strategy, Keyworth Leisure Centre being run by the community however there had not been any interest.

Members were surprised that there had not been any challenges and asked officers to keep them informed if any applications were received.

It was AGREED that the current process should continue and that it should be reviewed following the first application.

17. Work Programme

The Group considered its work programme. It was felt that, at the next meeting, the Group should discuss new energy initiatives, such as wind, hydro and solar power, fracking, bio digesters, etc. Members discussed the siting of wind turbines and how this linked into the planning process. Officers stated that work was being undertaken with Melton Borough Council as the Borough had not approved any large wind turbines. It was felt that it would be useful to see if the Council had a policy on such issues, how any developments were operating and their impact on the Borough.

The Executive Manager - Neighbourhoods stated that another item for the work programme could be how the Council's regulatory services such as health and safety, food safety and planning interacted with businesses to encourage economic prosperity. This subject could also include considering how the Finance and Commercial service area encouraged business growth in relation to Business Rates. Members asked if this could include consideration of the changes to use of agricultural buildings.

Members asked for a presentation on the work of the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership and were informed that this could be included within the Group's update on economic development.

Following a discussion on housing, homelessness, affordable rents and choice based lettings it was acknowledged that the Partnership Delivery Group annually scrutinised both Metropolitan Housing Trust and the Waterloo Housing Group.

It was AGREED that the Group's work programme should be amended to include the topics of new energy initiatives and how the Borough Council's regulatory services encouraged economic prosperity.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

Action Sheet

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Minute Number	Actions	Officer Responsible
14. YouNG Network Group	Members to be advised how to download the YouNG app.	Project Manager
16. Community Right to Challenge – Year One Review	Officers to inform Members when the first application is received	Executive Manager - Communities
17. Work Programme	Officers to include the subjects of new energy initiatives and how the Borough Council's regulatory services encouraged economic prosperity into the work programme	Executive Manager - Neighbourhoods and Member Services