

REPORT OF DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE
FAILSWORTH & HOLLINWOOD AREA COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT
2003/2004

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To review the work of the Area Committee during 2003/2004

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 This report attempts to summarise the work of Area Committee during the municipal year 2003-04, under the following 5 headings:

- Public Question Time
- Influencing Services / Promoting Community Cohesion and
- Using Area Committee budgets to support the community and voluntary sector and other priorities.
- Key achievements.
- Key issues and further actions required

3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

3.1 If question time accurately reflects the views of local people, it is clear that the environment, community safety and regeneration are of prime concern to local people.

3.2 In total 63 public questions have been raised.

- 1) Environmental issues such as:
 - (i) Memorial Inspections
 - (ii) Maintenance of public open spaces;
 - (iii) Storage and disposal of Fridges
 - (iv) Cleanliness of the area;
 - (v) Traffic calming measures
- 2) Anti-social behaviour such as:
 - (i) Drinking on the streets – especially under age
 - (ii) Youths causing annoyance
- 3) Regeneration:
 - (i) Failsworth District Centre
 - (ii) Hollinwood Junction

4. INFLUENCING SERVICES / PROMOTING COMMUNITY COHESION

- 4.1 Appendix 1 summarises the work of the Area Committee in relation to service provision and community cohesion.
- 4.2 The Failsworth & Hollinwood Area Committee has received a number of presentations during the year and has been invited to comment on several issues.

5. USING THE AREA COMMITTEE BUDGETS TO SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY / VOLUNTARY SECTOR AND OTHER PRIORITIES

- 5.1 Appendix 2 provides a summary of how the various budgets have been used and attempts to link projects to the Area Committee priorities and the themes of the Council's Corporate Plan.
- 5.2 The summary confirms that most projects have a strong community cohesion theme. There are also clear links between the projects and the Area Committee priorities and Corporate Plan themes.

6. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- 6.1 Meetings were held at key venues in the Area and have been accessible to residents.
- 6.2 Recruitment of 2 new Co-optees.
- 6.3 Involvement in developing Area Plan and initiating Action Plan development.
- 6.4 Presence of Police at all meetings to talk on local issues and address them.
- 6.5 On most occasions, the meeting Agenda was manageable.
- 6.6 Successful links established with OMBC Environmental Services. This has resulted in quick and efficient response to questions and queries raised by residents either at the Committee meetings or in writing /by telephone to Area Manager.
- 6.7 A Co-optee from the Area Committee attended the Mediation Northern Ireland Training with the Area Manager

7. KEY ISSUES AND FURTHER ACTIONS REQUIRED

- 7.1 Low public attendance at Area Committees. Requires further additional marketing, publicity and promotion. The need to engage more with the residents and overcome negative perceptions of the Area Committee.

- 7.2 Too many topics presented for consultation, often rushed through. On occasions, it was felt that Area Committees were exploited as a quick tick box to the consultation process. Chair/Area Manager should be notified well in advance to assist in Agenda planning.
- 7.3 Training and support for the co-optees to provide greater focus and direction – possibly through the formation of thematic groups.
- 7.4 Production and implementation of the area action plan to give the Failsworth & Hollinwood Area Committee a focus and be involved in co coordinating improvements in the area.
- 7.5 The delegated budget for 2004/5 will require careful administering with a suggestion by the Area Manager to split the budget in to several smaller pots for simple allocation.

APPENDIX 1

INFLUENCING SERVICES / PROMOTING COMMUNITY COHESION	
SERVICE / ISSUE	ACTION / OUTCOME
Failsworth & Hollinwood Area Plan	Several presentations and meetings held. Area Committee's comments incorporated into Plan. Action Plan to be prepared.
Link to Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) – Oldham Partnership	Co-optee nominated to sit on the LSP Steering Group
Regeneration	Regular SRB6 (Hollinwood) progress report. Failsworth District Centre updates on progress of developments.
Community Cohesion	Two presentations given. Community cohesion a theme influencing all the Area Committee's work. Community development work supported through Delegated Budget. Area Committee represented on the Oldham Good Relations Project (07968 766168), facilitated by Mediation Northern Ireland.
Community Safety	Regular attendance of the Police at each of the Area Committee meetings – updates on the Reassurance project.. Special meeting regarding the closure of Failsworth Police Station held – resolution put forward to GMP. Progress report on the Drinking on the Streets Ban.
Health	Updates from the PCT on the development of Failsworth Primary Care Resource Centre The PCT have assigned a link person to the Area Committee as a contact to

	pass on any health related issues.
Street Cleansing	Presentation by OMBC Street Cleansing Manager. Comments made. Sub Group to be established. Litter Plan to be developed and funding sought/allocated.
Youth Service	Youth Alliance setup - network of agencies and service provider's. Youth Panel to be developed with Youth Services, involving young people and encouraging their input.
Environment	Highways maintenance programme 2004/5 consultation.
Learning	Private Finance Initiative for Failsworth Upper School – update/consultation.
Children's Centre – Failsworth West	Presentation by Head of Sure Start. Comments made and feedback provided.
New Opportunities fund Fair Share Initiative	Several presentations made. Funding confirmed. Delivery Plan being drawn up. Projects to be implemented during 2004/05.

APPENDIX 2

DELEGATED BUDGET GRANTS TO THE COMMUNITY / VOLUNTARY SECTOR							
Applicant	Project	Grant Offer	Link to Area Committee Priorities				Link to OMBC Corporate Themes
			Community Cohesion	Street Cleaning	Youth Service	Community Safety	
Failsworth Historical Society	Computer and office equipment	£2,000	X				Community cohesion
Hollinwood Cricket Club	Motorised Roller	£1,500	X		X		Community cohesion Healthy well cared for people
Failsworth Historical Society	Barriers Planters @ Failsworth Pole	£3,600	X				Community cohesion Healthy well cared for people Improved environment
Failsworth & District Pubwatch	Radio network	£4,000	X			X	Community cohesion Healthy well cared for people
Avenues Football Club	Equipment	£1,500	X			X	Community cohesion Healthy well cared for people
Friends of the Wood	Hollinwood Xmas tree & Lights	£430	X				Community cohesion Improved Environment
Failsworth Owner Occupiers	Tool Bank	£1,200	X				Community cohesion Improved Environment

Failsworth & Hollinwood Area Committee	War Memorial Clean Up	£1,377	X				Community cohesion
Friends Of the Wood	Hollinwood Spring Planting	£4,000	X				Community cohesion Improved environment
Failsworth Historical Society	Failsworth Spring Planting	£3,000	X				Community cohesion Improved environment
Failsworth & Hollinwood Area Committee	Dean Street Civic Reception	£358	X			X	Community cohesion Healthy well cared for people
Woodhouses Cricket Club	Mechanised Roller	£2,500	X		X		Community cohesion Healthy and well cared for people
Failsworth Horticultural Society	Storage Container	£1,000	X				Community cohesion Healthy well cared for people
Dean Street Area Community Association	Laptop and printer	£500	X				Community cohesion
St Johns Parish Church	Organ Repair	£5,000	X				Community cohesion
Failsworth Outdoor Bowling Club	Reconditioned Mower	£2,500	X				Community cohesion Healthy well cared for people
Friends of the Wood	Hollins Road Hanging Basket	£3,080	X				Community cohesion Improved environment

