

Area West Committee – 20th August 2008

9. Progress of the Ilminster Forum and Community Plan

Head of Service: Andrew Gillespie, Head of Area Development (West)
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Purpose of the Report

To provide information to Area West members on the work of the Ilminster Forum and update them on the progress of the projects in the Community Plan for Ilminster & surrounding area.

Recommendations

That members note the content of the report.

Progress of the Ilminster Forum Projects

Since the last Area West update in November 2007, Ilminster Forum has continued to work tirelessly to progress a number of the projects identified in the Community Plan published in April 2005.

Footpath Project

The footpath project goes from strength to strength. Over the winter months members of Ilminster Forum worked in partnership with people from Donyatt and the District and County Councils to develop a new permissive path running south of Herne Hill to follow an old route linking Donyatt to Ilminster. The path was officially opened in March 2008 and has featured in the most recent edition of the Somerset Rights of Way Newsletter.

Mike Holtom, the Footpath Officer for Ilminster, is now looking towards the creation of a new permissive footpath from Shudrick Lane to Knott Oak. Working with the Ilminster Town Council, Dillington Estate, SSDC and the Forum, Mike Holtom is identifying the work that needs to be carried out. It is envisaged that the first part of the footpath, located close to Tesco's car park will be accessible for disabled people.

Street Furniture Survey

Forum members are carrying out an audit of street furniture including: litter bins, bollards, cycle racks, letter boxes, phone boxes, dog bins, finger posts and floral display units. The working group have been diligently logging the items of street furniture located in the town centre and around the recreation ground. Once finished this information will be used by the Town Council to assess present and future provision of street furniture.

Open Day and Newsletter

On Saturday 13th September, Ilminster Forum will hold an Open Day at Greenfyld School giving members of the public the opportunity to see what Ilminster Forum has achieved over the past year. The police will also be in attendance at the Open Day and will take the opportunity to feedback to the public the work they are doing to address the issues raised at the PACT meeting in April.

As well as the Open Day, the Forum will be producing a newsletter giving details of all the work the Forum has been involved with over the past year. The newsletter will be available for distribution in September 2008.

Swimming Pool Survey

Members of Iminster Forum are continuing to process the huge number of completed survey forms they have received to establish the viability of a swimming pool in the town.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications for the Area West Committee.

Implications for Corporate Priorities

By supporting the Iminster Forum Community Plan, Area West Committee will be addressing several of the Council's key Corporate Aims (2005-2012);

- Increase economic vitality and prosperity
- Improve the health and well being of our citizens
- Ensure safe, sustainable and cohesive communities

Other Implications

None.

Background Papers: *AWC Report – Progress of the Iminster Forum & Community Plan
21st November 2007*
 *AWC Report – Progress of the Iminster Forum & Community plan
– 18th April 2007*
 *AWC Report – Progress of the Iminster Forum & Community plan
– 20th December 2006*
 *AWC Report – The Progress of Iminster Community Plan Projects
– 18th October 2006*
 Memorandum and Articles of Iminster Forum Ltd
 The Iminster Community Plan – April 2005
