

TEESDALE DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Report To: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
7 April 2008**

**From: Leader of the Council
Councillor Richard Betton**

Ward Member: ALL

Subject: Teesdale Listens

1.0 SUMMARY

1.1 To provide members with a summary of Teesdale Listens visits to date and funding allocated and consider further applications for funding.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that Members:

2.1.1 note the progress of Teesdale Listens.

2.1.2 approve a contribution of up to £800 from the Community Improvement Fund to fund phase 2 target hardening works at Stainton Grove.

3.0 LINK TO CORPORATE OBJECTIVES/KEY PRIORITIES

3.1 **Priority:** Achieving Excellence Together

3.2 **Ambition:** To be an Excellent Council

3.3 **Outcome:** Delivering high quality services which meet the needs of the community

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 Executive Committee, 6 August 2007, recommended setting up a Community Improvement Fund of £60,000.00 to be administered by the executive Committee. This was approved by Full Council on 22 August 2007.

4.2 To date visits, by Ward Member invitation, have occurred in:

- Evenwood (11/7/07 & 30/10/07)
- Middleton (31/10/07)
- Etherley (28/11/07)
- Ingleton (12/12/07)

- Gainford/Winston (13/2/08)
- Stainton (12/3/08)

4.3 Future visits, by Ward Member invitation, are planned for the New Year In:

- Barnard Castle

4.4 Executive Committee, 26 November 2007, considered the first applications to the Community Fund and agreed:

- A contribution of up to £4,000 be made to Evenwood Parish Council to assist with the purchase of two dog bins and with the financing of works to level potholes on unadopted roads within the village
- A contribution of £2,820 be made to the Middleton-in-Teesdale Christmas Lights Group to assist with the financing of the 2007 Christmas Lights

4.5 Executive Committee, 22 January 2008, considered the second applications to the Community Fund and agreed:

- £2000 towards the Community Association for their new floor and minor works within the hall at Etherly
- £2000 contribution towards the Quarry Head field project, to establish a wildlife garden, landscaping, paths, disabled access and children's trim trail/play equipment at Etherly
- £2000 towards the costs of St Cuthbert Church's new widened path to enable a safer route up to the church and for those residents in wheelchairs or mobility scooter proper and safe access at Etherley.
- £1500 contribution to a 'target hardening' multi-agency project at Winston.

4.6 Executive Committee, 10 March 2008, considered the third application To the Community Fund and agreed:

- £5000 contribution to Lynesack and Softley Parish Council towards the cost of providing a playing field at Butterknowle, the contribution being dependent on the other contributions notified to date being realised.

5.0 Applications for Funding

5.1.1 A request for funding has been received for up to £800 from Cllr Tony Cooke, Ward Member for Streatlam and Whorlton to continue with the target hardening work at Stainton Grove. This followed a Teesdale Listens visit on 12th March 2008. This will entail the use of wooden posts and a lockable drop post being installed by Groundwork West Durham on the field adjacent to The Avenue of Stainton Grove.

6.0 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS:

6.1 Financial Implications: £60k has been approved for Community Improvement Fund. To date £19320 has been granted as set out in paragraph 4.4, 4.5 and 4.6.

6.2 Risk:

Risk	Category	Implications

6.3 Equality and Diversity: None.

6.4 Human Resources: None

6.5 Community Safety: None

6.6 Legal Issues: None

Background papers: none

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