

**Brownhills, Rushall - Shelfield and Pelsall Area
Partnership
Area Manager Report**

Updated September 2014

**Ongoing Updates on the Actions for Brownhills, Rushall
- Shelfield and Pelsall Area Plan**

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 The headings of the work streams have been changed to 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 Autumn Close – Community Payback team was engaged to undertake some work at Autumn Close, An elderly complex comprising of bungalows. A row of strategically placed low level bollards have been installed on both sides of the verge to prevent vehicles from driving on the grass verge. An opportunity for the Community Payback to gain valuable skills as well as benefitting the local community.

4.2 Brownhills Community Association – held their Community Fun Day on 9 August. A number of partners were present with a host of activities for all age groups. It was a good day, with a good turnout of local residents

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 Pelsall Music Live Festival Charity Event – held on the 26 July. A musical extravaganza held on the Common. The event was organised by the Park Rangers. The weather was great and the event was attended by 1,500. It was a great opportunity for the families to enjoy a free event with families and friends and picnic on the Common. The event saw local bands and artists perform on two stages. The charity event rose over £1,000 for St Giles Hospice and the Teenage Cancer Trust.

5.2 Local Area Co-Coordinator (LAC) Update – Due to the unsuccessful recruitment in the first round, the posts have been re-advertised and we are currently in the process of short-listing suitable applicants.

5.3 Holland Park Surgery -. Work is underway to link in a Community Social Worker to the surgery so that we have better engagement and communication between the clinical staff / nurses, etc, to discuss patient's needs. The Community Social Worker will be attending the monthly meetings that are held to discuss patients needs and case work.

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 1 Pelsall,
Camera 2 Shelfield

- 6.2 Leigh's Road, Shelfield – Alleyway** - Ongoing anti-social behaviour issues in the public right of way, which is well used by local residents. Overt CCTV is installed, but this has moved the problem further along the alleyway. Identity of the perpetrators is still unknown.
- 6.3 Old Town Lane –** Anti-social behaviour between two feuding families that impacted on local resident, escalated into a major incident. A residents meeting was held to discuss the impact of the incident and to move forward with concerns. Partners have been working together to deal with the issues that have arisen from the incident and reassure local residents. No further issues have arisen since the initial conflict. The area continues to be monitored by partners.
- 6.4 Shelfield Park** - Community Payback have undertaken work to erect some fencing and cut back shrubbery to enable the disused bowling green area to be made part of the park. Currently a large hedge encloses the bowling green, which is overgrown and not visible. Consultation was undertaken with local residents regarding the works and the outcome was very positive. The hedge will be removed by Clean and Green in the autumn, so that it is all open space. The local community have been consulted and are in support of the works that are being undertaken.
- 6.5 Fordbrook Bridge, Pelsall –** A way forward has been agreed with Sustrans, that partners feel would help alleviate the problems that are faced. The proposal put forward was weld mesh fence that would blend in with the surrounding area and would enclose all accesses to the side of the bridge on both sides. Access for wheelchair / pushchairs, etc, would not be affected. Following on from considerable work undertaken by partners, we are advised a planning application will have to be submitted by Sustrans for the proposed works and a further full consultation with local residents will need to be taken. The whole process will be supported by the Victims of Crime Officer.
- 6.6 Wood Common** - are patrolling the area; the Integrated Young Peoples Support Services (IYPSS) team are also deployed in the area. Partners are working together to try and resolve the issues. Over the summer period no further issues have been identified.
- 6.7 Pelsall Common** - A litter pick was organised by the Friends of Pelsall Common on 27 August. A number of residents participated in the litter pick.

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

7.1 Brownhills West Youth Club – Held a community sports day at Brownhills west Primary school. It was well attended by local residents and young people. The event was supported by NACRO and whg

7.2 Summer Programmes – All the activities that took place at in the Area Partnership were fully booked by local children. A successful summer programme was run, although the summer programme was reduced compared to last due to resources. But despite this, the summer programme was a success and the service was able to engage with new users. Nacro in partnership with IYPSS provided sessions at Brownhills west community HUB.

The main focus was sports and well being with healthier lifestyles. They held two community events:

- Community litter pick
- Community fun day at school

Which were both successful with young people. This made us new contacts. Sessions were delivered on Mondays and Wednesdays. NACRO are continuing to run sessions on:

- Monday 4-6pm Juniors
- Monday 6-9pm Seniors
- Wednesday 6-9pm Mixed group.

7.3 Pelsall Youth Centre – Monday Evenings (school years 7+) – The grooming project that took place before Summer was a success and highlighting a particular issue that one young person was experiencing. Fortunately, this was reported to the Quest team and dealt with promptly, thus nipping this issue in the bud. We will be consulting with young people over the next few weeks to plan a future programme. The Duke of Edinburgh Award should hopefully become operational at the centre, and may well run on this night.

Wednesday Evenings (school years 7-9) – Before the summer, the young people worked very hard towards their participation in the Pelsall Carnival, making their own costumes, masks, tie-dye t-shirts, and banner. It went extremely well and the young people earned second place in the 'walking float' competition for their efforts. Approximately 25 took part, and were a shining example of the efforts of what young people can get involved in at the centre to occupy and fill their free time.

In the light the events in Rotherham, we will be undertaking a sexual exploitation project on this particular night over a number of weeks.

Thursday Evenings (school years 10+) – this evening is more relaxed and is usually discussion led with latest topics taking a central role. These can range from school discipline to celebrities as role models and the messages they give to young people. We also hold pool or table tennis tournaments for those who do not always want to engage in discussion.

Friday Evenings (school years 5 and 6) – the younger ones who attend on this evening, also took part in the Carnival as well as undertaking a video project. This group is very keen and numbers continued to grow, even throughout summer, when many young people who attend, go away on holidays. Opening the centre to this age group was a wise and positive step towards ensuring we work earlier with those who may show any signs of instability. The young ones enjoy 'their' evening and their enthusiasm is extremely encouraging.

We will be consulting with this group to find out what projects they would like to be involved in between now and Christmas.

In addition to this, Pelsall Youth Centre will also be participating in any upcoming events such as Black History Month and many more.

7.4 Brownhills Fun Day – was held on 30 July at Holland Park. It was a well attended event by local residents and young children. A steady stream of residents through the door throughout the day. A number of partners held stalls, such as whg, Healthy Lifestyle team Wildlife Trust, etc, as well as there being rides and entertainment for the whole family.

7.5 Pelsall Fun Day – was held on 6 August on the Common opposite High Street. An excellent turnout on the day. With a number of stall holders being presents

- 7.6 St Francis School, Pelsall** - work undertaken by the Prince Trust to lay a footpath from the school to the woods, with wood chip being supplied by clean & green and a local business undertaking work to the steps as good will gesture. It is hoped that in September a gated access will be installed to the woods which will allow safe access to & from the woods for the young children. As part of the Forest learning initiative, we will hopefully be able to link in the local primary schools, Radleys, Ryders Hayes, Pelsall Village and St Michaels to together. Ann Smith the Park Ranger will be working closely with the schools to ensure that they are linked up and those other schools are also invited and given the opportunity to utilise the resource.
- 7.7 Radley Park, Rushall**, work has been undertaken by the Countryside services to improve the wood area on the park, to enable clear visibility. The boarder of the open space and the wooded area has been cut back and the Japanese knot weed has been given its first treatment in preparation to hopeful utilising the wooded area for educational purposes.
- 7.8 Rushall Playing Fields** as part of the ongoing improvements at the park, gym equipment has now been installed at the park and the next phrase that we are looking to do is potentially a skate park at the site, as it is one of the things that the young people have requested, obviously this project is dependent on external funding being gained. The Parks team are working closely with the Friends of the park on this project as they are leading on the project. The current situation is we are in receipt of four tenders, which have been evaluated and scored. Representatives will be meeting with the user group and young people so that they are able to evaluate the tenders as well, which will then be forward to the funding body for consideration.
- 7.9 High Heath Park** – The Park Ranger and Councillor Rattigan are working closely on a funding bid to Biffa to address the drainage and produce a wetland area for local schools to take advantage of for education purposes. Also four extra pieces of outdoor gym equipment have been allocated to add to the two pieces already on site. The gym equipment is being well used by the local residents in the vicinity and this has prompted the additional pieces to be installed on site, due to demand.
- 7.10 Libraries** the Bracelet workshop at Brownhills Library took place on 14th August. The workshop was aimed at attracting children over 10 years old from the Brownhills area to take part in the Summer Reading Challenge and join their local library. The Summer Reading Challenge is run in libraries throughout the summer. The children are encouraged to read six books during the summer holidays. At Brownhills Library we had 4 free summer activities, including events aimed at children 0- 5 years old and activities for children 5 years old and over. The Bracelet workshop at Brownhills Library funded by the Area Partnership was aimed at children over 10 years old. The workshop attracted 14 children aged 9- 13 years old. Children commented it was an enjoyable, fun

activity, suitable for their age group. 3 children commented the Bracelet workshop was too short. Each child went away with a bracelet they had created themselves.

Brownhills Library had 154 children started the Summer Reading Challenge and 6 new children joined the library to take part in the Summer Reading Challenge.

There were 7 children and 2 parents attending the Henna activity at Rushall Library.

It was a really successful event. The children were thoroughly engaged throughout as were the parents! All the children loved having their hands painted with their chosen design as well as learning all about the history behind it. We received lots of positive comments from both children & Parents.

8. Other Activities

- 8.1 Near Neighbour Fund** event was held on 10 September at St Paul's, The Crossing. An opportunity for local groups to discuss applying for Near Neighbours Fund, of up to £5000.

8.2 Carers Focus Event – The Council is working on the borough's next carers' strategy and needs to know the best type of support to benefit carers in the future. Over the summer focus groups will be held across the borough to give carers an opportunity to contribute their ideas and feedback Focus groups are being held on the following dates:

- 5 August in Beechdale 2pm-5pm
- 15 August in Pheasey 1am-1pm
- 2 September in St. Matthew's 5.30pm-8pm

During these sessions feedback was sought from carers on the six themes of the national "Making it Real" programme. These are:

- Information and advice: having the information I need, when I need it
- Active and supportive communities: keeping friends, family and place
- Flexible and integrated support: my support, my own way
- Workforce: my support staff
- Risk enablement: feeling in control and safe
- Personal Budgets and self-funding: my money

8.3 Police Pop Up Shop – was opened in the Saddlers Centre for the duration of the summer period to offer advice to residents.

8.4 Walsall Adult Community College - held a family fun day on 15 August to raise awareness of the adult education classes that are being run from the centre for all residents across the borough

8.5 Rushall Coffee Morning at Pelsall Community Centre – held on the 7 August to raise money for the Air Ambulance.

8.6 Budget Consultation Events are being held across the borough at various venues, to gain resident's feedback on what services should remain / be reduced. Residents are able to feedback their views through a variety of methods including survey cards, email etc.

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