

Appendix 2

Somer Community Housing Trust briefing note on play area consultation

Somer Community Housing Trust has made a commitment to reviewing each of the 16 play area sites that would come into its ownership as a result of these proposals and that have not been substantially improved recently. The reviews will feature detailed consultation with children and young people, residents, councillors and other stakeholders. A range of potential options will be considered including alternative uses for some of the sites. It might be that in specific locations communities would rather create a shared flower garden or make provision for allotments. We want the process to result in attractive spaces that are truly valued by local people.

Consultation programme

Consultation will be timed to begin at the following locations, once the legal arrangements for transfer have been completed:

- Rosewarn Close Senior, Whiteway
- Rosewarn Close Junior, Whiteway
- Odin's Road / Vernham Grove, Odd Down

If the legal arrangements are not completed until late 2010 consultation will be held over to early 2011 in order to avoid the Christmas period and the worst of the winter weather.

These sites need to be a priority because of their current condition, the potential scale of any improvement project and broader concerns about crime and anti-social behaviour. We strongly believe that a genuine partnership approach is essential if real and sustainable improvements are to be achieved in these areas. We will be looking for organisations such as Bath and North East Somerset Council, the police and local community groups to work with us in project planning and implementation and in sharing the resources that will be necessary.

We also intend to carry-out and complete initial consultation in the other relevant locations by the summer of 2011. At the end of this process we expect to be able to understand where there is a desire for some alternative form of amenity; where minor improvements only are required; and where there is a need for more substantial refurbishment. We would seek to start work on the improvements themselves during 2011/12 and aim to complete the programme of investment within 3 years. The level of investment would clearly be dependent upon the financial circumstances that apply throughout this period.

Chris Boyes
Sustainable Communities Manager
Somer Community Housing Trust