

NORTH WALSALL AREA PANEL

Area Manager's Report

17 September 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), Youth 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, 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 The police continue to do regular high visibility patrols in hot grid areas where a 15 minute patrol is done every three hours.
- 2.2 High visibility patrols continue in Green Lane, Walsall and the surrounding streets following a rise in reports of anti-social behaviour and criminal damage. Using appropriate legislation and measures, a number of individuals have already been dealt with by Police and the Council. Following a meeting with residents a directory of useful numbers has been made available.
- 2.3 A meeting has taken place with partners to discuss the advantages of restorative justice (restorative justice (RJ) has been defined as a process through which parties with a stake in a specific offence collectively resolve how to deal with the aftermath of the offence and its implications for the future). North Walsall partners are committed to using this in appropriate situations.
- 2.4 West Midlands Police are seeking members for their Key Individuals Network. This group is made up from the community, and represents the diversity of the area. The individuals usually have standing within the community and can be called upon if a situation arises to provide expert knowledge of that community. No meetings are involved. Another way for the community to be involved is through a Strategic Community Reference Group who meet every two months to discuss policing matters local and wider. No one from North Walsall is currently part of this group. The next meeting is on 19 November at Walsall Police Station. Further information can be gained through Kevin Pitt by email on k.pitt@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk
- 2.5 Fencing and gating have been installed at Glastonbury Crescent to reduce vehicle access points. Police have increased patrols and residents are encouraged to notify police if they have any information regarding identities of those involved in off road biking.
- 2.6 A number of police surgeries, residents' meetings and neighbourhood watch meetings take place across North Walsall.

Meeting	Date	Time	Where
Mossley Residents	2 September	7-9	Mattesley Court, Mossley
Police surgery	14 September	10.50-11.50	BCH office
Fishley Close Neighbourhood Watch	15 September	7-8	Saddlers Arms, Fishley Lane
Blakenall Residents Meeting	30 September	6.30-8.30	Ryecroft Hub
Police surgery	2 October	10.50-11.50	BCH office
Birchills Neighbourhood	5 October	7.30-8.30	Bentley Moor Social Club

Watch/Agenda 21			
Police surgery	12 November	10.50-11.50	BCH office
Blakenall Residents Meeting	25 November	6.30-8.30	Ryecroft Hub
Police surgery	4 December	10.50-11.50	BCH office

2.7 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. During the summer taster sessions have run over four weeks which enabled young people to find out more about the ten week course and what that involves. Three groups (12 per group) are now signed up for the course starting the second week of September which runs on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. On the Saturday all groups come together for riding, marshalling and mechanics.

2.8 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 Road	Neighbourhood Management	To reduce crime & ASB and offer reassurance	To identify offenders to enable appropriate action to be taken
ND2	Forest Lane – attempted theft – with WMP for analysis	Neighbourhood Management	To reduce criminal activity and anti-social behaviour	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.

2.9 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. Works should be completed before the beginning of November.

- 2.10 Five cases of flytipping within North Walsall will progress to prosecution following evidence gained from covert cameras.
- 2.11 West Midlands Fire Service remain committed to going into borough wide primary schools (years 4 and 5) to promote road safety.
- 2.12 Partners who were originally interested in working on pollinator areas have now pulled out. Proposals are being looked at for King George V playing fields with Clean and Green meeting the wildlife trust late August.
- 2.13 A skip day was held at Chepstow Road and Chepstow Way on 6 August 2015 organised by whg and Environmental Health. 16 tonnes of mainly domestic waste was removed within six skips. Eight contaminated bins were also emptied and education was done with residents. An extensive litter pick was also completed.
- 2.14 Partners including whg, Environmental Health, Area Partnerships, ASB unit and Community Payback are looking to do an extensive clear up of the coppice behind Smith and Thomas house. Clean and Green will open up the area to make it less desirable for anti-social behaviour and education in the area will highlight the problems arising from flytipping.
- 2.15 Dog fouling signs were initially installed at Dartmouth Avenue, Field Road, Victoria Avenue, Elmore Green Road, Glastonbury Crescent and Roach Road. Some signs have remained in the same roads but being moved to different lampposts. Current locations are Dartmouth Avenue, Field Road, Victoria Avenue, Elmore Green Road, Roach Road, Harden Road and Walker Road. The signs will only be in place for a four week period before being moved again.
- 2.16 A meeting is being organised at Beechdale Library on Saturday 10 October at 2pm to encourage the local community to become part of a 'Friends' group.
- 2.17 As two of only 100 UK centres taking part in the initiative, Beechdale and Pheasey libraries have free WI-FI provided by BT and Barclays Digital Eagles. Specially trained members of Barclays' staff will be providing free technology advice to help local people build confidence and develop the skills they need to succeed in the digital world. The Barclays training will be launched on Saturdays in the autumn and is part of a larger computer learning programme already provided by the library service.
- 2.18 Beechdale Community Housing has been shortlisted for the 'Innovation of the Year' award for the redevelopment of a site in Hadley Road which adapted properties for people with disabilities. A decision should be known by the end of October.

- 2.19 Another networking event is to be held in North Walsall late October/early November. Walsall Voluntary Action will run through the process for making applications to Awards for All and Area Partnerships will highlight some of the local profile data which can be used as evidence within funding bids.
- 2.20 The Leathern Bottle in Cresswell Crescent is due to be demolished. Gates have been put up around the site and some work has begun. Planning permission for a new pub, retail units and homes on the sites has now expired.
- 2.21 Walsall Housing Group have employed a Community Organiser, Anna Rogozinska, who will be working in Caldmore, as well as in Goscote and Ryecroft areas. Anna's post is part-funded by Walsall Council's Community Safety Services and DCLG (Department for Communities and Local Government). Her focus will be predominantly Eastern European (particularly Polish) residents and working towards greater community cohesion in the mentioned areas.
- 2.22 BH Energy Gap has submitted a second application to WMBC that will seek to vary the 2013 planning permission to include detailed design changes to suit operational requirements and ensure the plant complies with new environmental considerations. WMBC will formally consult on this matter shortly. The new planning permission is restricted to seeking permission in relation to modifications to the design and layout of the plant; this includes proposals to move the current site access further north along Fryers Road, a reconfiguration of building shapes and sizes to accommodate plant and machinery and to increase the stack height from 65 m to 98 m.
- 2.23 Walsall Council is in receipt of a nomination for The Bell to be an asset of community value. A decision will be made at the Asset of Community Value panel on 8 September 2015. Assets of community value already listed for North Walsall are the Magic Lantern (30/9/2013), Dartmouth House land (24/3/2014) and King George V playing fields (27/10/2014).
- 2.24 Goscote Greenacres will be holding its Community Fun Day on 27 September from 1pm.

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 have worked together during school holidays to minimize the probability of youth asb. The Move truck and Reach Up tower have been used to engage with families and young people and highlight provision in the area. Education and discussions have taken place to warn of the dangers of certain activities, e.g. throwing stones, playing on building sites, playing football in the street,

etc. A full evaluation will take place on 14 September with all relevant partner agencies. Initial findings are that the project has been well received and has highlighted safety issues with young people of all ages. Blakenall Community Centre has seen lots of new young people attending their activities which has led them to being nearly full across all sessions.

- 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.
- 3.4 Beeches Day Nursery is celebrating 15 years on 18 September from 9.30-11.30. They provide flexible, quality childcare that is affordable and accessible. There are two main areas of focus, under twos and pre-school.

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 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.
- 4.3 Steps to Work started the outreach programme on 28 July and have been going out one day a week on Tuesdays. They have worked from Beechdale Housing Association, Blakenall Information Centre, Sandbank TMO, Pinfold Centre and Leamore TMO. They have engaged and delivered IAG (information, advice and guidance) to eight customers to date who have not previously used the shop. One has had a CV compiled, one has now booked an appointment with Work on the Horizons, one has an appointment with Prospects and two have given in depth information regarding voluntary work and vocational courses. The other three are not yet ready to progress so will continue with the engagement.
- 4.4 Job Centre Plus will be delivering their service from Blakenall and Birchills children's centres. This will include help in sourcing job offers, income support, information, advice and guidance relating to work.

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 Mossley Estate over 50's Club, organised by and for local residents meet every Thursday 10am-12.30pm at Mattesley Court. The group have recently had a visit from Tracey from Brownhills Safe House to highlight home safety.
- 5.3 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. Meeting are now held weekly on Tuesdays from 12-1 at St Thomas Church, Cresswell Crescent, Mossley. More details from Sara on 07586352810.

Vanessa Croft: Area Manager - (01922) 653714 vanessa.croft@walsall.gov.uk