



## **Middleton Regeneration Board Update**

**By Lisa Huntley, re'new – Middleton Regeneration Partnership Manager**

### **Affordable Housing Update**

Four housing development sites were submitted for the Phase 2 LA New Build programme on the 30<sup>th</sup> October 09 to develop 64 new Council Houses in Middleton. The HCA have announced that the submission was not successful; discussions will be undertaken with the HCA to ensure we fully understand the reasons for the bid being unsuccessful.

Middleton remains a key priority area for the development of new affordable housing for by the Affordable Housing Strategic Partnership Board. The work undertaken by the Affordable Housing Service, Aire Valley Homes and Sanctuary Housing Association, who were working as the development agent, to develop the submission has ensured we have a good understanding of the land available and planning issues, and have developed options and potential layouts for new housing. In addition we have an up to date Housing Market Assessment of the area.

All the affordable housing sites in Middleton have now been assessed and will be finalised at planning Board on the 28<sup>th</sup> January 2010. The aim is to develop a programme for submission to the National Affordable Housing Programme for the 2011-2014 programme. The development will require a competitive process to appoint preferred partners to develop the new homes. A project plan will be developed over the next 4 weeks and discussions will take place with the Middleton Regeneration Board, local ward members, Aire Valley Homes and other stakeholders to develop a deliverable development plan for new housing in the area.

Although it is extremely disappointing to be unsuccessful in this funding round the work undertaken by all the partners will enable us to develop a very positive and proactive submission to the National Affordable Housing Programme and the sites will be considered for any other funding opportunities as they arise. There is no indication that there will be a Phase 3 of the LA New Build Initiative.

Next Steps will be discussed at the next Middleton Regeneration Board meeting in February.

### **Middleton Regeneration Partnership Board (MRPB) and its Priorities**

The MRPB will agree at its next meeting the way forward for 2010/11. The Middleton Regeneration strategy and its action plan were agreed some three years ago now and things have moved on at a considerable pace in Middleton. As a result of this the MRPB will review its priorities and actions for

the coming year at a Board workshop will take place during March to discuss the following questions and develop a forward plan for 2010/11.

*What are the current issues in Middleton? Can we evidence this?*

*What do the current statistics show?*

*What is the added value of the Partnership?*

*What are our priorities (linked to the issues above)?*

*What actions will the community actually be able to see?*

*How will we ensure that these priorities are delivered?*

*Who will manage and coordinate this activity?*

*How will it be funded?*

The outcome of this session will be reported back at the next Area Committee meeting.

### **Middleton Consultation and Community Engagement**

During the last quarter the team worked closely with the local community in particular Young people in the development of a Community newsletter and a Community calendar for 2010. Both have been widely distributed and well received within the community.

Further work is being discussed and developed (subject to funding) in Middleton to support the development of a Residents network, based upon our experiences in East Leeds and the formation of a 1200 strong network of local people with a desire to be 'counted in' within their community. It is hoped that a similar bespoke network will be developed to enhance and strengthen the existing network in the area and to empower the local community group to work w

### **Middleton Matters**

A series of one off talking sessions named 'Middleton Matters' have been set up to talk through any key issues around a specific service areas within Middleton, bringing together service providers from across both the public, private and voluntary sector to agree a collective way forward in an intensive approach in Middleton.

These sessions are one off sessions that are only called when the need has arisen. It is hoped that (subject to funding) these sessions will continue to be developed using the 'Open Space' technology, using various new and innovative ways of engaging with both service providers and local communities to work together in solving issues and creating a sense of place and pride in Middleton.