

# **Martock Parish Council Our Place Martock Programme Annual Update**

*Strategic Director:* Rina Singh, Place and Performance  
*Assistant Director:* Helen Rutter, Communities  
*Lead Officer:* Sara Kelly, Area Development Lead (North)  
*Contact Details:* Sara.kelly@southsomerset.gov.uk or (01935) 462249

## **Purpose of the Report**

This report provides background information on the Martock Our Place programme which is receiving funding from Area North via a three year service level agreement (SLA). A verbal presentation will be given at Committee by the Martock Community Services Co-ordinator to update on the work undertaken during the 2016/17 financial year.

## **Public Interest**

Martock Parish Council has a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with South Somerset District Council (SSDC) over a three-year period. As part of the SLA the Parish Council must provide regular progress reports. This report and the presentation that will be given at Committee will provide an update on work undertaken during the last year.

## **Recommendation**

That Members note the contents of this report and note and comment on the presentation given by the Community Services Co-ordinator

## **Background**

In 2014, Martock Parish Council was accepted into the Our Place programme, a package of grants and support designed to transfer ownership of funding from central government into local communities, so that local people and organisations could identify, develop and manage directly, services needed in that community.

## **Operation**

The programme is funded principally through the Martock Parish Council precept. Research and advisory support was provided by Locality during the development stage of the programme.

The aim of the programme is to fill gaps in services caused by withdrawal of services or the access bar being raised due to economic pressures. Based on needs identified through research and consultation, the programme has developed four key service strands:

- Building self-reliance
- Improving access to services
- Addressing social isolation
- Enhancing employability

Since commencing operation in April 2015, the programme has appointed a Community Services Co-ordinator (CSC); Seniors Support Co-ordinator; and Job Club Co-ordinator, and started delivery of a range of services and support for local people.

### **Service Level Agreement**

In March 2016, Area North Committee resolved to award a grant of £12,000 over a three year period to Martock Parish Council towards the overall costs of the Our Place programme. The first payment of £5,000 was released in 2016. Year two (2017) will contribute £4,000 with the remaining £3,000 in 2018.

The terms of the partnership between SSDC Area North and the Our Place Martock programme are governed by a Service Level Agreement. SSDC's funding will contribute towards the staffing costs of the Our Place programme and the SLA will delineate the focus of work and the expected outputs and key performance indicators (KPI), in four main areas;

- Residents are helped to access information and services online
- Residents are helped to access information and services at key local points
- Local opportunities are provided that help to reduce social isolation
- Job-seekers are helped into employment

SSDC provide background advice and support for the programme.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

The Our Place programme provides quarterly reports and, annually, a budget for the coming year and schedule of funding.

The Community Services Co-ordinator (CSC) will provide a detailed update on work undertaken in the last year as part of her presentation, but a few headline figures are as follows;

- 149 individuals supported by the CSC from January to December 2016
- 31 people attended heart start training (CPR and Defibrillator training)
- 572 people attended Martock Friends' events between January to September 2016
- 57 walkers took part in health walks between January to September 2016

### **Conclusion and Recommendation**

The Our Place programme meets SSDC Area North's priority "to promote greater levels of self-help, to promote the sustainability of local services and facilities for all ages". It is an innovative programme at a time when government spending on public services is being reduced.

The Service Level Agreement enables SSDC to be involved as a partner on aspects of the programme, supporting the principle of resourcing communities to find appropriate local responses to local issues. .

## **Financial Implications**

There is £10,680 available in the Area North Community Grants programme for 2017-18 subject to carry forwards being approved. Once the second year SLA payment of £4,000 is released, £6,680 will remain unallocated.

## **Council Plan Implications**

The project supports:

Focus One: Jobs

Focus Three: Homes

Focus Four: Health & Communities

## **Carbon Emissions & Climate Change Implications**

Access to local information, advice and services reduces carbon emissions produced by travel to centralised locations.

## **Equality and Diversity Implications**

Martock is a linear community extending over nearly three miles, with shops and services in a relatively small, centralised area. The Our Place programme is working to address the needs of residents who find it difficult to reach the services they need – older people, young families, people with disabilities – by delivering information and advice either at home, or as close to home as possible, and by enabling greater use of digital services.

Martock Parish Council has an Equal Opportunities Policy and a Safeguarding Policy.