

ARDSLEY & ROBIN HOOD – COMMUNITY FIRST

Community First is an £80 million Government funded programme which will run for 4 years (up to March 2015) providing small grants from £250 up to £2,500 to community groups in this area. A panel of local people and councillors has been established in order to consider applications.

The programme is designed to help communities come together and identify their strengths and priorities in order to plan for the future and become more resilient.

The Ardsley & Robin Hood Ward has been awarded £50,865 from the fund over the next four years. Year 1 was £8,436, Year 2 is £12,734, Year 3 is £12,732 and Year 4 is £16,960.

The priorities for Ardsley & Robin Hood include:-

- Improving the local environment or community facilities
- Increasing the support for older people to combat social isolation
- Improving the health of people who live in the ward
- Increasing the number and variety of activities available for young people
- Improve facilities and activities for families with young children

The members of the panel are currently:-

- Councillor Lisa Mulherin – Elected Ward Member
- Sheila Glover – Local resident, East Ardsley Luncheon Club & Western Walk, Tingley
- Trevor Sherbourne – Local resident, St Gabriel's Community Centre
- Sharna Ramsden – Local resident, Tingley Tenants & Residents Association (TARA)
- Councillor Jack Dunn – Elected Ward Member
- Margaret Foster – Local resident
- Gail Firth – Northfield Community Group
- Sarah Jackson – Manager, Lofthouse Childrens Centre
- The Panel Partner is Pat McGeever, CEO of Health for All

The panel has met several times, most recently on 18th May 2012. We met with several community groups before the Panel to assist in the completion of the proposal forms. Several groups would have welcomed financial support for the organisation of Jubilee events but the grants are currently taking some time to be processed at national level so these events will be held in Summer instead.

We received 7 proposals and recommended six, amounting to approx.£9,100 which leaves approx. £12,070. (Figures are approximate because I have not yet received the full minutes of the last meeting, which were being produced by one of the Panel members). Proposals recommended include environmental improvements by 'In Bloom' and residents' groups, a community garden, activities for older people, improvements to community premises.

Details of the successful applications will be on the website very shortly.

The next meeting of the panel is scheduled for 14th September 2012.