

Community Engagement Scrutiny Review

Groves Resident Association - Case Study

There was an increase in ASB, crime, litter and student relations were not good. The chair of the failing RA attended a public meeting because he wanted to make the area a better place but was not getting responses from partners. The Chair needed a body to facilitate and form some sort of structure – that's where the Neighbourhood Management Team stepped in.

The Neighbourhood Management Team took the decision to offer some intense training and support to the Groves Residents Association and its partners. This included:

- Securing a regular Meeting place for informal meetings
- Providing:
 - i. Contact details for CYC officers in EPU, SEO, Licensing and RA are now dealing with them directly.
 - ii. Support and encouragement to enable RA members to:
 - Speak at Ward Committee meetings.
 - attend the York Residents Federation meetings which they now attend regularly and find extremely useful and enjoyable
 - iii. Advice and guidance on:
 - various constitution matters i.e. how this can be changed and developed to suit the aims and objectives of the group
 - good practice on committee and officer roles in the RA
 - running an effective committee meeting
 - setting up their own Facebook page and Residents Association email address
 - iv. Various training opportunities to all the Groves RA members a – this will continue throughout the year
 - v. Funding from the RA Support budget for help with Admin costs for the group.

In addition, the Neighbourhood Management Team worked with residents to design, publish and deliver a 'Groves' Newsletter. They also helped the committee design a Residents Logo – see examples below.

Positive Outcomes

- The Groves RA membership has gone from 3 to 25 people

- The group now engages with the Federation
- RA members attend regular training programmes e.g. recently attended equality training.
- The group are active within their ward and work alongside their ward Cllrs
The group had an input into the community contract for the Guildhall ward
There are also numerous examples of partnership working, and they now have a good working relationship with York St John University.

Neighbourhood Management Team continues to meet with the group informally (on a monthly basis) to keep on top of any issues in between the formal RA meetings.