

Area North Committee – 27<sup>th</sup> June 2007

## 9. Area North Development – Play and Youth Support

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### Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to provide members with an update on Playscheme's in Area North during 2006/07, and proposed Playscheme activities for August 2007.

### Recommendation

It is recommended that Members **note** the report.

### Background

In February 2006 funding from the Area Reserve was approved by the Area North Committee to appoint a Community Development Assistant, to support community led play and youth activities, including holiday playschemes in Area North and to engage with parishes and communities who are seeking assistance with initiatives involving the elderly and infirm. This report covers work with children and young people, and work supporting older people is in a report elsewhere in this agenda.

### Report

#### Summer 2006

With support and funding from South Somerset District Council a total of 21 play sessions in Area North were provided during the 2006 summer holiday. They ran over 14 days during the summer, with a total over 300 children attending at least one play session. Some sessions were led and managed by community playscheme groups, others were organised by the Community Development Assistant.

Children were able to enjoy a number of activities such as the SSDC Community Play Bus, outdoor play sport, arts and crafts, cake making, mask and puppet making, face painting, woodlands crafts and games, swimming, circus skills, drumming workshops and more!

Location	No. of Play Sessions
Aller	2
Chilthorne Domer	2
Ilton	4
Kingsbury Episcopi	2
Long Sutton	8
Somerton	3
Total	21

## Easter 2007

During Easter 2007, a small number of parishes continued to run playscheme's and all were very well attended.

Children sampled circus skills and Easter crafts onboard the SSDC Community Bus, advanced coaching skills with Yeovil Town Football Club and Woodland outdoor crafts and games.

Location	No. of Play Sessions
Aller	2
Chilthorne Domer	2
Drayton	1
Long Load	1
Total	6

## Proposed Play for Summer 2007

Plans for supporting a number of summer play sessions are well in hand - with lots of fun games and activities for young people. Sessions will be focused on outdoor play and activities, with a focus on discovering nature!

Each year a number of existing community playscheme's are unable to run due to the loss of local volunteer support, and re-starting groups can take considerable time.

At this stage (June) we expect existing playscheme's to be running this summer in Aller, Ilton, Drayton and Chilthorne Domer, providing open access to play. Following support from SSDC in past months to establish new schemes, there are sessions planned in Long Load, Shepton Beauchamp and Somerton.

The dedication from a small number of volunteers in each community is evident, and without this very few play sessions would be run.

To support an increase in the number of schemes in Area North and gain new volunteer support, the Community Development Assistant has planned an 'Area North Play Roadshow' for the summer. Planned locations are shown in the table below.

Please see table below for information on existing, new and SSDC run taster sessions.

Location	Number of sessions	Community led		SSDC run Taster
		Existing	New	
Aller	2	✓		
Barrington	1 / 2 - tbc			✓
Chilthorne Domer	2 -tbc	✓		
Curry Rivel	1			✓
Drayton	2	✓		
Ilton	8	✓		
Langport	1			✓
Long Load	1		✓	

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Martock	2 – tbc			✓
Shepton Beauchamp	2		✓	
Somerton	4		✓	
Stoke Sub Hamdon/Montacute	1			✓

In the past 12 months strong links have been made to work more closely with a number of local partners and community groups such as the South Somerset Play Association, Huish Community Learning Partnership and local Youth Groups such as Somerton and Ilton.

An audit of Youth Provision in Martock, on behalf of the Youth Affairs group was carried out earlier this year and this data will soon be made readily available through the Martock website and local newsletter 'The Leveller'.

The post of Community Development Assistant will be continued for a further 12 months.

### Implications for Corporate Priorities

**Objective 9:** Identify and address the particular issues affecting rural areas

**Objective 16:** Maintain above 80% the people satisfied with their neighbours as a place to live

### Other Implications

The provision of community playschemes and supporting new activities for young people can also contribute to priorities within:

- The Area North Development Plan
- The Somerset Local Area Agreement
- Town and Parish community plans
- Area North Community Safety Action Plan

### Financial Implications

None from this report, the provision for a further 12 months of funding can be met from within existing Area Development budgets.

**Background Papers:** *Play and Youth Support report ANC February 2006*