

# **Brownhills, Pelsall, Rushall - Sheffield Area Partnership**

## **Area Manager Report**

**Updated April 2016**

### **Ongoing Updates on the Actions for Brownhills, Pelsall, Rushall - Sheffield 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** – As part of the Clean for the Queen initiative the location selected for the area partnership was the tesco car park / access road to the rear of Ravens Court. The area saw a deep clean, removal of bushes and roots within the planted beds, along with multiple bags of waste removed over the course of the day.
- 4.2** Brownhills CA continues with providing access to the internet for all job seekers and those wishing to develop a CV, with a supported job club taking place each Monday between 2 and 430 within the centre. The centre offers free internet use within the community cafe and more hands on support within the computer room facility during the Monday sessions.
- 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, childcare, to name a few.

## **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 users – Common Side in Pelsall has seen the installation of wooden bollards completing the works previously undertaken in this location to ensure the entire length of the common accessed via Common Side is safeguarded from vehicular degradation. The works were completed at minimal cost, with the support of probation, coordinated by the victims of crime officer. This sees the next phase of the Pelsall Common improvements completed.
- 5.2 Brownhills Activity Centre** – Work continues on the small arts venue, which is creating excitement amongst the local community and provides opportunity for live performances and shows amongst other things for the surrounding community. Recent developments include the building of a stage and storage areas within the venue, and the promotional elements surrounding this to ensure local groups are encouraged to utilise this local resource. The venue expands further by offering a local facility or hire for the likes of weddings and functions now that the acoustic changes have been made and a thorough overhaul of the large hall. Gardening continues in this location with the centre competing in the national 'In Bloom' competition in its own right.

- 5.3 Manor Farm Community Association** –The association has recently secure a large Big Lottery grant to the value of £48,825 which has been awarded to encourage local people over 55 to take responsibility for their own health and fitness, through the delivery of a range of activities from their base in Springfields, Rushall.
- 5.4 Pelsall Community Centre** – Following the improvements over the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year the centre continues to provide a range of opportunities for the older community, activities include exercise classes, choir activity, bowls, amongst a variety of other social uses. A recent Radio WM takeover took place in early March, seeing a variety of local residents come together to sing live on air. The community spirit was remarkable and saw a vibrant and energetic start to the day for attendees, culminating in a live performance on air.
- 5.5** There are conversations taking place in Clayhanger Village at present to look at the current opportunities for the over 60's to take an active part in their communities and meet socially in a local venue. There is currently provision in place but there is an opportunity to expand on this to encourage and provide a wider package of support for the community to connect.
- 5.6** A recently formed friends of the park group has formed in Clayhanger, this has encouraged residents of all ages to take onboard some of the concerns local people have in relation to the local park, the group are currently going through the development phase but intend to encourage the use of the much loved open space for wider recreational activities whilst also taking on board some community activity around litter picking and improving the appearance and facilities in the park.

## **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 ;1currently located in Vicarage Road, Pelsall.  
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 seen recent requests for downloaded footage from police colleagues who are in the process of reviewing the information 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 Anti Social Behaviour Unit by any method below;

Telephone (01922) 648291

Email [asb@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:asb@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 Fordbrook Bridge, Pelsall** – The final planning application has been developed for this location, the installation of fabricated fencing to the top of this structure is due for installation subject to appropriate planning permission. Sustrans have secured enough funding to ensure this project is financially viable and will provide a preventative barrier to the current problem of objects being thrown from the bridge. Further incidents continue to occur in this location and are where possible pursued by police to identify offenders.

**6.3 Rushall Rail track, Station Road** – 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 conducted a joint site visit to look at the layout and possible re-design of entrance and exit points to this location to engineer out the opportunity to access the site with mini moto type vehicles. The completion of this is expected prior to the date of the area panel. Updates will be provided verbally at the meeting to confirm this position.

**6.4 Neighbourhood reports of crime and ASB** – Following the wave of shed break-ins prior to the last area panel there has been a marked decrease in this type of activity. Our local neighbourhood police team have been pro-active 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.

Activity continues in key hotspots to empower residents to report effectively and a number of local areas have received advice from the ASB team, covering areas experiencing increased ASB, or flash points of ASB caused seasonally by key holidays from school.

Delivery of a limited supply of crime prevention products was made during mid March, these will be supplied and fitted by local police community support officers to those victims of crime and vulnerable to experiencing crime. Window alarms, doors alarms, anti climb paint, bike locks and shed alarms are amongst the products we currently have available for installation. This is subject to current stocking levels and there is currently no further funding to replenish stocks at present.

**6.5 Fly-tipping enforcement** – We are working positively with the environmental health team to continue to identify areas where this activity occurs, there does however seem to be an increase in green waste being deposited in locations across the borough now that gardening work is taking place. We are promoting the use of council waste facilities to sign post people to the sites in Merchants Way and Fryers Road, where local people are able to dispose of such material.

**6.6** Following issues within Northfields Way, Clayhanger, regarding a variety of vehicular ASB issues, unauthorised encampments, general ASB and flytipping, two community consultations took place late February / Early March to look at a proposed re-design to the road layout incorporating the option to cease vehicular access past the turning into Allerdale Road.

This is currently going through statutory process to look at the possibility of a Traffic Regulation Order to prohibit vehicles accessing Northfields way beyond Allerdale Road, a further update will be provided verbally within the Area Panel meeting, feedback and next steps are due to be released at the time of writing this report and will be provided to panel members as soon as is possible to do so.

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

**7.1 Youth sport activity, Pelsall**—As the cricket season is almost upon us the local Cricket Club continues to provide opportunities for all ages to engage in training and sport, ran through a committee of local people who are actively encouraging a family club to flourish through a programme of improvements works. The club has recently seen major investment secured through external funding to enable the future of the venue for sport and social purposes.

- 7.2 School traffic flow / parking** – We continue to see an issue with many of our primary school locations at pinch points throughout the days, 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** The Walsall Council Youth Service commissioning process has been running over the past month with an opportunity for local groups to bid into the funding available for delivery within ward boundaries across the borough, there are no announcements regarding the successful application at this time but it is expected that all elected members will be informed once selection has been completed.
- 7.4** An Easter mobile resource funded by the troubled families fund was in place from Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> of March to Saturday the 9<sup>th</sup> of April 2016 and was available to be utilised where possible across the borough.

The resource was a plain vehicle driven by a Police officer along with a youth worker and was available from 1600 hrs to 2200 hrs daily including Saturdays (but excluding bank holidays). It will provide support to families and young people as required and link them to activities and support as required.

That vehicle will address any troubled family visits, offer early help where possible and also address youth ASB, curfews, fly tipping, noise nuisance etc .

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