

**TITLE OF REPORT: CHAMPION NEWS - LETCHWORTH AREA COMMITTEE**

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURAL SERVICES

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of the activities and schemes with which the Community Development Team has been involved.
- 1.2 To bring to the Committee's attention some important community based activities that will be taking place during the next few months.

**2 THE FORWARD PLAN**

- 2.1 This report does not contain a recommendation on a key decision and has not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

**3. PROJECT/ ACTIVITY/ SCHEME DETAILS**

**3.1 Letchworth Youth Council**

Meetings are fortnightly at Mrs Howard Hall. In addition the group also meets every Monday and Tuesday between 4.00 – 6.00pm to use the cyber café at Mrs Howard Hall to design their own website.

The group invited Steve Gibbs from Herts Police to their meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> June to discuss personal safety issues for young people. Youth Members are considering a range of options based on the suggestion by Police, which includes carrying out a road safety campaign amongst their peers and adults.

The Youth Council is planning an official launch event on 27<sup>th</sup> September at Mrs Howard Hall, which will be a joint event with the Youth Service incorporating the end of Summer Youthoria celebration.

### 3.2 **North Herts Big FAB Event (Fifty and Above)**

The event was deemed a success, with more than 100 attendees, 21 Information Stalls and involved 16 discussion groups talking around an Agenda that was drawn up on the day by the participating public.

The main issues to emerge from discussion group feedback were:

- a. Public Transport – Lack of Bus Routes
- b. Face to face provision of information
- c. Local Leisure Facilities and Activities
- d. Low cost meeting room hire

The feedback from the discussion groups has been distributed to those partnership organisations who are in a position to make decisions on the issues raised and to those individuals who have specifically requested a copy.

The details and actions emerging will be used to draw up the 50+ Development Plan 2009-2012

### 3.3 **Wilbury Youth Issues**

The CDO is currently working with Rap-Aid to put together a programme of football coaching during the summer holiday for young people, aged 6 – 13 and 13 plus , on every Tuesday and Thursday, 11am–1.00 pm at Archers Way Recreational Ground.

Young people will also have the opportunity to participate in street dance classes, a variety of art projects, including a short film / documentary production sponsored by the MTV Boom Project and usage of the Rap-Aid facilities within Mrs Howard Hall two evenings a week.

### 3.4 **Rap-Aid**

The CDO recently supported the group with a successful first stage Mediabox funding application. The 2<sup>nd</sup> stage application which involves a community media/radio project will be worth £45k.

The outcome of the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage application will be known after 10<sup>th</sup> July 2008.

### 3.5 **Westbury Action Group (WAG)**

A walkabout on the estate took place on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2008 with the members of the WAG and elected ward members from NHDC & LGCTC. Officers from NHDC, Herts Police and NHH were also present. A number of actions were identified and appropriate agencies agreed to deal with them accordingly.

Further details for the group is available on their website  
<http://westbury-lgc.no-ip.org>

3.6 **Jack Wilkinson Memorial Garden**

Re-planting of stolen shrubs and trees has taken place recently with the £300 additional funding support from the Letchworth Area Committee. Fortunately there have been no further reports on missing shrubs/ trees.

**4. CONSULTATION WITH EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS AND WARD MEMBERS**

4.1 Consultation has taken place with the respective agencies, organisations and ward members with regards to the activities and events mentioned in section 3 of the report.

**5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

5.1 That the Committee endorses the actions taken by the Community Development Officer to promote greater community capacity and well - being for Letchworth Garden City.

**6. CONTACT OFFICERS**

6.1 Ashuk Ahmed, Community Development Officer, Letchworth. Te: x4225  
e-mail [ashuk.ahmed@north-herts.gov.uk](mailto:ashuk.ahmed@north-herts.gov.uk)