



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Neighbourhood Renewal Fund Update

As many of you will already know the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) is coming to an end on 31 March 2008. The Government has made recent announcements on the successor scheme, the Working Neighbourhood Fund (WNF) aimed specifically at enterprise and worklessness. Further information regarding this new funding scheme is still awaited.

The main information is that Hartlepool has been allocated £4.5m in 2008/09, £5m 2009/10 and £5.5m for 2010/11. Hartlepool Areas based

Government Grants in total have also been agreed which including the WNF total £10.5m for 2008/09. In some cases this funding will support a range of current projects and will involve a commissioning approach which the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) should be able to put forward projects.

Further information on the implications and opportunities that may arise for the VCS will be reported once we have further information in the New Year.

Compact

Hartlepool Borough Council and Hartlepool Voluntary Development Agency have been working together to develop an initial consultation draft of a revised Hartlepool Compact.

The original Compact was prepared in 2003, as an agreement between Hartlepool Borough Council and the voluntary and community sector designed to strengthen the relationships and method of working between these organisations.

On Wednesday 23 January 2008 at 1pm a consultation event will be held at the Sir William Gray Suite in the Historic Quay. This will be an important stage in the consultation process on the Compact. Voluntary and community organisations, public sector agencies, local service providers and local Councillors are being invited to attend the event to discuss the draft Compact and it will be an excellent opportunity to comment and make suggestions for improving the document and/or offering support.

Please see enclosed flyer for further information.

Developing a Strategic Approach to the VCS in Hartlepool

The Hartlepool Partnership has agreed that Peter Fletcher Associates will be appointed to develop a Strategic Approach to the Voluntary/Community Sector (VCS) in Hartlepool.

The proposal sets out a suggested approach to developing such a strategy for the local public sector. The scope of the work will include a wider range of public sector and the VCS partners.

Key areas identified from the proposal include:

- Developing a shared vision of the potential role of the sector in the future and of the

relationship that should exist between it and the Council and its partners.

- Developing an understanding of the current support that the Council and partners provide to the sector, both financially and in other ways, and any future plans for this support.

Copies of the Proposal can be obtained from Julie Turner, Community Network Support Officer on (01429) 262641 or e-mail j.turner@hvda.co.uk

NRF Community Chest Awards

During 2006/07, 116 voluntary and community groups received a grant from the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) Community Chest. On 23 November 2007 the Community Network held a celebration event at which individual awards were made to those projects that the Grants Panel believes have made a significant or unique contribution to the people or communities of Hartlepool. The awards were based around the Themes of the Hartlepool Partnership and were presented by Representatives of the various Partnerships and each group received a £100 prize towards a current project.



Eight awards were presented from each of the following categories:

- **Community Safety**
Winner—Owton Manor West Neighbourhood Watch

- **Strengthening Communities**
Winner—West View Baptist Church
- **Health and Care**
Winner—White Crane Tai Chi Group
- **Jobs and Economy**
Winner—Belle Vue Centre
- **Lifelong Learning and Skills**
Winner—Dyscover Group
- **Housing and Environment**
Winner—Hartlepool Citizen's Advice Bureau
- **Culture and Leisure**
Winner—All Our Yesterdays
- **Children and Young People**
Winner—Headland Future Ltd



If you would like more information on the Community Chests available, contact Liz Ashton, Grants Administrator on (01429) 262641 alternatively information and application packs can be downloaded from www.hvda.org.uk

Resident Involvement in NAP's Christmas Lunch Event

On Friday 14 December 2007, the Community Network hosted a Resident Involvement in Neighbourhood Action Plan (NAP) Christmas Lunch.

This was to thank residents for their involvement and hard work over the last year and also to look at how we can increase resident participation in the future.

Without the participation of residents, local needs may not be met. Residents are valuable partners, who bring local knowledge and expertise to the table.

The Mayor opened the event and it was well attended, so a big thank you to all.

RESPECT

The Community Network would like to congratulate RESPECT (Reaching Every Social and Personal Effect Concerning Teenagers) on being runner-up for the National Lottery award-Best Education Project .

Although the group were pipped to the post this was a great achievement for the group and for Hartlepool.

Hartlepool based RESPECT provides a mentoring and befriending service with professional counselling support for young people aged 11—19. The overall aims of RESPECT are to help young people reduce self-harm, bullying and isolation, increase youth participation and improve holistic well-being. For more information contact Barbara Williams on (01429) 244443 or e-mail barbara.williams@hartlepool-respect.org.uk

Primary Care Trust (PCT)

In our May 2007 Community Network News we informed you of funding of £60,500 available from the Primary Care Trust (PCT) for core costs to previously funded groups.

Fourteen groups were invited to apply who had previously received PCT/Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) core costs funding. Bids were considered against being able to demonstrate the need for the funding and the work of the group in

relation to their impact on health outcomes. All of those recommended for support had requested similar levels of funding and for this reason the funding was allocated between the seven successful applicants:

ADDvance, Epilepsy Outlook, Hartlepool Arts Studio, Hartlepool Blind Welfare, Hartlepool Carers, Hartlepool Families First and Hartlepool PATCH.

Deprived Area Fund (DAF)

Job Centre Plus earlier this year commissioned services in relation to worklessness. The following initiatives were successful with their projects: **Skills to work provided by Hartlepool Adult**

Education—Individual courses assigned to build confidence with clients on a one-to-one basis; **Local Employment Assistance Project provided by OFCA**—To support returnees after long absence from work; **Youth into Employment provided by Wharton Trust**—Programme to engage young people offering IAG to school leavers in DAF areas; **Introduction to Construction provided by Community Campus**—Available to young people who are excluded or at risk of being excluded from mainstream education; **Goalz Plus provided by A4E**—Progressing from a pilot Connexions programme, working with 16—18 year olds, delivering personalised programme of group work; **Jobsmart provided by Hartlepool Borough Council**—An employment consortia offering variety of support to workless residents; **Adventure Traineeship provided by West View Project**—The project will target low academic achievers.

Play Partnership

Hartlepool's Play Strategy and Action Plan have been endorsed by Children's Services Portfolio. In addition to the strategy, Big Lottery Fund has made available funding to enable access to free play in local authorities. Hartlepool has been allocated £296,456 (subject to funding approval) over a three-year period to provide access to play opportunities to enrich the lives of children and young people living in Hartlepool. To enable Hartlepool to access funding, the local authority is required to engage with a diverse range of partners to monitor, review play and to ensure that the grant is spent in accordance with the terms and conditions agreed by both parties. The Community Network are seeking 6 Representatives from voluntary/community sector groups who work with children and young people. Please see enclosed letter on how to nominate yourself to the Partnership.

NRF Community Chest Grant—Derwent Grange Communal Garden



Members of the Derwent Grange Residents Association identified a need for a permanent seating area where residents could commune and socialise outdoors, also a project to develop and care for using their combined skills. In August

2006 the group was awarded almost £500 from the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) Community Chest towards the costs of outdoor furniture for the garden.

Peter Zacharias, resident and treasurer of the group, explained how the grant has benefited the lives of members and enabled residents, many of whom have disabilities, and their families to become more involved in the life of Derwent Grange.

The NRF Community Chest is available to groups operating in, or benefiting residents of, NRF areas of Hartlepool, for more information on eligibility and criteria, please contact Liz Ashton, Grants Administrator on (01429) 262641.



Atkinson

Along with many people in the town the Community Network was saddened to hear of the death of James Atkinson. Jim's involvement in the Community Network was a relatively new area of voluntary work for him, first becoming involved with the Community Network in 2002. The Network seeks to promote resident and voluntary/community sector involvement in local decision-making. He regularly attended meetings of the Steering Group and business meetings, often taking on the role of Chair when asked to. People will remember him for his fairness, impartiality and above all his good manners.

Jim was also a regular attendee of Neighbourhood Consultative Fora (NCF) meetings and other Resident Representative meetings. In his role as Vice Chair of the Central NCF, he would often raise issues at meetings of the Hartlepool Partnership on behalf of local residents and the Voluntary and Community Sector. This area of Jim's work, is probably less well known than his other voluntary work, yet for all of those who knew him, it is only a further testament to his commitment to the people of Hartlepool.

A tribute to Doreen Stonehouse

Doreen Stonehouse was well known throughout Hartlepool for her many voluntary activities within the sector and her local Church. Those who met Doreen briefly will no doubt recall her professionalism and her ability to comprehend a balance sheet with a swift glance, but those of us who knew Doreen well appreciate these things



were simply superficial; Doreen's real gift was her affinity to befriend people from all walks of life. How she enjoyed meeting people and listening to their stories! *This was evident in her role as Life President and Chairman of SkillShare where she aimed to reduce the time spent conducting AGM business to ensure ample time remained for getting to know people. Her record for the shortest AGM was an incredible 12 minutes and each year she relished the challenge of reducing this further!* In 2006 Doreen was proud to be the recipient of Hartlepool Volunteer Bureau's Lifetime Service Award recognising her as one of the longest serving and most impassioned volunteers in the town. Staff and volunteers from her many projects will remember fondly a dignified and selfless lady who was always on hand with a kind or supportive word, sometimes even a small gift or some sound advice. Doreen's passing leaves a huge void in Hartlepool's voluntary sector.

**Hartlepool Community Network,
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NAP Diary Dates

Jan 2008

Burbank
Tues 8 Jan, 9.30am
Burbank Comm Centre

Rift House/Burn Valley
Thurs 10 Jan, 6pm
NDNA Nursery

**Dyke House/
Stranton/Grange**
Fri 18 Jan, 1pm
Brougham Annexe

Central
Mon 21 Jan, 6.30pm
Heronspool Comm Centre

Rossmere
Tues 22 Jan, 6pm
Rossmere Comm Building

Headland
Wed 23 Jan, 6pm
Abbey Street Project

West View/King Oswy
Thurs 24 Jan, 5pm
West View Comm Centre

Owton Manor
Thurs 31 Jan, 6pm
Owton Rossmere Res Centre

Feb 2008

Burbank
Tues 5 Feb, 9.30am
Burbank Comm Centre

Rift House/Burn Valley
Thurs 7 Feb, 1.30pm
St Matthew's Hall

**Dyke House/
Stranton/Grange**
Fri 15 Feb, 1pm
Brougham Annexe

Central
Mon 18 Feb, 6.30pm
Heronspool Comm Centre

Headland
Wed 20 Feb, 6pm
Abbey Street Project

Rossmere
Tues 26 Feb, 10am
Jutland Road Comm Building

Owton
Thurs 28 Feb, 10am
Owton Manor Comm Centre

West View/King Oswy
Thurs 28 Feb, 5pm
West View Comm Centre

**PLEASE ENSURE THIS
INFORMATION IS PASSED
ONTO OTHER MEMBERS OF
YOUR GROUP**