



Walsall Area Partnerships

Brownhills, Pelsall, Rushall - Sheffield Area Partnership Area Manager Report

Updated 24 June 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. Area Plan Development

2.1 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.

3. 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

- 3.1 Brownhills Town Centre Partnership** – Previously it was reported that as part of the Clean for the Queen initiative earlier this year 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, this has been well received and remains in a good condition. Town Centre Officer Diane Mansell expanded on this work with a stage two clean up and further removal of bushes in this location. In conjunction with the work carried out for the up-coming Brownhills in Bloom judging, the area in and around the High Street looks really fresh and clean.
- 3.2** 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. The new arts facility within the centre is proving really popular and provides an excellent opportunity for people to become engaged and learn new skills, whilst building confidence through performance arts.
- 3.3** 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.

4 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

- 4.1** 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. Further works are now proposed and under development in the Nest Common / Wood common area co-ordinated by the Clean and Green team in conjunction with local partners.

- 4.2 Brownhills Activity Centre** – Work has now been completed on the small arts venue, which provides a unique opportunity for live performances and shows amongst other things for the surrounding community. The venue expands further by offering a local facility for hire for 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. Groups continue to run from this location throughout the week, a full programme of events can be obtained through the community association.
- 4.3 Manor Farm Community Association** –The association continues to deliver a range of courses, both of a vocational and leisure nature. Due to unauthorised encampments taking place on the car park and land adjacent to the car park activity was reduced however working with the local authority and police colleagues activity was swiftly returned to normal.
- 4.5** There are conversations taking place in Clayhanger Community Centre through the imminent AGM, to look at the future use of the centre. Currently activity continues as normal.
- 4.6** A recently formed friends of the park group in Clayhanger, has met with the clean and green team to look at an action plan for the park, 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.

5. 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

- 5.1 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 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 Anti Social Behaviour Unit by any method below;

Telephone (01922) 648291

Email 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

5.2 Fordbrook Bridge, Pelsall – The planning application has been approved for this location, the installation of fabricated fencing to the top of this structure has taken place. Works to secure the wire fencing to the foot of the bridge is also now completed and local community feedback has been positive in relation to this activity.

5.3 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 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. The completion of this is now confirmed.

5.4 Neighbourhood reports of crime and ASB – Following the wave of shed break ins at the start of the year there continues to be 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.

- 5.5 Northfields Way, Clayhanger** - 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.

The recently consulted Traffic Regulation Order to prohibit vehicles accessing Northfields way beyond Allerdale Road, received no objections to the formal process. A further update will be provided verbally within the Area Panel meeting, feedback and next steps are due to be released in the coming days / weeks, however at the time of writing this report details are not available. Information will be provided to panel members as soon as is possible to do so.

6 Improving safeguarding and learning chances for children and young people

- 6.1 Youth Provision** – The new commissioned services for Walsall have now commenced, the youth club facility at Brownhills continues through the commissioned service, along with outreach provided for Pelsall and Rushall - Shelfield through the chosen provider, Bloxwich Community Partnership. A presentation to panel is due to be received regarding this offer.
- 6.2 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.
- 6.3 Childrens Locality Panel** - Through the childrens locality panel, discussions are underway to ensure a partnership patrol activity is undertaken throughout the summer period as seen throughout previous school holiday periods.

Young people will be signposted to local activity where possible and residents reassured that hotspots are visited as part of the wider programme.

- 6.4 Park fundays** - The regular park fundays are being hosted again this year across the borough, however are scaled down in comparison to previous years. We will only see one funday take place in this area through the clean and green park funday programme, rather than the usual two. The Brownhills event will no longer be taking place due to reduced attendance at previous years events. Other go Wild on Walsall events will take place, a programme of which will be circulated when released.
- 6.5** A summary of cross partnership working 2015 – 16 for this particular theme can be found at appendix 1.

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Brownhills, Pelsall, Rushall - Sheffield Area Partnership

Summary of Partnership Work;

Creating Safe and Sustainable Communities

2015-16

1. Overview

As part of the cross partnership work towards the local the thematic priority 'Creating Safe and Sustainable communities' in Brownhills, Pelsall, Rushall and Sheffield a series of actions have been undertaken and achieved in partnership with the local stakeholders including Local Neighbourhood Police Team, WMBC (various departments), Victims of Crime Officer, whg, Midland Heart. These are summarised for financial year 2015-16.

2. Physical Improvements:

In response to local issues a series of physical improvements have been made to create a safer environment for the community.

2.1 Rushall Cycle Track, Station Road, Rushall

Issue; Mini – Moto use along the former rail line, now Cycle Route 5 managed by Sustrans.

Action; The use of Section 106 funding was secured in order to install gates, barriers and fencing to provide legitimate users of this site with a safe access whilst restricting access for those wishing to ride mini moto's in this location. Police involvement from Neighbourhood teams in Rushall – Sheffield and Blakenall provided robust evidence to justify the funding request. The final design to engineer out the issue throughout the distance of the cycle path was received from police, community safety, area partnerships, clean and green services.

Outcome;

The area has been secured to restrict ease of access for mini motos throughout the Rushall corridor, calls for service have reduced significantly in this area. Action now closed.

2.2 Ryders Hayes Lane, Pelsall

Issue; The access track to the former rail line at this location was causing concern for residents in the local area, young people have been frequenting this isolated location in vehicles with allegations of noise, concerns around drug usage, increased litter. Arrests and searches in conjunction with this activity have been carried out.

Action; A barrier and P system has been installed to prevent vehicular access, surrounding properties requiring access to the rear of their homes are provided with a key to enable usage for maintenance reasons. Residents are encouraged to report any further issues to the police and Walsall Council, to date there have been no further calls regarding activity in this location.

Outcome; Vehicles have been prevented from accessing this location. There have been no further issues reported by local residents at this location. The area became slightly water logged during winter but this has not had any detrimental effect on the installation or access by foot to the cycle path. Legitimate users of this location are now able to use for recreational purposes.

2.3 Church Road, Pelsall

Issue; A small number of properties are accessed to the rear via an alleyway, the surrounding area has seen intermittent ASB and issues within the alley have included youths congregating, small fires, smoking / drinking.

Action; In response to this a small project was undertaken to secure the rear access to these properties, a gate was installed and keys issued to properties requiring access to this area.

Outcome; The rear of properties in this location have now been secured. Risk of fire through BBQs and cigarette ends has reduced and the calls to Police have ceased.

2.4 Leighs Road, Rushall - Shelfield

Issue; A network of alleyways and rear vehicular access to properties in Leighs Road / Yew Tree Road, Shelfield affords the opportunity for people to gather in this area and be relatively well concealed from view. A barrier currently unsecured and loose items of flytipped waste was used to cause alarm and distress to residents of properties in this location.

Action; Clean up of the area to ensure all debris and flytipped waste is removed. Secured the barrier to prevent further nuisance from it colliding with fencing at force. PCSO and Community Safety support to empower residents with the information to report effectively, through a leaflet drop to all properties accessible by this alleyway network. Reassurance to affected properties was also given.

Outcome; Securing the barrier has reduced the vehicular access to the rear of properties in Leighs Road, we have seen no further flytipping incidents. The complainants in this location have reported no further issues.

2.5 Walsall Road / Bridge Road Access points – Rushall – Shelfield / Pelsall

Issue; Horses are freely able to roam on to the highway from adjacent fields in these locations, via the right of way currently entering and exiting sites at these locations. Multiple calls were made detailing horses were causing an obstruction to the bridge in Walsall Road, and to the surrounding estate in the Shelfield area. There was also an issue with the use of mini motos in this location.

Action; Worked closely with the rights of way officers and rambling association locally, to erect a kissing gate structure at either end of the site to restrict free movement of horses, whilst still affording the access to legitimate users of the site. This too has an impact on restricting mini motos to the site and we have not seen calls relating to this activity since installation. Damage was initially caused to the gates however this has been improved and repaired by local ramblers. Note; recent activity (April 2016) has included police seizing mini motos from the Bridge Road, location. We will review the structure over a three month period to assess effectiveness and suggest modification or improvement where required.

Outcome; There have been no further incidents of horses on the highway or on land outside of the fields. This action has secured the perimeter of the field at this location. We have however seen a number of mini motos used in this location, outside of the enclosed field area and a series of successful seizures in this area. This will be monitored and a further work stream developed should this issue continue.

2.6 Fordbrook Bridge - Pelsall

Issue; Over a period of several years there has been an intermittent problem with large items being thrown from the bridge onto passing vehicles below. This has resulted in a number of reports to police and calls for service where vehicles have been struck and damaged. The area experiences greater volumes of calls at night time.

Action; Working over several years we have managed to secure an agreement with Sustrans, the managing agency responsible for this location, to submit a planning application for the erection of a fence, with winged sides, to secure the top of the bridge. Extensive support has been provided by the Victim of Crime Officer and local police colleagues to ensure this work was progressed and submitted in line with the planning process and in response to local need. Funding has been provided by both Sustrans and the Area Partnership to ensure the works can take place if planning approval is granted.

Outcome; Planning permission was granted for this activity and all works have now been undertaken to secure this location..

2.7 Northfields Way - Brownhills

Issue; Frequent calls to ASB, Clean and Green services, WM Police regarding a variety of issues linked primarily to vehicular ASB including unauthorised encampments, congregating vehicles at night causing noise, litter issues, use of legal highs, use of drugs, drug dealing, in the section of Northfields Way beyond Allerdale Road.

Action; Consultation with residents to determine the appetite for a closure for this element of Northfields Way was carried out, following a thorough scoping of the issues and collation of reports relating to this location. Walsall Council is now progressing with a traffic regulation order (TRO) consultation to prohibit vehicles using the section of Northfields.

Outcome; The Traffic Regulation Order was completed. A further update will be provided when further details are known regarding implementing this scheme

3. Reassurance

3.1 Letter drop Ashtree Road / Chapel Street / Church Road - Pelsall

Issue; Community members unaware or unclear of reporting mechanisms to contact Council services, Police (outside of 999 calls), landlords, general useful contacts for the area. Due to perceived ASB and nuisance the community were expressing fears of crime and ASB to local councillors and via social media pages.

Action; Collation of useful numbers and information pack around community safety advice delivered to 200 properties in the location identified. Issues of perceived ASB appear to have reduced and calls have not been experienced over the autumn / winter period.

Outcome; Issues of perceived ASB appear to have reduced and calls have not been experienced over the autumn / winter period.

3.2 Communication and reassurance regarding burglary other building - Pelsall

Issue; Community tension regarding the spike in shed break in's specifically in Ryders Hayes Pelsall.

Action; Joint press release WM Police and Walsall Council regarding the issues experienced and providing some practical steps to securing property and seeking advice. Also linked in with 5.3 below.

Outcome; Victims of crime were visited and reassurance tools provided.

4. Joint Interventions

4.1 Clayhanger legal high intervention with YSS – Brownhills

Issue; Increase in paraphernalia linked to legal highs, namely nitrous oxide, found in green areas of Clayhanger, often coinciding with young people using the space to gather and socialise.

Action; Joint patrols arranged to coincide with half term holidays to provide a police presence in areas experiencing this activity whilst also providing youth service expertise to advise young people around the risk to health and signpost to positive activity in the area. Reassurance was provided to the community and education around the use of legal highs was filtered through informal conversations with the community.

Outcome; Local residents and young people who were spoken to at this time were aware of the risks and the implications of using this type of substance. We will revisit this action should the issue arise again, at present there have been reduced reports

of paraphernalia found in Clayhanger but we will ensure youth provision in the location is aware of the previous issues raised.

4.2 ASB activity – Trevor Road, Pelsall

Issue; Intermittent issues with youth ASB, and perceived ASB in the park including drug use, noise, arson, mainly throughout school holidays.

Action; Working with WM Fire Service, Walsall Council clean and green, Sport and Leisure and Youth Services pop up provision was provided weekly for a period of three weeks throughout the main school summer holiday period (July-Aug 2015). Positive interaction with young people and parents enabled some safety messages to be shared and new activities to be experienced in an area which traditionally doesn't see much by way of organised youth activity.

Outcome; In excess of 120 young people accessed the facility and made positive connections with role models during the sessions. Further interventions are being explored for the 2016 summer period in conjunction with the locality panel for Brownhills. Note; This activity will only cover the Pelsall and Brownhills Wards with consideration regarding the Rushall – Sheffield Ward being made at the Aldridge locality panel meeting.

4.2.1 Brownhills High Street – Low level ASB - Brownhills

Issue; Reports of street drinking, urination, noise related issues in the area surrounding the benches and public waste facilities.

Action; CCTV did not provide evidence of this matter, as part of the daily patrol strategy the Neighbourhood Police team provided a presence to detect and resolve any issues that may have been taking place here. Use of the land and possible rights of way issues in this location are ongoing at present – a further update regarding this will be provided when the matter reaches conclusion.

Outcome; A further update will be provided as further information is known in relation to this location.

4.3 Ravenscourt / Tesco Car Park - Brownhills

Issue; Increased litter, drugs paraphernalia, pest issues, poor natural surveillance of the area due to well established but infrequently maintained bushes, unsecured void properties.

Action; This area was selected as the local area of focus for the national 'Clean for the Queen' initiative. As part of the Town Centre footprint this was led by the Town Centre Regeneration Officer, Diane Mansell. The area saw a thorough clean up using mechanical sweepers, manual litter picking and full removal of the bushes obscuring view from the Tesco Car Park. The unsecured void property had evidence of class A drug use and sharps paraphernalia was found throughout, this was safely removed and the building secured.

Outcome; The area is now open and provides a reduced opportunity for litter to gather, improving the ability to remove the waste that is found in the location. Flytipping has reduced and the building has remained secure preventing access to the void property.

4.4 Shelfield Park – ASB issues impacting upon a single property. Rushall - Shelfield

Issue; The former bowling area in this location had been allowed to grow unmanaged for some years, this provided an opportunity to access the area and remain out of sight. The area was cleaned up, restored to grass land and the benches and waste bins bought back into use. To the rear of one property along the perimeter of this site garden waste had built up over a period of years which afforded young people the opportunity to see over fencing installed. House owners felt intimidated and scared when groups of young people were using this site.

Action; Cut back some of the remaining hedges to afford a better view of this site from the road, provided information regarding accessing services such as Walsall Council Noise team, ASB Team and the Local Neighbourhood Police Team. Youth services carried out detached work in this location to raise awareness of the impact of behaviour on residents.

Outcome; There have been no further calls to this location.

4.5 Local Speeding Initiative - All

Issue; Speeding, or perception of speeding vehicles in key locations across the area partnership.

Action; WM Police accessed funding to provide a local speeding awareness course following local speeding initiatives. This initiative was primarily lead by the police supported by the local area partnership to ensure administrative elements were carried out and production of a local DVD for use on the course was facilitated.

Outcome; Residents and commuters throughout our area partnership have seen a visible intervention taking place, the results will be included at a later date.

4.6 Tamworth Close Action Plan - Brownhills

Issue; There were a number of cross partner concerns in this location, these related to;

Litter

Accumulation of domestic waste

Access to CCTV and the use of CCTV

Unsecured doors

Bypassed electricity meters and concerns with wiring

Dogs

Abandoned vehicle

Locating properties within blocks of flats

Access to communal areas for police

Enforcement action

Action; An action plan was drafted by the area partnership and WM Police in conjunction with the Midland Heart management team / officers responsible for the area. A quarterly cross partnership meeting to walk through the area and provide solutions for issues was set up. This saw the successful identification and seizure of a cannabis grow in one of the properties as a direct outcome of a partnership visits. Police were quick to identify the signs and access the property, making two arrests and seizing the plants and associated equipment.

Unsecured doors were addressed and remain at present in a good condition.

Properties were given a more consistent appearance through the uniformity of formal numbering added to each door and a layout of the site, included detail around the number for each property was provided to the Neighbourhood Team.

CCTV was reviewed and access committed to local neighbourhood police for use to evidence criminal enquiries.

Unsecured vacant properties were secured to prevent access until a tenant could be secured.

Area Partnerships funded a clean up day to remove the excess flytipped waste, general litter in the area and to provide the residents with an opportunity to dispose of items that were no longer required. In addition Midland Heart procured additional waste facilities to enable tenants wider access to domestic waste disposal. This has not resolved the issue and at present a further waste facility has been requested, in addition there will be clearance of this site prior to the weekend on a trial basis, with a further removal of waste by WMBC as per the usual bin collection service.

Outcome; The estate is now more visually pleasing and problematic tenants are no longer causing issues as often as previously experienced. A further update regarding waste management will be provided June 2016 when the additional actions to resolve this have been completed.

5. Provision of equipment

5.1 DNA kits – All wards

Detail; Due to the demands placed on local funds the stock of DNA marking kits for victims of crime was depleted. Funding was sourced to provide further purchases of this equipment for continued use in the Brownhills, Pelsall, Rushall – Sheffield Area.

Outcome; Properties that have been victim to burglary or attempted burglaries received a property marking kit.

5.2 Burglary intervention – All wards

Detail; Following an increase in burglary dwelling provision of prikka strips, window alarms and anti climb paint was met by the area partnership to support local PCSO interventions around reassurance and improving security measures for vulnerable properties.

Outcome; items were installed at properties and surrounding areas experiencing this type of activity. PCSO support to maximise the opportunity for a conversation at the point of installation was given.

5.3 Response to shed breaks – All wards

Detail; Linked in with point 3.2 above, further equipment was purchased to enable targeted installation of shed alarms, window alarms and anti climb paint to victims of crime and those potentially at risk of crime due to the pattern of offences locally.

Outcome; See above.