

Area West Committee – 19th December 2007

9. Progress of Action for Chard Town and Community Plan (Executive Decision)

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Purpose of the Report

To inform Area West members of the progress of Action for Chard Town and the Chard and District Community Plan.

Recommendations

It is recommended that members note and support the developments of Action for Chard Town and the community plan projects.

Background

Chard has a Community Plan “Chard’s Flying Start”, which has been prepared by Action for Chard Town (ACT) funded under the Market and Coastal towns Initiative. The plan was published in October 2005 and is based on a series of consultation events that took place within Chard. The key aims of the Community Plan are as follows:

- Improve the skills of Chard workforce and encourage better quality jobs.
- Sustain Chard’s viability and vitality as a market town.
- Ensure that Chard’s infrastructure and support systems are available to all who need them.
- Raise people’s self esteem and aspirations and bring back a sense of community pride.

Report

- A successful ‘Reservoir Open Day’ event was held on the 15th September at Chard Reservoir. Several people expressed an interest in becoming ‘Friends of Chard Reservoir’ and a meeting was set up on 12th November with the volunteers, Katy Menday (SSDC Senior Countryside Officer, Sites) and Tim Brown (SSDC Countryside Ranger) to explore the possibility of establishing a Friends group. Work is ongoing on this.
- The analysis of the Transport Survey is complete and a meeting will be held in December to plan a press event in January to publicise the results of the survey.
- Plans for the Commemorative Garden have now been completed. The next stage will be to decide on materials, estimate quantities and cost up the work prior to identifying and applying for funding.
- A proposal for the Chard Festival of Flight has been developed by Simon Ruston (SSDC Area West Project Development Officer).

Financial Implications

There are no new financial implications for the Area West Committee.

Implications for Corporate Priorities

Supporting Action for Chard Town and the Action Plan will enable Area West Committee to address 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: *Area West Committee Report - 19th September 2007*
'Chard's Flying Start' The Community Plan for Chard & Surrounding Area
