

**TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**MEDWAY VALLEY COUNTRYSIDE PARTNERSHIP PANEL**

**Monday, 30th June, 2008**

**Present:** Cllr M A Coffin (Chairman), Cllr L A Withey (Vice-Chairman), Cllr A W Allison, Cllr J A L Balcombe, Cllr Mrs F A English, Cllr Mrs E M Holland, Cllr B J Luker and Cllr Mrs S M Murray.

Councillors Balfour and Worrall were also present pursuant to Council Procedure Rule No 15.21.

In attendance were D Lanes (Leisure Services Manager (Outdoor)), Ms J Mentz (Planning Officer), Ms C Drewett (Partnership Manager MVCP) and Ms C Curtis (Riverside Communities Project Manager, MVCP).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs Anderson, Court and Dalton.

**PART 1 - PUBLIC**

**MV  
08/001      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made.

**MV  
08/002      MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the meeting of the Medway Valley Countryside Partnership Panel held on 12 December 2007 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**MV  
08/003      VALLEY OF VISIONS**

The report of the Director of Planning, Transport and Leisure provided an update on progress with the Heritage Lottery Funded 'Valley of Visions' project. Mr Rick Bayne, Project Manager, gave a detailed presentation on the development of the Valley of Visions Landscape Partnership, outlined its aims and explained the methods by which local landowners, the community and visitors would be involved.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be received and noted.

**MV  
08/004**

## **PARTNERSHIP UPDATE**

The report of the Partnership Manager provided an update on the main activities undertaken by the Medway Valley Countryside Partnership over the last six months. Particular reference was made to the Riverside Communities Project which encouraged awareness and involvement in the River Medway valley through education and arts, access and heritage projects.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be received and noted.

**MV  
08/005**

## **ADDITIONAL PROJECTS - UPDATE REPORT**


The Chief Leisure Officer's report provided an update on progress with the Schools/Youth Activities Programme and Educational Pack; the Events Programme; the School Grounds Programme and the Biodiversity Enhancement Programme at Haysden Country Park which were undertaken on the Council's behalf by the Medway Valley Countryside Partnership.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be received and noted.

**MV  
08/006**

## **2008/09 PROPOSED PROJECT WORK**

The report of the Chief Leisure Officer brought forward proposals for the allocation of approved revenue funding for the Medway Valley Countryside Partnership in 2008/09.

**RECOMMENDED:** That the proposed 2008/09 project work for the Medway Valley Countryside Partnership, as outlined in the report, be agreed and funded by existing revenue budgets. 

**\*Referred to Cabinet**

**MV  
08/007**

## **LANDSCAPE ENHANCEMENT GRANT**

The report of the Director of Planning, Transport and Leisure provided an update on a small grant scheme available to landowners within the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The report set out details of proposed changes to the grant arrangements together with details of grant expenditure over the last four years.

**RECOMMENDED:** That 

(1) the widened remit of the Landscape Enhancement Grant to include both landscape and biodiversity projects be supported; and

(2) subject to the application for Interreg funding being successful, a contribution of 25 per cent be made to the funding of the Landscape Enhancement Grant Scheme from within the existing budget of £6,000.

**\*Referred to Cabinet**

**MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION IN PRIVATE**

**MV  
08/008**

**EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

No items were considered in private.

The meeting ended at 2054 hours