

**TEESDALE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Report To: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
16 June 2008**

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

**Ward Member: ALL**

**Subject: Teesdale Listens**

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**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 an contribution of £4979.09 from the Community Improvement Fund to Stainton & Streatlam Parish Council towards the cost of installing a safety rail for the bus shelter at Stainton Grove and to Cockfield Parish Council for preliminary works to start addressing the flooding issue at Mostyn Terrace, Cockfield. The contribution being dependent on the other contributions notified to date being realised.**

**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 (11/07/07 & 30/10/07)
- Middleton (31/10/07)
- Etherley (28/11/07)
- Ingleton (12/12/07)
- Gainford/Winston (13/02/08)
- Stainton & Streatlam (12/03/08)

4.3 At present, no future visits have been requested by Ward Members.

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

- £2000 towards the Community Association for their new floor and minor works within the hall at Etherley
- £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 Etherley
- £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

4.7 Executive Committee, 7 April 2008, considered the fourth application to the Community Fund and agreed:

- £550 contribution to a 'target hardening' multi-agency project at Stainton Grove

4.8 Executive Committee, 19 May 2008, considered the fifth application to the Community Fund and agreed:

- £1300 to Stainton & Streatlam Parish Council for the erection of a Bus Shelter at Stainton Grove

- £1660.10 to Whorlton Parish Council for the development of a Community Garden
- £80 to Ingleton Parish Council for the supply of cold planings to improve the road surface at Ingleton Village Hall

## **5.0 Application for Funding**

- 5.1 A request for funding has been received for an additional £300 from the Ward Member for Stainton and Streatlam Parish Council as detailed below:

### **Bus Shelter, Stainton Grove**

An application has been received from the District Councillor for the Stainton & Stream Ward for additional funding from Teesdale Listens for the installation of a safety rail across the front of the previously agreed bus shelter. The rail is required under Health & Safety Regulations.

- 5.2 A request for funding has been received for a contribution of £4679.09 from the Ward Member for Cockfield Parish Council as detailed below:

### **Mostyn Terrace, Cockfield – Flooding Issues**

The Executive Committee has previously informally indicated that it was prepared to give favourable consideration to the use of monies from the Community Improvement Fund (Teesdale Listens) to address flooding and drainage difficulties at Mostyn Terrace, Cockfield.

Durham County Council has submitted an estimate for £4679.09 to undertake the preliminary work necessary to include information searches with the Coal Authority and to undertake the necessary survey activity and to prepare a brief and a feasibility study for an engineering solution to the problems. Until this work has been undertaken it is difficult to say how much the works will cost but it is thought that this may be in the region of £16,000. Previous informal indications from the Coal Authority are that if the preliminary works indicate that the source of the problem lies within their remit they would be prepared to meet 50% of the cost of the works.

The problem area is privately owned so there is no statutory responsibility for the council to support or contribute to this, however as stated there has been a previous indication of a willingness to help and unless this is done it seems unlikely that there will be any other resolution of the problem.

The Executive Committee is asked to consider authorisation for the expenditure from the Community Improvement Fund and to commission the County Council to undertake the preliminary work.

**6.0 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS:**

6.1 Financial Implications: £60k has been approved for Community Improvement Fund. To date £22,910.10 has been granted as set out in paragraph 4.4 and 4.6.

6.2 Risk:

| <b>Risk</b> | <b>Category</b> | <b>Implications</b> |
|-------------|-----------------|---------------------|
|             |                 |                     |

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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