

8. Progress of the Ilminster Forum and Community Plan

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Purpose of the Report

To update Area West members about the work of the Ilminster Forum and the progress of the projects in the Community Plan for Ilminster & surrounding area.

Recommendation

That members note the contents of the report.

Background

Ilminster Forum published and launched their Community Plan for Ilminster in April 2005. Over the past two years Ilminster Forum have been working in partnership with SSDC, Ilminster Town Council and a number of local groups and organisations to implement a number of the projects identified in the Community Plan.

Progress on Projects identified in the Ilminster Forum Community Plan

A wide range of projects has been identified under the 8 main themes of the Community Plan. Ilminster Forum is currently working on the following projects:

Substance Misuse Evening

Under the theme of community safety the County Drugs Action Team has provided a very successful workshop. This event was aimed at parents and provided information about drugs and the signs of substance misuse.

Facilities Survey

The facilities survey being carried out to establish whether or not there is a need for a community building within the town is on going. Once all the data has been received and analysed a report will be written and made available to the interested parties.

Swimming Pool Survey

A high percentage of the residents who responded to the Community Plan questionnaire considered that the provision of a swimming pool in Ilminster was of paramount importance. The Forum is going to carry out a feasibility study into whether or not a pool in the town is a viable option. As part of this study a questionnaire is being distributed by Forum members to Ilminster residents and some of the surrounding parishes. After the forms have been returned, 16th November 2007, the data will be fed into a computer programme for analysis.

Walks Leaflet

Provision of information in different formats was also a priority in the Community Plan – the need for a heritage trail, increased awareness of local footpaths and information regarding the history of Ilminster. Projects are already underway to produce the

necessary leaflets with the work being done by the members of the group. Funding is actively being sought.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications for the Area West Committee.

Implications for Corporate Priorities

By supporting the Ilminster Forum Community Plan, Area West Committee will be addressing several of the Council's key Corporate Aims (2005-2012);

- Increase economic vitality and prosperity
- Improve the health and well being of our citizens
- Ensure safe, sustainable and cohesive communities

Other Implications

None.

Background Papers: *AWC Report – Progress of the Ilminster Forum & Community Plan*
AWC Report – Progress of the Ilminster Forum & Community plan – 18th April 2007
AWC Report – Progress of the Ilminster Forum & Community plan – 20th December 2006
AWC Report – The Progress of Ilminster Community Plan Projects – 18th October 2006
Memorandum and Articles of Ilminster Forum Ltd
The Ilminster Community Plan – April 2005
