



Report of the Director of Environments & Neighbourhoods Directorate

South Leeds (Outer) Area Committee

Date: Monday 5th November 2007

Subject: Rothwell 600

Electoral Wards Affected:

Rothwell

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Council
Function

Delegated Executive
Function available
for Call In

Delegated Executive
Function not available for
Call In Details set out in the
report

Executive Summary

Rothwell celebrates the 600th anniversary of the granting of its Royal Charter in February 2008. This offers an opportunity to harness the diverse mix and wealth of community groups within the area and bring them together to organise a year of celebrations. It will provide a focus to unite people from a variety of groups, increase identity within the area, strengthen community cohesion, and create greater opportunities for partnership and involvement. This report outlines the organisational arrangements, including Area Management input, a summary of possible activities and funding needs.

1.0 Purpose of This Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to outline progress made to date by the Rothwell 600 organising committee and highlight for members key areas which require Area Committee input to enable the celebrations to progress. This should ensure that the celebrations are owned by local people and are a success.

2.0 Background Information

- 2.1 February 2008 will see the start of the celebrations for Rothwell 600 when Rothwell celebrates the 600th anniversary of the granting of its Royal Charter. Following initial scoping meetings involving Elected Members and local groups, Mary Fleet, with support from Area Management Team (AMT) and Town Centre Management (TCM), agreed to co-ordinate the community input.

2.2 A meeting of the Rothwell Town Centre Partnership was used as an initial sounding board to begin to establish a way forward. Community groups were invited as well as local businesses and brainstorming sessions were held to determine what projects and events could be included in Rothwell 600. The first Rothwell 600 meeting was held on the 20th September 2007. To date the committee has been formed and officers elected with a constitution agreed. A Rothwell 600 bank account has been opened. Meetings are expected to be held fortnightly to progress plans.

3.0 Main Issues

3.1 Aims for the Rothwell celebrations include:

- Uniting local groups in a shared goal and provide opportunities for the involvement of local people through a variety of activities and events.
- Through TCM work in partnership with local business and commerce, with a view to increasing footfall in the town and assist in the regeneration of the town.
- Promoting the town centres of Rothwell, Carlton, Oulton and Woodlesford.
- Working with local schools to develop a sense of pride by local children in the area.
- Encourage people from a wide variety of backgrounds to share and appreciate the culture and heritage of the area.
- Use the celebrations as vehicle to regenerate the Ward through a variety of methods, promoting community pride and identity.

3.2 Audience

The celebration will be targeted at all residents living in the Ward. Activities will be especially targeted at young people through working with the schools and youth service and voluntary and community groups. Most importantly all activity will be delivered through community and voluntary and faith groups.

3.3 Partnership

The creation of strong partnerships is imperative to the success of the celebrations. Rothwell 600 provides the opportunity for groups to work with new partners which in every day circumstances they would not have had the opportunity. It provides an opportunity to create strong links between statutory agencies and local groups. For example the school sports partnership is exploring possible events such as, a triathlon and orienteering weekend with local Athletics groups.

3.4 Organisational structure

A committee has been formed that includes community members from a wide variety of groups these include: Rothwell in Bloom, local Footpath Group, Rothwell Entertainments, Carlton Residents Association, Rothwell Historical Society, John O' Gaunts Residents Association, and a representative from the local Youth Council and the retail sector. Officers of the committee have been elected and signed up to the constitution. A bank account has been opened.

3.4.1 Area Management will support the group through facilitating meetings and providing advice and coordination of work with agencies such as schools and various departments of Leeds City Council. Support will be given in organising an opening event in February 2008 as well as generating publicity for the whole year. However it is expected that groups will work independently to organise events throughout the year that will form the programme of the festival.

3.5 Programme and Content

As well as coordinating new events, the main focus of Rothwell 600 will be to build on events and activities that already exist. Celebrations such as Rothwell Carnival, May Day and smaller events such as John O' Gaunts Community Day will carry the Rothwell 600 brand. Rothwell 600 is a thread that will be woven into various events for example through the use of medieval costumes, games and activities or by emphasising the 600 through baking 600 buns or 600 people entering the triathlon event.

It is envisaged that community groups will use this opportunity to program additional events and activities, for example the Schools Sports Partnership is organising a triathlon in partnership with the local leisure centre. Such events as these will require limited support from AMT, rather it's important to keep communication lines open and makes sure such events are advertised and promoted as part of the celebrations. It is vital to the success of the celebrations that community groups take ownership of their individual activities, as there is not the capacity to support all events.

It is anticipated that AMT will support the Rothwell 600 committee, provide co-ordination and publicity for all events, and assist in organising the opening event.

3.6 Finance

An independent constituted Rothwell 600 committee will ensure that opportunities for external funding are maximised. This will also allow the group to be locally accountable and take ownership for the celebrations. It is expected that the main areas of expenditure for Rothwell 600 will be in staging an opening event, providing funding support for local groups to organise events and developing promotional materials. The Area Committee is asked to consider ringfencing £10,000 revenue to support Rothwell 600. The Area Committee is also asked to note that Rothwell 600 may also wish to leave some other legacy of the anniversary in the form of a capital project.

4.0 Implications for Council Policy and Governance

4.1 There are no direct implications for the above as a result of this report.

5.0 Legal and Resource Implications

5.1 Legal implications as a result of this report will be reflected in any subsequent Well being Funding Agreements and Contracts to tender that arise from supporting the Rothwell 600 organising committee.

5.2 There are various resource implications associated with this report. The remaining balance of the Well being Budget will be reduced. Officer time will need to be allocated to ensure that the coordination support highlighted above is provided.

6.0 Conclusions

- 6.1 The Area Committee is asked to consider supporting the Rothwell 600 celebrations by providing £10,000 from the Well being revenue budget subject to the following conditions:

The Rothwell 600 organising committee submits:

- A spending plan outlining how the £10,000 will be allocated.
- Details of the decision making body and the criteria for allocating funding.
- A programme of events for the year
- Quarterly update reports to the Area Committee
- A full evaluation report to the Area Committee detailing outcomes and a list of all activities staged, evidence of any external funding received, and list of community groups involved in the year.

7.0 Recommendations

- 7.1 Members of the Outer South Area Committee are requested to:

- Note the content of this report
- Agree to provide £10,000 to support the Rothwell 600 celebrations subject to the conditions outlined in 6.1.