

TOW LAW COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16TH MARCH 2005

PRESENT :

Councillor R.Grogan

(Chairman)

Ken McGurk	Groundwork West Durham
Tracy Craig	Home Housing
Maureen Rooks	“ “
Cath Mullen	Blessed John Duckett School
Amanda McCluskey	Millennium Primary School
Steve Thow	Bishop Auckland College
Councillor J.Day	Tow Law Town Council
Councillor E.Morris	“ “ “ “
Councillor A.Green	“ “ “ “
County Councillor T.Carroll	Durham County Council
P.C.Geoff Moore	Beat Officer
Diane Pearson	Community Worker
John Abbot	Secretary

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE :

**Councillor J.Flynn (Tow Law Town Council), Oliver Reed (Groundwork),
Martin Scurr (Home Housing)**

2. MINUTES :

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16th February 2005 (a copy of which had been be sent previously to each member) were Agreed as a correct record.

3. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR :

The Chairman expressed appreciation to Home Housing for the prompt and effective letter which had been sent to each of its households in the town explaining its policy with regard to this problem. He felt that the warning had served a very good purpose, and having walked round the area with P.C.Moore and Martin Scurr, he had found a marked improvement in the situation. A meeting would be held in due course, to which the young people would be invited in order to have an input into what recreational facilities they would like to have provided for them. Home Housing suggested a tour of the facilities which existed elsewhere, and confirmed that finance might be available to fund a youth shelter at an appropriate location in the town.

P.C.Moore sounded a slight cautionary note, in that he had experienced a few minor hiccups. He had found that elderly residents of Deerness Estate were still reluctant to give statements for fear of reprisals. He did suggest that an extension to the fencing at the rear of Deerness Bungalows might go some way to alleviate some of the problems which were being encountered.

5. REPORTS :

a) Tracey Craig – Home Housing

Tracey referred to the discussion at the February meeting regarding grasscutting for its elderly residents. She pointed out that because her area of responsibility covered four separate neighbourhoods, she could not be seen to be favouring one particular area, and that consequently, it would be necessary to impose a service charge to cover the costs involved. It was agreed to put a piece in the next issue of the Tattler, scheduled for early May seeking the views of the relevant tenants on the question of a charge.

b) Amanda McCluskey – Millennium Primary School

As well as presenting the school's printed monthly report, Amanda advised that Beamish Museum had appointed an Education Co-ordinator, and that assistance was available to schools in less advantaged areas towards transport costs. County Councillor Carroll would assist in the procedure. She also reported that Andrea Crawshaw was the new Head Teacher at Wolsingham Comprehensive School.

(For details of the School's report – see File)

c) Cath Mullen – Blessed John Duckett R.C.Primary School

Cath reported that progress was being made, albeit slowly, with the Safer Routes to School project, which would hopefully include traffic calming measures on Deerness Estate. She circulated a detailed report on a variety of activities which had been taking place in school.

(For details of the School's report – see File)

d) Steve Thow – Bishop Auckland College.

Steve reported a number of referrals which had been made from the Basic Skills course. The Mixed Crafts course was progressing satisfactorily, but it was necessary for attendance numbers to be maintained, A new makeover/hot hair course was to be started soon, while for those interested, a Spanish course was to start at Willington Health Centre on 6th April.

e) Ken McGurk – Groundwork West Durham

Ken reported a number of problems with quad bikes on the Millennium Green. A survey of the area had been carried out to determine the level of the problems being encountered with dog fouling. Signage was to be installed and a dog waste bin was to be sited at the Community Centre.

(For details of printed report – see File)

f) Diane Pearson – Community Worker

Diane reported that the new Hot Hair/Makeover course had attracted 17 names. Two extra computer sessions were to be held by Jason Miller, plus one with the Fun Club. Don Royle's wife was to start an aromatherapy course. The Banner renovation remained poorly supported, and a public exhibition was to be held in order to increase interest. Joanne Morley was to hold plant pot painting sessions over the Easter holiday period, and items of acrylic works of art were to be put on permanent display. A number of artists were to put on a series of textile workshops to utilise college students and arts groups.

The Wear Valley Action for Jobs project was to finish to be replaced by a mobile unit. An Evening Chronicle sponsored "Mum of the Year" competition was to be widely advertised, and a "Hands on Health" event was to be brought to the Community Centre.

6. OTHER BUSINESS :

- a) John Abbot reported that in connection with the proposal to invite pupils from the town's two primary schools to attend Partnership meetings, it had been agreed that two members from each school council be asked to attend with effect from the May meeting. Following an experimental period, representatives from Wolsingham and Bishop Auckland St.John's comprehensive schools would be invited.

- b) On behalf of Home Housing, Tracy Craig put forward the proposition that a series of surgeries might be held in the Community Centre for the benefit of its tenants, and it was agreed that this be looked into. Tracy also reported that Mr.John Reay had been appointed as new Housing Officer.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING :

It was Noted that the next meeting of the Partnership would be held on Wednesday 20th April 2005 at 3 p.m.