

Area West Committee – 16th January 2008

7. Progress Report on the Priority Projects of 'A Better Crewkerne & District' Community Plan

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Purpose of the Report

To advise members of the progress of the Crewkerne and District Community Plan and update members of wider community regeneration issues in Crewkerne.

Recommendation

That members note the contents of the report.

Background

The plan was launched in 2006 and since then the ABCD Steering Group have set up a number of working groups to develop some of the projects identified through the community planning process. Since the last report to Area West Committee in October 2007 the following progress has been made:-

Report

Crewkerne Urban Design Framework (UDF)

With the support of Adron Duckworth, SSDC Conservation Manager, the UDF Working Group commissioned a consultant to carry out a Conservation Area Appraisal of Crewkerne. John Wykes, the consultant, has carried out the bulk of his work and produced a draft Conservation Area Appraisal, which identifies the features and details that contribute to the character of Crewkerne's conservation area. The draft CAA is now subject to consultation by officers at SSDC and English Heritage and will be presented to Area West Committee. A public consultation of the draft Conservation Area Appraisal will be arranged for early 2008.

Henhayes Sports and Community Centre

ABCD have appointed a consultant to produce a feasibility study and business plan for a new purpose built facility to be shared by the sports clubs and the users of West One Youth & Community Centre. The Working Group have met with a number of architectural practices, and their recommendation for their preferred choice was accepted by Crewkerne Town Council at its meeting on December 17th. The next stage is to work with the appointed architect to produce drawings for a planning application. The three Sports Clubs involved, Rugby, Cricket and Football, are all working on their own development plans with assistance and approval of SSDC.

Developing Crewkerne as a Place to do Business

The Chamber of Commerce continues to organise networking events giving business people in the area the opportunity to make contacts and raise the profile of their own organisations. Work towards the new business directory continues. A number of themed business events are planned for 2008 including a 'green business' event aimed

at those wishing to combine their interest with ecological issues with their business. It is hoped that this event will be of interest to local farmers and horticulturists. In addition there are plans for a finance themed meeting and a Crewkerne Health and Lifestyles Business event.

Interpretation Boards

The boards have arrived and are now in place.

Crewkerne Update

A newsletter providing an update on the work of ABCD has been produced and is about to be distributed to residents of Crewkerne and the surrounding parishes. The newsletters will be available from the Town Hall, village shops and post offices, Crewkerne library, doctors' surgeries and other public buildings.

Crewkerne Youth Fair

After the success of the Crewkerne Volunteer Fair in 2007 it was suggested that an event aimed specifically at organisations working with young people was needed. A working Group has been set up to organise and deliver a youth fair in Crewkerne. The purpose of the event is to:

- Promote the wide variety of youth organisations to young people living in and around Crewkerne.
- Recruit more volunteers to help run the organisations.

The Crewkerne Youth Fair will take place on Saturday 29th March in the Victoria Hall, Crewkerne.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications for Area West Committee.

Implications for Corporate Priorities

By promoting and supporting regeneration in our market towns such as the production of the Crewkerne & District Community Plan, SSDC will be addressing several of the Corporate Aims 2005 - 2012:

- Objective 8 "work in partnership with the public and private sector in developing and delivery of the Market Towns Vision"
- Objective 9 "Identify and address the particular issues affecting rural areas"
- Objective 15 "Increase to 65% by 2010 the people who feel engaged in and can influence decisions that affect their communities"

Background Papers: *Progress Report on A Better Crewkerne & District 17th October 2007.*
Progress Report on the Community Projects of A Better Crewkerne & District 18th July 2007.
Progress Report on 'A Better Crewkerne & District' and the Community Plan Projects 17th January 2007
Progress of the Crewkerne & District Community Plan and associated projects 18th October 2006
The launch of Crewkerne & District Community Plan 19th July 2006
SSDC Corporate Plan 2005-2012
A Better Crewkerne & District "Critical Activities" 2006/07