

## PALFREY AND PLECK LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP

AGENDA ITEM:

#### 04 October 2004

#### TRANSFORMING YOUR SPACE PROGRAMME

Ward(s): Palfrey and Pleck Local Neighbourhood Partnership boundary area.

Portfolio: Councillor A. Andrew

**Service Area: Urban Regeneration** 

**Summary of Report:** 

This report outlines Walsall's Transforming Your Space Programme (TYS).

TYS is a "Big Lottery Fund", formerly New Opportunities Fund (NOF), initiative of environmental projects and play and youth schemes across the borough of Walsall. The programme consists of 14 large projects which are all due to be complete by September 2006. TYS has and will continue to work in partnership with the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP), Community Empowerment Network (CEN), and local groups and residents. The programme totals just over £2.7 million in funding, with £1.7 million of this being secured from the Big Lottery Fund.

This report provides details of the TYS projects due to be implemented in the Palfrey and Pleck LNP area and seeks authority for the proposals to be included in the final local neighbourhood plan.

#### **Background Papers:**

Transforming Your Space Programme Cabinet Report – 16<sup>th</sup> October 2002. Transforming Your Space Programme Cabinet Report – 08<sup>th</sup> September 2004.

#### Recommendations

- To note details of the Transforming Your Space Programme in Walsall.
- To endorse the proposals detailed for the Palfrey and Pleck LNP and Include these in the final local neighbourhood plan.

#### **Resource and Legal Considerations**

Transforming Your Space is a Big Lottery Fund grant of £1,748,294. With match funding, the programme totals approximately £2.7 million.

There are no known legal considerations, other than the sealing of individual contracts exceeding £100,000.

#### Citizen Impact

The TYS programme will have a borough wide impact and will benefit a broad range of Walsall's population. In particular, young people will directly benefit through access to improved play and recreational facilities.

#### **Environment Impact**

The programme includes environmental improvement projects and improvements to play and youth facilities, therefore there will be a positive impact on the environment.

#### **Performance Management and Risk Management Issues**

The TYS programme contributes to the Environmental Regeneration Service objective to "developing and delivering a range of environmental regeneration initiatives which improve the quality of life for people in the borough."

Risk Management Issues:

#### Risk

Failure to obtain LNP approval for the inclusion of TYS projects in their final local neighbourhood plan: This risk is considered to be low given the extent to which local people and existing partners have been involved in the development process for the TYS programme.

#### **Equality Implications**

The TYS programme will have a borough wide impact, ensuring that every part of Walsall sees some form of activity.

The processes used to identify the TYS projects have been scrutinised by the borough's CEN.

#### Consultation

To date the programme has been developed in consultation with local communities, the

LSP (in particular the Housing and Environment Theme Group), the borough CEN, Friend of Parks groups and all the former District Committees. These and other groups will continue to play an important part in the programme.

#### Vision 2008

The programme will contribute to the following Council Priorities, identified in Vision 2008:

- Ensure a clean & green borough
- Ensure all people are safe & secure
- Make Walsall a healthy and caring place
- Encourage everyone to feel proud of Walsall
- Make it easier to access local services
- Listen to what people want

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#### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Palfrey and Pleck LNP about the Transforming Your Space (TYS) programme in Walsall.
- 1.2 To provide details of the TYS projects due to be implemented in the Palfrey and Pleck LNP area.
- 1.3 To seek the Palfrey and Pleck LNPs approval for the TYS projects to be included within their final local neighbourhood plan.

### 2. THE TRANSFORMING YOUR SPACE PROGRAMME

- 2.1 The Big Lottery Fund, formerly The New Opportunities Fund (NOF), allocated £1.7 million to Walsall Council under its Fair Share Initiative in October 2002. The Fair Share Initiative was launched in recognition that not all parts of the Country were receiving their 'fair share" of lottery funding. The allocation was made following the successful submission of an umbrella scheme for Walsall that would target not only the 11 priority areas identified by the Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership (WBSP) (strand 1 environmental improvement projects in WBSP "priority neighbourhoods") but also the whole borough (strand 2 borough wide play and youth schemes). This was stage 1 of the application process.
- 2.2 Stage 2 of the application process involved the submission of a portfolio of projects to NOF by 31<sup>st</sup> August 2003. Part of the criteria for the submission included the endorsement of the portfolio by the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) prior to 31<sup>st</sup> August. This deadline was met by working in partnership with the LSP, Community Empowerment Network (CEN) and local community organisations. The LSP endorsed the portfolio at their meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2003. Prior to this, the projects were appraised by the LSP's Housing and Environment Theme Group, and the processes used were scrutinised by the CEN to ensure that all projects had been inclusive and developed in partnership with the local community (a condition set by the Big Lottery Fund). All the former District Committees endorsed the strand 2 package in April 2003.
- 2.3 The portfolio of projects, approved by the Big Lottery Fund in November 2003, includes 14 large projects ranging from environmental improvement proposals to improved play and youth facilities across all six of the former District Committee areas.

#### 2.4 Progress to date

2.4.1 Of the 14 projects, 2 pilot projects, Caldmore Junior School Multi-Sports Provision (strand 1) and the Walsall District and Town Centre Project (a package of 7 schemes: Arboretum, Beechdale Park, Pleck Park, Palfrey Park, Reedswood Park, Silverdale Park and WS2 Skate Park) (strand 2) have been developed and are anticipated to be on site during autumn 2004. The remaining 12 projects will then be developed and implemented in accordance with the timetable approved by the Big Lottery Fund, with all projects being complete by September 2006 (a grant condition).

#### 3. THE VISION

- 3.1 TYS contributes to Walsall's Vision for 2008, relating to 6 of the 10 identified priorities:
  - Ensure a clean and green borough the implementation of the planned projects will encourage people to take pride in their open spaces, parks, and general environment. The TYS process has and will continue to increase community participation in Walsall's parks.
  - Ensure all people are safe & secure the improvement of key sites will help increase safety and thus encourage more people to use the facilities. It is also hoped that the new/improved facilities for young people, such as multi use games areas, will provide diversionary activities for this vulnerable age group.
  - Make Walsall a healthy and caring place better recreational facilities will encourage people to use these more often, promoting interaction and wellbeing. Enhanced facilities will also encourage the young to participate in energetic activities, helping reduce obesity in the borough.
  - Encourage everyone to feel proud of Walsall the £2.7 million investment will help improve Walsall's image.
  - Make it easier to access local services the planned improvements will make
    it easier for people to access their local green/open spaces, parks and play
    areas. One of the key issues each project will look at is access; every effort
    will be made to ensure that as many sections of the community can use the
    improved facilities.
  - Listen to what local people want TYS is a community led programme, which will continue to involve and listen to local people. The CEN has also been involved in scrutinising the processes used for community engagement.

#### 4. TYS LAUNCH

4.1 To celebrate and publicise the award, inform people about the forthcoming projects, and highlight the importance of the programme for Walsall and its community; the TYS programme was 'faunched" in the Town Hall on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2004. The event was hosted by Chief Executive Annie Shepperd and was attended by Bruce George MP, Richard Shepherd MP, Ward Councillors, community representatives, Council Officers and representatives from the Big Lottery Fund.

#### 5. TYS WEBSITE

5.1 A website for TYS has been developed and was launched on 16<sup>th</sup> July. The website will not only inform people about the programme but will also act as a major consultation tool, enabling project specific comments to be made directly via email. Subsequently, the website has been commended by the Big Lottery Fund as an example of good practice. The address for the site is <a href="www.walsall.gov.uk/tys/">www.walsall.gov.uk/tys/</a>. Details of all the projects can be found on the site, including project description, sketch schemes and site photos. The website will become a living record of the Programme.

#### 6. TYS PROJECTS IN THE PALFREY AND PLECK LNP AREA

6.1 The approved TYS proposals for the Palfrey and Pleck LNP area are detailed below. The sketch schemes for these proposals are attached in appendix 1.

#### 6.2 Primley Avenue Open Space

- 6.2.1 The project will provide a new play area in a more visible location, the site of the existing play area will be transformed into a multi-use games area, a new skate park behind the existing play area and a resurfaced pathway.
- 6.2.2 The proposals outlined above were identified by representatives on the strand 1 TYS steering group and later endorsed by the community via consultation events organised by Groundwork Walsall.
- 6.2.3 It is anticipated that work will begin on site in April 2005 and be complete in July 2005. The project is currently in its detailed consultation/engagement stage which will ensure that the final designs still meet the requirements of the community. Various methods have and will be utilised including a local steering group, a youth forum, displays in libraries and other community facilities and the TYS website. LNP members will be informed of consultation events taking place during October and invited to take part.

#### 6.3 Walsall District and Town Centre Project

- 6.3.1 The schemes that form part of the Walsall District and Town Centre Project were identified as a result of feedback from parents and young people, Friends of Parks groups and along with other schemes and projects within strand 2 by a working group of Officers. The criteria used included:
  - Existing provision
  - Representation/deputations received from residents
  - Officer knowledge of sites
  - An equal split of TYS funding across the old District Committees

In April 2003 all the former District Committees approved all the strand 2 projects.

#### 6.3.2 Palfrey Park

The scheme will deliver key improvements to the existing sports and youth facilities in the Park. Proposals include replacement of 2 existing tennis courts to provide a multiuse court and a marked out pitch for basketball and 5 a-side football, fencing work, re-alignment of the footpath (paid for by the Heritage Lottery Fund) and a youth shelter.

#### 6.3.3 Pleck Park

One of the existing tennis courts will be converted into a multi use games area, the existing grassed football pitch will be refurbished and a youth shelter will be installed.

#### 6.3.4 Silverdale Park

The existing play area will be refurbished to include new equipment, fencing and safety surfacing.

6.3.5 The Walsall District and Town Centre schemes are due on site in October 2004 and are anticipated to be complete in December 2004. To ensure that the final designs

for schemes still met the requirements of the community, detailed consultation was undertaken. Various methods were utilised including displays in community facilities, friends groups, open/fun days in parks and on-site consultation.

#### 7. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

7.1 Risk 1 - Failure to obtain LNP approval for the inclusion of TYS projects in the final local neighbourhood plan: This risk is considered to be low given the extent to which local people and existing partners have been involved in the development process for the TYS programme.

#### 8. SUMMARY

8.1 TYS represents large scale environmental regeneration for Walsall borough and will contribute to improving people's quality of life.

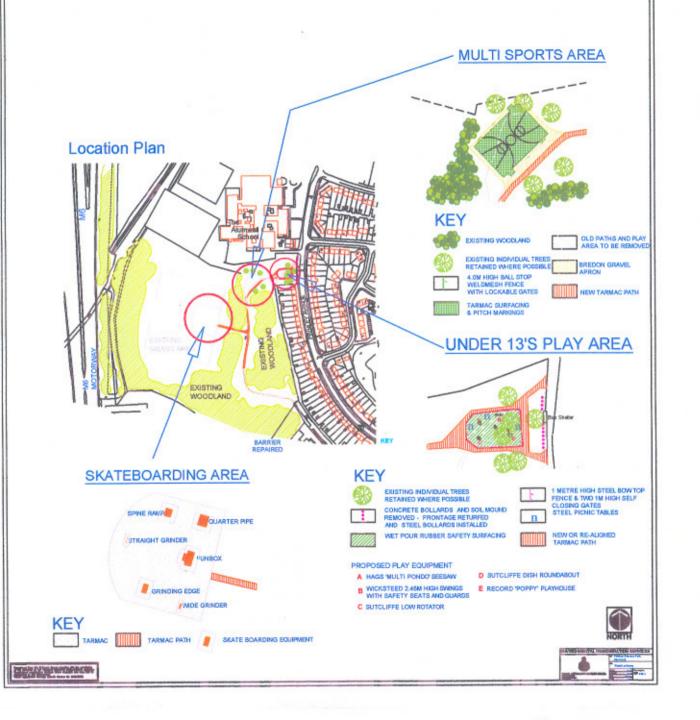
In summary, Palfrey and Pleck LNP is asked to:-

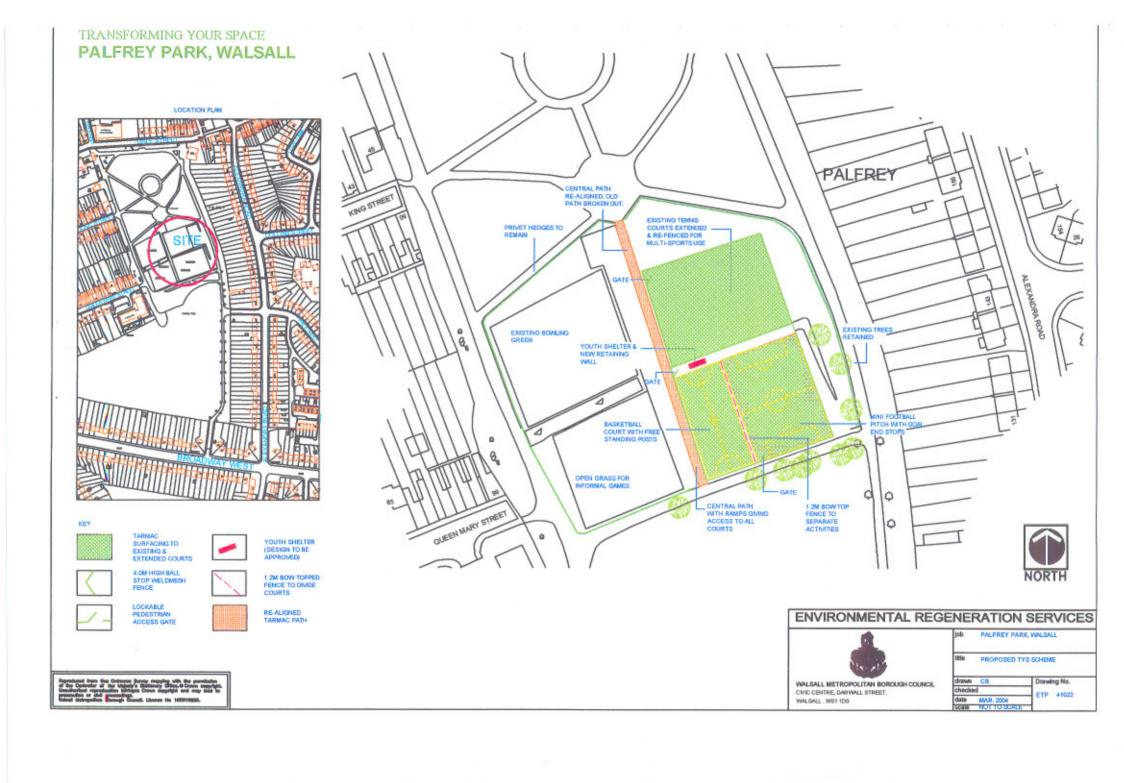
- Note details about the TYS Programme.
- Endorse and include the TYS proposals within the final local neighbourhood plan.

### Appendix 1

### TYS Sketch Schemes

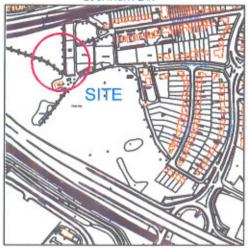
# Primley Avenue Open Space





## TRANSFORMING YOUR SPACE PLECK PARK, WALSALL.

#### LOCATION PLAN



KEY



RE-GRADED FOOTBALL PITCH WITH DEMOUNTABLE FOOTBALL POSTS



YOUTH SHELTER (DESIGN TO BE DECIDED)

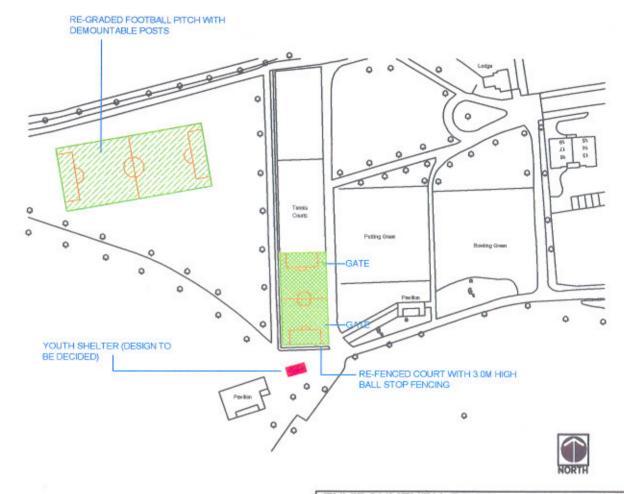


TENNIS COURT CONVERTED TO MULTI SPORT USE



3.0m HIGH BALL STOP FENCING

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#### ENVIRONMENTAL REGENERATION SERVICES



WALSALL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL GVIC CENTRE, DARWALL STREET, WALSALL . WIST 108 PROPOSED LAYOUT

drawn C8 Drawing No. checked date MAR.04 ETP 41159 scale N.T.S.

PLECK PARK, WALSALL

LOCATION PLAN



HEY

1.0M HIGH STEEL ROW TOPPED FENCE. POSTS 200MM FROM PLAY GROUND 600



4 BM ACTIVITY NET



SELF CLOSING OATE



TOMERUNT & SLICE



WET POUR RUBBEN SAFETY SURFACING LAID ON PREPARED EXISTING TARMAC



1.8M H/0H/00UBLE 9MN09



STEEL PICKET TABLE & BENCH



SEESAW



STEEL LITTER DO

