

NORTH WALSALL AREA PANEL

Area Manager's Report

Tuesday 7 July 2015

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report seeks to inform Elected Members for the North Walsall Area Partnership of some of the work carried out within the local area.
- 1.2 North Walsall has a number of key priorities which have been identified through work with partner agencies, Walsall Intelligence Network and the local community.
- 1.3 The strategic priorities are:
 - Safer Walsall: Creating safe, sustainable and inclusive communities
 - Children and Young People: Improving safeguarding, learning and life chances for children and young people
 - Business and Jobs: Supporting businesses to thrive and supporting local people in to work
 - Health and Well-Being: Improving health, including well-being and independence for older people
- 1.4 There are monthly Non Confidential Tasking & Co-ordination (Partner) Meetings that occur in North Walsall. The meetings provide the opportunity for partner agencies to come together and share ideas, information and co-ordinate strategy based on the Walsall Plan.

The partners include: Community Safety Services (ASB Team), Young Support Services, West Midlands Police, residents, Ward Councillors, Reedswood Park Retailers, Stephenson Square Retailers, Walsall Housing Group (WHG), Caldmoreaccord Housing, Walsall Association of Tenant Management Organisations, West Midlands Probation Service, Walsall Intelligence Network, Environmental Health, Beechdale Community Housing, Mirus Academy, Frank F Harrison Community Association, St Aiden's Care Team, North Walsall Area Partnership, Walsall Adult Community College (WACC), Walsall College, Economic Regeneration Team, Work on the Horizons, Prospects, Public Health, Lifestyles Team, Forest Arts Centre, Blakenall Community Centre (BCC), Ryecroft Hub, Green Lane Baptist Church & Community Payback.
- 1.5 A facebook page has now been set up to promote all community activity happening in North Walsall called Let's do it in North Walsall.

2. Safer Walsall: Creating safe, sustainable and inclusive communities

- 2.1 Police are targeting Reedswood Park and Glastonbury Crescent to address concerns around off road bikes.
- 2.2 The police continue to do regular high visibility patrols in hot grid areas where a 15 minute patrol is done every three hours.
- 2.3 The police have also conducted a number of speeding operations in Beechdale. Those found speeding have been issued a fixed penalty notice and further operations are planned.
- 2.4 Frank F Harrison Community Association has been awarded more than £330000 from Big Lottery Fund to run the Bike Light programme over the next three years. The project is aimed at those involved in anti-social behaviour or who are at risk of getting involved in criminal activities. Referrals are made to the programme which runs as a ten week course to teach mechanics, safe riding and track repairs.
- 2.5 Bloxwich town centre has become the first in the Black Country to launch a Digital Radio Link scheme which links with the police. It came into effect on 1 May following years of planning from Bloxwich District Centre Management, Bloxwich Retailers and the police.
- 2.6 A pollination of green spaces is occurring across the borough. Led by Alison Bate, Strategic Development Officer, the project aims to identify appropriate green spaces and then work with local partners and agencies to encourage the space to be used by wildlife. Beechdale Community Housing is involved with identifying green spaces, supported by the BEES Environmental group for the estate. An area identified is the corner of Arkwright and Stephenson Square.
- 2.7 North Walsall's Big Spring Clean took place the week commencing 22 June. Deep cleans were done in West Street and Miner Street with volunteers from KFC helping out. A new bin has been installed on Miner Street. Contaminated bins were emptied and broken bins reported to be repaired in both locations.

Partners, including Canals and River Trust, Birchills Academy, Youth Support Services, Community Cohesion, Clean and Green, Environmental Health and Area Partnerships, are working together in Birchills to promote the use of the canal and joined together for the litter pick held on 25 June. Approximately 25 bags of rubbish were collected.

Two evening litter picks took place at Leckie Road/Cannon Street and at Mossley shops with the help of the Mossley scouts, Proffitt Street women's group, Mossley Over 50's club, local councillors and volunteers.

The final clean up took place at Beechdale Park with help from West Midlands Police, Frank F Harrison Community Association, Beechdale Community Housing, Clean and Green, Environmental Health, local volunteers and local councillors. 27 bags of rubbish were collected and a new sleeper bridge across the brook will be installed.

- 2.8 As part of the Big Spring Clean, Clean and Green have purchased 40 signs for use across the borough in high profile areas relating to dog fouling, mostly parks. Additional signs have been purchased for a pilot in North Walsall to address areas of concern. The first streets to have the signs are Dartmouth Avenue, Field Road, Victoria Avenue, Elmore Green Road, Glastonbury Crescent and Roach Road. The signs will only be in place for a four week period before being moved again. Councillors have also used stickers to highlight particularly bad areas for dog fouling.
- 2.9 Partners in North Walsall have been working with KFC and residents to address litter issues around the shop. Three new bins have now been installed to reduce the street litter problem.
- 2.10 Partners within North Walsall and Pelsall/Rushall/Brownhills/Shelfield Area Partnerships are working together to address issues of off road bikes on Whateley Field. Plans are being drawn up to install P barriers at strategic locations and natural barriers to limit access to the site.
- 2.11 Following discussion at the Beechdale Community Lunch a meeting has been set up with Beechdale Library on 1 July to see how partners and residents can work together to ensure the library remains a focus of the community. The next Beechdale Community Lunch will take place on 10 July at noon at Beechdale Lifelong Learning Centre.
- 2.12 Beechdale Community Housing's BEES group continues to source funding for various events throughout the year:
 - 25 July – Community trip to Weston Super Mare
 - 28 November – Christmas Fair
 - 12 December – Aladdin at Beechdale Club
- 2.13 North Walsall Area Partnership and Walsall Voluntary Action hosted a networking evening on 16 June at Ryecroft Hub. This was to encourage groups to come together to showcase what they are doing locally, learn from one another and encourage them to utilise the many free workshops available through Walsall

Voluntary Action. We will be holding another networking event late November/early December.

- 2.14 Friendship Care and Housing will transform the ten disused flats over Stephenson square into ten one bedroom apartments along with office space. The flats should be ready by early next year.
- 2.15 A planning application from whg has been submitted to create 66 one and two bedroom apartments in Carl Street, Leamore. If the decision is favourable work could start in September.
- 2.16 Goscote Lodge Crescent remains a hotspot area for flytipping. A domehawk camera has now been installed at the location and a flashing warning LED sign has been installed on Goscote Lane nearby.
- 2.17 Cameras are deployed in different locations across North Walsall to tackle fly-tipping, anti-social behaviour and to assist with the detection of criminal activities.

Reference	Installed at	Installing Agency	Purpose	Objective
ND1	Lister Close	Neighbourhood Management	To reduce crime & ASB and offer reassurance	To identify offenders to enable appropriate action to be taken
ND2	Goscote Lodge Crescent	Neighbourhood Management	To reduce environmental crime	To identify offenders and enable appropriate action to be taken.
ND7	In for repair			
ND8	In for repair			

Covert cameras are also utilised. The distributions of cameras are decided at the monthly Confidential Partnership Tasking & Coordination Meeting.

3. Children and Young People: Improving safeguarding, learning and life chances for children and young people

- 3.1 Youth Support Service, Frank F Harrison and Blakenall Community Centre are co-ordinating activities with the support of Community Safety and Area Partnership to ensure there is less duplication.

- 3.2 Partners in North Walsall are working together during school holidays to minimize the probability of youth asb. The Move truck and Reach Up tower are being used to engage with families and young people and highlight provision in the area. Promotions will also be done to warn of the dangers of certain activities, e.g. throwing stones.
- 3.3 Youth Support Services continue to review various exit strategies from different projects that have been operating in North Walsall, as the service is being reduced.

4. Business and Jobs: Supporting business to thrive and supporting local people into work

- 4.1 Goscote Community Action group continue to hold regular meetings to engage and keep local people informed of the new development. A consultation exercise has been done to decide what the 1.5 million from the Local Growth Fund is to be spent on within the Goscote Lane Corridor. The fund needs to be spent before the end of the financial year 2015/16.
- 4.2 5 of 13 young people completed the NCFE Level 1 qualification in Interpersonal Skills which operated as part of the Teens and Toddler programme. 5 partially completed the programme and 3 disengaged. Future programmes will rigorously pursue poor attendees to promote completion.
- 4.3 Mossley Big Local have had their plan formally endorsed in principle. A meeting took place on Monday 15 June at 4pm at Sneyd Community Association, to revise year one budget and priorities which will be submitted for full endorsement.
- 4.4 Steps to Work are continuing to run Job Clubs, build skills and support people into work from their North Walsall base at Work on the Horizon in Bloxwich Town Centre. They held a ten year anniversary celebration on Friday 12 June as an open day. During this time Steps to Work have found posts for 1474 people, 1574 have gained qualifications, 3908 have been assisted with their CVs and 3726 have received careers advice and guidance.
Unfortunately the funding from Big Lottery for this project finishes on 31 December 2015 and unless new funding is secured the facility will close. Steps to Work are working hard on a new bid to incorporate outreach work in the area. Area Partnerships are working with Steps to Work to see if a pilot project can be done from September to March to show the impact this could have locally
- 4.5 A prep course put on by BCH and their community champions has seen all eleven finish the programme. One has gone on to employment, two have enrolled in college and some have signed up for volunteer work. Another programme started in May.

5. Health and Well-Being: Improving health, including well-being and independence for older people

- 5.1 Following the success of the Forget Me Not dementia booklet project done in the Aldridge and Beacon Area, Area Partnerships are working with Walsall Link Line on a project which will help those with dementia through music and dance. Walsall Link Line has piloted Steps In Time and now seeks funding to make this a regular date in the dementia calendar.
- 5.2 The Water Mill in Goscote has created an authentic pub environment for its dementia patients, including a bar. Regular pub afternoons are now held with pub quizzes, games of dominoes and darts served with everyone's favourite drink, cobs, pork scratchings and crisps. The Water Mill provides 30 residential places, 10 respite places and day care facilities for up to 20 people per day.
- 5.3 Mossley Estate over 50's Club, organised by and for local residents meet every Thursday 9.30am- 12.30pm at Mattesley Court. All are welcome to attend.
- 5.4 Mattesley held a 'not by my selfie' afternoon on 26 March to highlight concerns around older, vulnerable people. The event was supported by West Midlands Fire Service who were able to conduct some home safety fire checks.
- 5.5 Stan Ball centre continue to put on various trips for older residents across the borough. Trips include visits to Blists Hill, Shrewsbury Flower Show and Blenheim Palace.
- 5.6 Beechdale Community Housing are looking into the possibility of delivering an Expert Patient programme for carers over the next twelve months.
- 5.7 St Thomas Church in Mossley have set up a mental health and wellbeing support group. If you suffer with stress, depression, anxiety or any other mental health condition come along and meet other people with shared experiences in a safe and confidential environment. The first meeting will be on 14 July, 10-12 at St Thomas Church, Cresswell Crescent. More details from Sara on 07586352810.

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