



# **Walsall Area Partnerships**

## **Brownhills, Pelsall, Rushall - Shelfield Area Partnership Area Manager Report**

**Updated 24 June 2016**

### **Ongoing Updates on the Actions for Brownhills, Pelsall, Rushall - Shelfield Area Partnership**

#### **1. Purpose of the Report**

**1.1** The headings of our work streams reflect the four main priorities of the Walsall Plan 2013 - 16, which are as follows:-

- Supporting Businesses to thrive and supporting local people into work
- Improving Health including well being and Independence for older people
- Creating Safe and Sustainable Communities- Reducing levels of crime and providing the right Environment for people to live in
- Improving Safeguarding and Life Chances for Children and Young People

#### **2. Recommendation**

**2.1** The Area Panel is requested to note the contents of this report.

#### **3. Area Plan Development**

**3.1** The Area Plan for the local Area Partnership has been developed in line with strategic priorities as set out for the Borough through the 'Walsall Plan' and the strategic plans identified by each of the thematic strategic boards. Local intelligence has been adopted to ensure a local delivery plan is adopted that meets the needs, challenges and aspirations of local communities across the partnership area.

#### **4. Supporting business to thrive and supporting local people into work**

Partners involved – Town Centre Management Team, the Area Partnership, Brownhills Town Centre Partnership, Walsall Housing Group, Local Primary Schools, Community Payback Team, Princes Trust

**4.1 Brownhills Town Centre Partnership** – Excellent news has been received, the gold award for in bloom has been received for the town centre, the work has been excellent from all involved and is a credit to the support and determination of the team supporting the town centre.

**4.2 Brownhills Community Association** - continues with the development of The Lamp, offering a unique performance and exhibition space in the heart of Brownhills. A variety of activities have already taken place in this refurbished performance space, with lots planned for the future too. It was business as usual for the centre, welcoming room bookings from a variety of clubs and interest groups into the meeting facilities and recreational space available.

The onsite nursery facility continues to thrive, offering a professional service to parents locally and further afield, alongside the youth provision which runs in the form of a twice weekly youth club and an evenings outreach per week.

To discover more about the forthcoming events, to book a space within the facility or to explore existing sessions the website found at [www.brownhillsca.org.uk](http://www.brownhillsca.org.uk) . The provision in this location provides an excellent platform for people to build confidence, develop new skills and enhance employability through the use of performance arts and common interest groups.

**4.3** Information, advice, support and guidance is offered at Manor Farm Community Association regarding adult education courses, an extensive programme of vocational and recreational courses are offered here and at venues across the borough providing opportunities to develop skills and re-train for a variety of different roles. Examples include courses in childcare, IT, teaching qualifications and childcare, to name a few.

**4.4** It is promising to see the arrival of Costa Coffee on Brownhills High Street, joining the established local businesses already in operation. The regeneration of the town centre area, lead by Diane Mansell, continues to see Brownhills High Street receiving the attention it deserves with clean up activity, improvements to street furniture and

signage along with the recent summer event which attracted hundreds of families to the area over a period of three days. This was the first summer activity of this kind in Brownhills and followed on from the winter events over the festive period in late 2015.

## **5 Improving Health including well being and independence for older people**

Partners involved – Public Health Walsall, Walsall Housing Group, Area Partnership, Social Care and Inclusion, IYPSS, Green spaces, Sports and Leisure, Pelsall Medical Centre, Holland Park Surgery

**5.1 Safeguard open space and its users** – An important part of active lifestyles for many of our older community includes the use of our open spaces, this is supported across the footprint by volunteers and community activists who ensure our open spaces are fit for purpose and maintained to a high standard.

The Friends of the parks group across the area continue to thrive ensuring that the plentiful open space we have on this side of the borough is preserved and developed where possible.

Recently formed Friends of Clayhanger Park group is due to hold a meeting in coming weeks to share with the wider community the outcome of a multiagency conversation around the issues and future prospects for the park.

The Friends of Pelsall Common have recently attended several local events to promote the groups ethos and approach towards local commons in the Pelsall ward, the group has recently seen a celebration of the commitment and support given by former chair Mrs Maureen Payton, who has stepped down from the role and handed over the reigns to Mrs Sheila Creed who will now chair the group as it continues with work in the area to promote the positive use of our green spaces.

**5.2 Brownhills Activity Centre** –In addition to the information above, there are further activities underway in this location to improve health and well being and to promote access to recreational activities for older people. Gardening continues in this location with the centre competing in the national ‘In Bloom’ competition in its own right. Groups continue to run from this location throughout the week, including bowling for example, a full programme of events can be obtained through the community association.

- 5.3 Manor Farm Community Association** –The association continues to deliver a range of courses, both of a vocational and leisure nature. The Silver scheme continues to grow in strength with recent visits to the Mindful Gifts coffee house in Darlaston, service users reminisced and enjoyed a lovely afternoon chatting over lunch. The association offers a range of services which are aimed to directly improve the lives of older people in our area, and indeed across Walsall. Services such as lunch clubs, befriending, help with home maintenance, gardening and cleaning, as well as transport to medical appointments can all be accessed through the scheme.
- 5.4** Conversations are still taking place with Clayhanger Community Centre, the AGM will have taken place following the writing of this report so further updates will be provided verbally. The centre committee has looked at the future use of the centre and the possibility to incorporate a variety of different groups in this location. Currently activity continues as normal. Working with the area partnership and Walsall Council Voluntary and Community sector team the centre is being supported to explore the potential and scope future activity in this location.
- 5.5 Silver Thread** – The project continues to gain momentum across the area with a fantastic number of people supporting the initiative locally. The Creative Development team, Walsall Council, were successful in receiving an arts grant for a yearlong borough wide project to create a tapestry of the success stories across the area. The pieces depicting life and memories across our area are due to join the rest from borough wide. This has brought together many different groups and individuals within the local area and has played a massive part in strengthening the well being for those involved

## **6. Creating Safe and Sustainable Communities**

Partners Involved - Anti-Social Behaviour Unit, IYPSS, Police, Area Partnership, Walsall Housing Group, Trading Standards, Clean and Green services, Countryside Services, Friends of Parks groups, local schools, Fire Service, Prince's Trust

- 6.1 CCTV for Brownhills, Rushall-Shelfield and Pelsall** - We currently have access to two cameras that can be deployed in the area:

Camera ;1 Currently located in Vicarage Road, Pelsall.  
Following two serious arson incidents involving local vehicles the partnership camera remains in this location. Residents will

receive information containing key contact details within this location.

#### Camera 2; Out of service

In addition to our Area Partnership cameras we continue to work in partnership through the confidential tasking and coordination group meetings to utilise CCTV opportunities across partner organisations where need is identified and relevant to their areas of work.

The camera located in Vicarage Road has previously seen requests for downloaded footage from police colleagues, there have been no further requests for footage in relation to recent incidents taking place on top of the rail bridge.

Requests for cameras in other locations are considered based on intelligence and data, the community are encouraged contact relevant departments where concerns require reporting;

Private residents can report matters directly to the Community Protection Team by any method below;

Telephone (01922) 650000

Email [communityprotection@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:communityprotection@walsall.gov.uk)

It may also be possible that one of the following council departments can assist in the first instance:

- Walsall MBC 01922 650000
- Environmental Health 01922 652223
- Clean & Green 01922 653344
- Trading Standards 01922 652210
- Walsall Mediation 01922 637713

**6.2 Spring Close, Shelfield** – following many discussions regarding lighting in the garage area of this location, further investigations resulted in other solutions being identified. Work is underway to scope a gating project to reduce the impact of negative activity in the area. Residents have formed a group – supported by local councillors, to look at a variety of issues impacting upon their community including trees, parking concerns, ASB, and the development of an action plan is underway to improve the appearance of the close. Active citizens have already invested their own time and raised funding to make improvements to their rented garages.

**6.3 Land running between, Slacky Lane and Goscote Lane** – Comprehensive work has been undertaken to address the issue of mini

moto use in this location. Crossing over into North Walsall the two area partnership areas have worked together to re-design entrance and exit points to this location to engineer out the opportunity to access the site with mini moto type vehicles. Residents in Allens Lane within the Pelsall Ward have received information regarding useful contacts to report issues to the council and its partners with further properties identified for a letter drop of this nature in the coming weeks.

**6.4 Neighbourhood reports of crime and ASB** – Following an unusual spike in house burglaries there continues to be a marked decrease in this type of activity. Our local neighbourhood police team have been proactive in securing a number of successful arrests in our locality where known offenders have been taken through the criminal justice system and successfully prosecuted for activity which is having a detrimental impact on our community.

Following an incident at Stubbers Green which saw the death several of the local signets from the nearby pool, the neighbourhood team worked with the information available to them to identify and interview the person responsible for the incident. The matter has been addressed and is now closed. In addition to the police response a number of local activists were involved in discussions with the council to improve awareness at the site. Recent works have included high visibility strips painted around the steel bollards and updated information boards to support visitors when enjoying the area. The welfare of the swans and other wildlife in this location was very important to all involved.

**6.5 Northfields Way, Clayhanger** - Following the successful statutory consultation period for a traffic regulation order in this area, further discussions are underway to support the implementation of this scheme. At the time of writing no further information was available however a verbal update will be given at the meeting.

**6.6 Neighbourhood Police Team** – As part of ongoing reviews throughout the West Midlands Police force we will see the Brownhills and Pelsall / Rushall – Sheffield neighbourhood police teams merge into one, with a resource covering all three wards as a combined team. Area Partnerships met with senior police colleagues to discuss the impact of changes in our area, the changes will now provide a total of four PC's covering the area, with confirmation that at least two of these officers already work within the area, ensuring there will be continuity of knowledge and relationships already developed within the community and the partnership. There will be four PCSO's posted to the location and a sergeant to supervise the team. In addition a new inspector has been appointed to drive forward

neighbourhood priorities across the outer neighbourhood sector in Walsall.

Changes are planned to take place in late November 2016, however prior to these changes some of the activities planned are;

- i) Focused information sessions around darker nights and festive tips to protect valuables will be delivered, targeting older peoples groups across all three ward areas. Officers will provide crime prevention information to local people and offer the opportunity to speak to the neighbourhood team around any concerns they may have,
- ii) Targeted letter drop and crime prevention advice delivered in conjunction with community protection and area partnerships. Information around effective reporting is vital to ensure the issues within communities are identified at the earliest possible opportunity.
- iii) Discussions with schools regarding advice around safe storage and security of cycles following recent issues with bike theft.
- iv) Engagement with youth providers operating within the area to develop further intelligence around issues that may be affecting our young people.
- v) Meet and greet newly appointed representatives from partner agencies who will now be focusing on the area partnership footprint to build a network of contacts.

Taking one example from each ward area for the purpose of this report, our current neighbourhood teams have been responding to local concerns as follows;

**Rushall – Shelfield Neighbourhood;** Officers have been supporting the local community in Rushall to ensure the smooth opening and use of Rushall Skate Park as a welcome addition to the park facilities. A visible presence in the park has led to positive engagement with users of the park as a whole and ASB issues over the summer have been very low.

**Pelsall Neighbourhood;** Conversations with local residents, parents and carers and the school teaching team regarding safe parking in and around Ryders Hayes School continue. Following several near misses in this location and several partnership visits it has been agreed that a change to current lines would be consulted upon through the statutory processes for a traffic regulation order. Further news on the action to install restrictions in this location will follow in the next report. It is

imperative for all involved, that people are able to use this area safely and without cause for concern at all times of the day.

**Brownhills Neighbourhood;** Following investigations into complaints of ASB and fear of crime in Brownhills West, officers are worked to identify perpetrators and have successfully issued and managed Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABC's) to a series of young people involved in activity which has had a detrimental impact on residents in this location.

## **7. Improving safeguarding and learning chances for children and young people**

**7.1 Youth Provision –** The new commissioned services for Walsall have been underway for several weeks, with a short break over the latter part of the school holidays.

Delivery is linked to various criteria including;

- Number of young people engaged
- Assisting in reducing ASB
- Diverse range of positive activities for the young people
- Working across agencies to support local initiatives

Bloxwich Community Partnership will provide detached sessions for Pelsall Ward and Rushall - Shelfield Ward with 3 x 3 hour outreach sessions per week per ward. The summer period has seen the use of the mobile reach up tower and various sporting activities to engage with young people in these areas. Traditionally reports of young people gathering on Pelsall High Street throughout the summer period are seen, the team have worked to divert young people away from the high street and into the open spaces at both Wood Common and the main park area off Church Road.

Brownhills Community Association run a successful youth club for the Brownhills Ward twice per week, with a third session offered on an outreach basis tackling areas of concerns and engaging with young people. The sessions continue to prove successful and the centre is used well locally. Work is now underway to progress with identification of areas known to be vulnerable to youth ASB over the darker nights period, where outreach work can be completed to encourage engagement in activities.



- 7.2 School traffic flow / parking** – We continue to see an issue with many of our primary school locations at pinch points throughout the day, the AStars programme is working closely with schools to promote safer travel and we have seen increased support from enforcement vehicles and local police to provide a visible presence and advise parents / carers who are parking inconsiderately in our school areas. News letters and guidance from schools continues to be distributed to alert drivers of their impact upon communities when parking to drop off / collect children from school.
- 7.3** As part of a pilot in North Walsall police worked closely with Community Protection, Youth Offending services and local commissioned providers to manage young people on Acceptable Behaviour Contracts. The coordinated approach has seen a reduction in Anti-Social Behaviour. We are pleased to announce that this co-ordinated approach will now be rolled out across the borough with three training dates scheduled for September for partners who will implement the scheme. The area has already seen a number of successful ABCs and will now benefit from even greater co-ordination to improve the life chances of our young people.
- 7.4 Park fundays** - The regular park fundays were hosted again this year across the borough. We saw one funday take place in this area through the programme, rather than the usual two, however it was extremely successful and saw large numbers of families visit the site throughout the day.

**Other items of note;**

Remembrance Day parades – a local agreement was made in Walsall for support with the remembrance parades across the borough, final plans are being made which will see the traditional parades and services take place again this year.

The Big Poppy Knit – Following the astounding achievement of the Royal British Legion last year with the display of hand knitted poppies in Pelsall, the group have again called for volunteers to join them in a big knit for the 2016 display. The first session was held on 17, September and saw a fabulous turn out of local knitters, along with a cake sale which raised further funds for the RBL charity.

It is with sadness that the passing of John Williams, a prominent name in the neighbourhood watch team of volunteers, was announced following a short illness. The Area Partnership passed on condolences at this sad time and will continue to work closely with the team to ensure the magazine continues to thrive and empower its readers with updates regarding local activity and encouragement to take an active part in their neighbourhood.