

PART A

Report to: Council
Date of meeting: 5 July 2016
Report of: Committee and Scrutiny Support Officer
Title: Neighbourhood Forum Annual Report 2015/16

1.0 **Summary**

- 1.1 Neighbourhood Forums were established at Annual Council on 21 May 2008. It was agreed that each Forum would comprise the three ward councillors for the local electoral ward.
- 1.2 In accordance with the protocol for Neighbourhood Forums, each Forum is required to produce an annual report providing details of the activities which have taken place during the year. The report should include information about the Forum's spending, meetings and projects.

2.0 **Recommendations**

- 2.1 that the annual reports provided at Appendix 2 be noted.

Contact Officer:

For further information on this report please contact: Ishbel Morren, Committee and Scrutiny Support Officer
telephone extension: 8375 email: legalanddemocratic@watford.gov.uk

Report approved by: Carol Chen, Head of Democracy and Governance

3.0 **Detailed proposal**

- 3.1 Neighbourhood Forums were established to enable the ward councillors to engage with local residents and businesses and other community groups in their Ward. They can also be used to promote the Council's business and to carry out consultation on ward-related matters.
- 3.2 In 2015/16 each Neighbourhood Forum was allocated a budget of £2,500. The budget

could be used to set up meetings with residents, businesses and other community groups. Two Neighbourhood Forums held meetings within their wards to consult on local issues.

3.3 The budget could also be used to support projects within the ward. During 2015/16 all 12 Neighbourhood Forums chose to fund projects for their area. All wards made donations to local groups, particularly benefiting younger or older residents, to cover the cost of new equipment, improved facilities or towards the costs of local events. The majority of wards made donations towards environmental improvements in their areas, including planting trees, shrubs and flowers, as well as the establishment of a new community garden and the purchase of gardening equipment. Two wards made donations towards highway improvements. Details of the overall expenditure for each ward are shown in Appendix 1.

3.4 All 12 wards have submitted an Annual Report and these are attached as Appendix 2.

4.0 **Implications**

4.1 **Financial**

4.1.1 There are no financial implications. Expenditure was within the allocated budget for 2015/16.

4.2 **Legal Issues (Monitoring Officer)**

4.2.1 There are no legal implications within this report.

4.3 **Potential Risks**

None identified

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Neighbourhood Forum Expenditure 2015/16
- Appendix 2 – 2015/16 Neighbourhood Forum Annual Reports

Background Papers

- Application forms and expenditure sheets for the individual forums

File Reference

None