

ALDRIDGE & BEACON AREA PANEL

Area Manager's Report

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report seeks to inform Elected Members for the Aldridge & Beacon Area Partnership of some of the work carried out within the local area. The information in this report was correct at the time of writing, Saturday, 4th July, 2015. All information in this report is for work carried out since April 2015.

2. Recommendation

The Area Panel is requested to note the contents of this report and to give consideration to Appendix 1 (Engagement Plan).

3. Priorities

- 3.1 Walsall Council 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

- 3.2 Aldridge & Beacon Area Partnership has a number of key priorities which have been identified through work with Ward Councillors, partner agencies, Walsall Intelligence Network and the local community:

- Reducing Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour
- Positive Activities for Young People
- Cleaner Streets & Greener Spaces
- Support and Positive Activities for the Over 50s
- Road & Pavement Maintenance & Safety
- Improving Health

- 3.3 Aldridge & Beacon Ward Councillors: Cllr Andrew, Cllr Bird, Cllr Clarke, Cllr Douglas-Maul, Cllr Harris, Cllr Hughes, Cllr Kudhail, Cllr Murray, Cllr Rochelle, Cllr Sears, Cllr Towe, Cllr Wilson
- 3.4 Aldridge & Beacon Partners: Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Unit, Youth Support Services (YSS), West Midlands Police, Walsall Housing Group (whg), West Midlands Probation Service, Walsall Intelligence Network, Environmental Health, Reassurance Team, Area Partnerships, Public Health, NHS Walsall Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), Aldridge District Centre, Engineering and Transport, Clean & Green Services, Caldmoreaccord Housing Association, Walsall Voluntary Action, West Midlands Fire Service, Social Care and Inclusion, Leighwood School & Children's Centre, Pheasey Park Farm School & Children's Centre, Area Family Support Team, Trading Standards, Community Development, Streetly Community Association, Aldridge Community Centre, Collingwood Centre, Pheasey Park Farm Community Centre, Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, Sports & Leisure Services, Jobcentre Plus, Citizen Advice Bureau, Welfare Rights, Walsall College, Streetly Library, Aldridge Library, Pheasey Library, Walsall Wood Library, Victim Support, Walsall Adult Community College (WACC), Streetly Neighbourhood Watch, Pheasey Park Farm Neighbourhood Watch, South Aldridge Neighbourhood Watch, North Aldridge Neighbourhood Watch, All Saints Church, St. John's Church, Beacon Church, Aldridge Methodist Church, Pheasey Community Church, The Thomas Project, Friends of Doe Bank Park, Friends of Blackwood Park, Oak Park Leisure Centre, The Hothouse, Aldridge Youth Theatre, Walsall Wood Scouts, Key Ring, Collingwood Autism Support Group, Forget-Me-Not Streetly Dementia Group, Blackwood Pavilion User Group, St. Anne's Coffee Morning Group, Aldridge Friendly Club, Streetly Disabled Senior Citizens Club, Aldridge Volunteer Gardeners, Streetly Community Garden Group, Age UK Walsall, The Well, Brownhills & Walsall Wood Fellowship, Brownhills Community Association, Countryside Services, Walsall Wood Football Club, Aldridge School, Streetly Academy, Castlefort School, St. John's School, Blackwood School, Manor Primary School, Lindens Primary School, Pheasey Park Farm School, Meadow View School, Red Star AFC, Shire Oak Academy, Aldridge Cinema.

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

- 4.1 CCTV Camera Deployment – through confidential tasking meetings, partners agree the priority areas to deploy CCTV, from the crime statistics fed to the area partnership by the Walsall Intelligence Network, which is data shared by all the major stakeholders. Currently we have CCTV cameras deployed in Beechy close, Pheasey, Brook Lane, Walsall Wood and Collingwood Drive, Pheasey. We also have a number of Enviro Cameras (covert) across the area to help capture incidents of fly-tipping. These have captured a number of incidents that are now being pursued for prosecution.

- 4.2 Flashing CCTV Sign Deployment – through confidential tasking meetings, partners agree the priority areas to deploy CCTV flashing signs, from the crime statistics fed to the area partnerships by the Walsall Intelligence Network, which is data shared by all the major stakeholders. Currently we have a flashing CCTV sign deployed in Middlemore Lane, near to Aldridge Community Centre and Collingwood Drive, Pheasey.
- 4.3 VASS flashing speed warning signs - through partnership with whg a speed warning sign has been purchased for use across two Area Partnership areas (Brownhills, Pelsall, Rushall-Shelfield and Aldridge & Beacon) along with enough additional funding to allow 6 deployments (3 per Area Partnership). VASS speed signage records a driver's speed as they approach and it then displays the speed limit on the screen. It also has the capacity to provide downloads to enable an understanding of average speeds in this location. To be most effective Highways recommend no more than two weeks in any one location. This has been proved to slow drivers down in the short term but not long enough for them to get used to it in situ. The 6 deployment locations will be identified and the sign will then be deployed on a rolling programme.
- 4.4 Oak Park – although there are no borough-wide hotspots within the Aldridge & Beacon area partnership, one of the local hotspots within our area for anti-social behaviour is Oak Park. Through the confidential tasking meeting, partners such as the police, fire service, ASB Unit, Clean & Green, Countryside Services, Area Partnerships, Walsall Housing Group, Walsall Wood Football Club, Oak Park Leisure Centre, YSS and several local retail outlets (including KFC, Fitness First, Co-Op and Tesco Express) meet regularly to discuss the issues and put an action plan in place to tackle the perpetrators of these incidents. Recently Clean & Green Services and Environmental Health have been monitoring the increase in littering the area and are joining forces to tackle the issue. Community Safety & WM Police have also been working jointly to reduce youth ASB.
- 4.5 Hay Head Wood – through the confidential tasking meeting, partners such as the WM Police, WM Fire Service, Community Safety, Area Partnerships, and Clean & Green Services still monitor the activities at this site. Recently there have been a number of issues connected with this area including lewd behaviour and damage incurred due to Travellers accessing the Aldridge Airport site via the car park. The gate to the car park was closed for a short while why the damage was repaired including the car park area which was assessed as unsafe for use by Clean & Green Services. The car park was re-opened for community access Wednesday 17th June 2015.
- 4.6 Spring Clean Week – each Area Partnership held a Spring Clean Week, ours being Tuesday 26th May till Saturday 30th May. With over 130 volunteers taking part over the week in various locations, with additional support from Blackwood Park Pavillion Users Group, Friends of Streetly Library, Thomas Project, Aldridge Volunteer Gardeners, Aldridge Rotary Club, Clean & Green Services, Youth Services, Streetly Library, Aldridge District Centre Team, WM Fire Service, Swift (total business

solutions), Wendy Morton MP and Councillor Tim Wilson. The week included litter picks in park, development of a 'Secret' garden, Northgate businesses cleaning up around their premises' and gardening/tidying of Aldridge Village.

4.7 Neighbourhood Watch Meetings – there have been a number of local meetings for the various Neighbourhood Watch groups since the beginning of April, including the North Aldridge AGM on 25th May 2015 at St Thomas Church. We have received a number of bulletins from Tony Marshall, North Aldridge Neighbourhood Watch which have been shared at the monthly Aldridge & Beacon Partnership meeting.

4.8 Thomas Project Community Garden, Aldridge Fire Station – the activity on the garden plot from February to present date has been mainly weeding, watering, new planting, harvesting etc. The group is a little disappointed that clients haven't yet expressed an interest in becoming involved in the garden. But the team of volunteers have enjoyed planting and growing fruit and vegetables that are currently being given out to Food Bank clients. The Community Garden is currently growing:

- Potatoes
- Strawberries
- Raspberries
- Tomatoes
- Various Salad items
- Cabbage
- Broad Beans
- Beetroot
- Parsnips
- Onions
- Shallots

4.9 Networking Groups – our networking groups all have meetings coming up in the next month, the dates are shown below for each area:-

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| • Aldridge – 6 th July | Aldridge Police Station |
| • Streetly – 15 th July | All Saints Parish Church |
| • Pheasey – 21 st July | Pheasey Library |
| • Walsall Wood – 28 th July | St John's Church |

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

5.1 Aldridge & Beacon's Youth Support Services (YSS) - team continues to provide both supported and detached youth work, which have been taking place across the area. They are currently developing their summer programme of activities to ensure that ASB is low during the summer school holidays. To see the full programme please go to www.mywalsall.org/positive/

5.2 BBQs In The Park – Blackwood Park, Streetly is the venue for our BBQs in the Park. The event is organised by a number of agencies, including Area Partnerships, Streetly Neighbourhood Watch, Blackwood Pavilion User Group, YSS, and West Midlands Police. The events are funded by the Blackwood Pavilion User Group. This years dates, which start at 6:00pm:

- Thursday 21st May - well attended
- Thursday 25th June – cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances
- Thursday 23rd July
- Thursday 20th August

5.3 Troubled Families – As part of the Troubled Families initiative across the borough, I represent Aldridge & Beacon area partnership in the confidential multi-agency meetings. I am pleased to report that there are very few families in our area that are discussed at these meetings.

5.4 Shire Oak Academy – has been awarded the Food for Life Partnership Bronze Award for it's climate friendly and healthy food culture. The school is in the process of constructing a healthy Bistro facility for use by it's Sixth Formers.

5.5 Library Summer Activities – this year, libraries across our area will be running a Summer Reading Challenge with various activities taking place:

Aldridge:

- 30 July: Rainbow Rhymes for under 3s
- 8 August: Superheroes family story and craft event
- 14 August: Pirates family story and craft event
- 21 August: Digital photography for 10-15 year olds

Streetly:

- 11 July: Start of Summer Reading Challenge picnic and circus skills
- 24 July: Jo Jingles for under 3s
- 31 July: Stage Makeup workshop for over 11s
- 5 August: Family story and craft: The disgusting sandwich
- 14 August: Bookfolding workshop for over 11s

Walsall Wood:

- 29 July: Jo Jingles for under 3s
- 5 August: Animal mania family story and craft event
- 12 August: Lion in my cornflakes family story and craft event
- 19 August: Craft activity with local artist Judith Perry for over 11s

5.6 Park Fun Days – this years Fun Days are being organised by Clean & Green Services and will take place across the borough, running from 10:30 till 4:00pm. The

days will include children's rides, storytelling, charity stalls etc. For more information please phone 01922 654893. There will be one in our area:

- Pheasey Fun Day Wednesday 19th August – Doe Bank Park

5.7 Aldridge Youth Theatre – plans to run a Summer Drama Workshop from Monday 10th till Friday 14th August 10:30 – 3:30pm for 8 to 16years. They will focus on drama, music and movement from around the world. For more information please contact Bev 01922 452229

6. Business and Jobs: Supporting businesses to thrive and supporting local people in to work

6.1 Aldridge Village Partnership – Aldridge District Centre Officer Diane Mansell has worked with the local businesses in Aldridge Village and Aldridge Volunteer Gardens to help make improvements in time for the Britain in Bloom competition. Dawnus Construction, who are helping deliver the highways improvement scheme in Darlaston and Pleck, have also helped with the sprucing up.

6.2 Aldridge Library Work Club – this club runs on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month. There have been 35 attendances this period; these people have been helped to search for jobs, completing online job applications and to produce CVs and cover letters. Two people out of this group have so far managed to find work.

6.3 B&M, Aldridge – will be opening a new homeware branch in the former Focus DIY store in Coppice Lane. Work has now started on the site with plans to open a Home Store and Garden Centre in August, creating 65 jobs.

6.4 Thomas Project Job Club - the laptops and printer that were purchased with Area Partnership funding are used by their clients every day that the Project is open. The activities include job search / universal job match activities; in addition to registering / bidding on whg choose and move, researching training / apprenticeship opportunities, learning how to use the internet / email, etc. Figures from 1st July 2014 to 30th June 2015:

- 28 new / unique clients seen
- 3 clients referred / booked in who then did not attend (DNA)
- 9 clients went on to secure meaningful employment
- 1 client was referred by Clive, onto Remploy for self-employment advice
- 1 client did not want to engage in any support after his second appointment
- 1 client went on to have an operation, and is therefore currently unable to work.

6.5 Use of social media – through the use of Twitter and Facebook, we are working more than ever with local businesses to promote them through our Facebook pages:-

- <https://www.facebook.com/LetsdoitinStreetly>
- <https://www.facebook.com/DoltInAldridge>
- <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Lets-do-it-in-Pheasey/337780146321859>
- <https://www.facebook.com/letsdoitinWalsallWood>

The latest “likes” to these pages are:-

- Let’s Do It In Aldridge – 748 likes
- Let’s Do It In Streetly – 237 likes
- Let’s Do It In Walsall Wood – 348 likes
- Let’s Do It In Pheasey – 58 likes

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

7.1 Family Fit N Fundays – 3 events are planned for this year; Walsall Wood, Streetly and Pheasey:

- **Walsall Wood** Oak Park Leisure Centre took place Saturday 4th July with support from Walsall Wood Football Club, Cllr Clarke and Cllr Sears. Roller Skating, Swimming Fun Sessions, Dojo demonstrations, Reach-up Climbing Tower, Move Truck, Bouncy Castle, mini-motors, fitness demonstrations, Boys Brigade 5-a-Side Football competition. Also there was a Market Place area with stalls from Area Partnerships, Care User Support Partnership, Walsall Friends of The Earth, 1st Walsall Wood Scout Group, Specsavers, Compass Fostering, NHS Walsall Health Care Trust, Bujinkan Kouryuu Walsall Dojo, Sports Plus Scheme and Cancer Care all providing information. There was a Magician on hand to provide entertainment, WM Fire Service came with their Fire Engine, WM Police came for a visit and WHG provided their outreach van to engage with visitors. Overall 500 approximately people attended the day; Reach-up & Move Truck had approximately 200 young people and 60 parents, 275 people attended the Bouncy Castle & min-motors, 87 roller skating, 43 Swimming Fun Sessions. Overall it wasn’t as busy as last year but those that attended said they enjoyed the event.
- **Streetly** Veseyans Rugby Club Saturday 25th July 11:00 -3:00pm
- **Pheasey** Collingwood Centre Saturday 1st August 10:00 – 2:00pm

7.2 Walsall Wood Boxing Club – has two of it’s fighters up for awards. Hamza Uddin, aged 11 is competing in the England’s Schools competition. Mason Holmes, aged 21 who is in the Armed Forces has gained Army Honours for providing fellow squaddies

with boxing lessons. His own boxing skills have increased due to his improved fitness levels after joining the Armed Forces.

- 7.2 Collingwood Autism Support Group – Funding was approved at the last Area Panel meeting for a brand new local support group to be set up. The aim of the group is to offer respite and support for parents and carers of children with Autism. They are holding an awareness raising event at the Collingwood Centre 11th July. The group now meets every Tuesday 7:00 till 9:00pm for more information please call Joanne 0121 360 1484
- 7.3 Aldridge 10K Road Race – nearly 500 people took part in this event on Sunday 14th June which was organised by Aldridge Running Club. They meet every Tuesday at the Stick & Wicket on the Green in Aldridge for more information go to www.aldriderunningclub.co.uk
- 7.4 Aldridge & Beacon Area Profiles – the information can be accessed www.walsallintelligence.org.uk/themedpages-walsall/approfiles2015 then click on Area 2 for our information. This new way of recording area data will be updated on a regular basis with new updates happening in the next couple of months. For example our area has a relatively high older population with the following health concerns:

Dementia Prevalence

Most community areas within Aldridge & Beacon have higher estimated prevalence of dementia both above Walsall (0.6%) and national average (0.62%), with the exception of Pheasey.

Stroke Prevalence

All Aldridge & Beacon community areas except Pheasey have a higher estimated prevalence of Stroke than the Walsall (1.8%) and national average (1.7%). Aldridge (2.5%) is statistically significantly higher.

Coronary Heart Disease Prevalence

Aldridge (5.2%) community has a statistically significantly higher estimated prevalence of coronary heart disease than the Walsall (4.1%) and national average (3.3%)

Report Author

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Aldridge & Beacon Area Partnership

Engagement Plan

July 2015 onwards

Introduction: Community Hubs – Shaping a Fairer Future

- The purpose of community hubs is to provide locally-based focal points for the delivery of services.
- They will encourage greater community involvement in decisions about what services should be provided and how they are designed.
- The outcome we want to see is better access to all services and more localised delivery.
- This does not just cover council services and is not just physical access to buildings.

The Area Picture: What is the Area Partnership?

Walsall Partnership, the umbrella organisation which includes Walsall Council, West Midlands Police, Walsall Housing Group, NHS Walsall Clinical Commissioning Group and a host of community organisations from across Walsall have made a commitment to give people living, working or accessing local services in Walsall a greater say in making decisions that affect them in their local area.

There are six Area Partnerships in Walsall, which are supported by an Area Manager:

Aldridge & Beacon

(Aldridge Central & South / Aldridge North & Walsall Wood / Pheasey Park Farm / Streetly)

Area Manager: Denise Perry denise.perry@walsall.gov.uk

01922 653713/07985645547

Area Partnerships recognises that local residents and community groups know best what they want, when it needs to be done and how. Area Partnerships provide a mechanism where local people are actively encouraged to participate in helping the council and its partners to tackle the major issues that concern residents.

Area Partnership works across-directorates, with local councillors and the wider communities to assist with the delivery of the Walsall Plan's strategic priorities of:

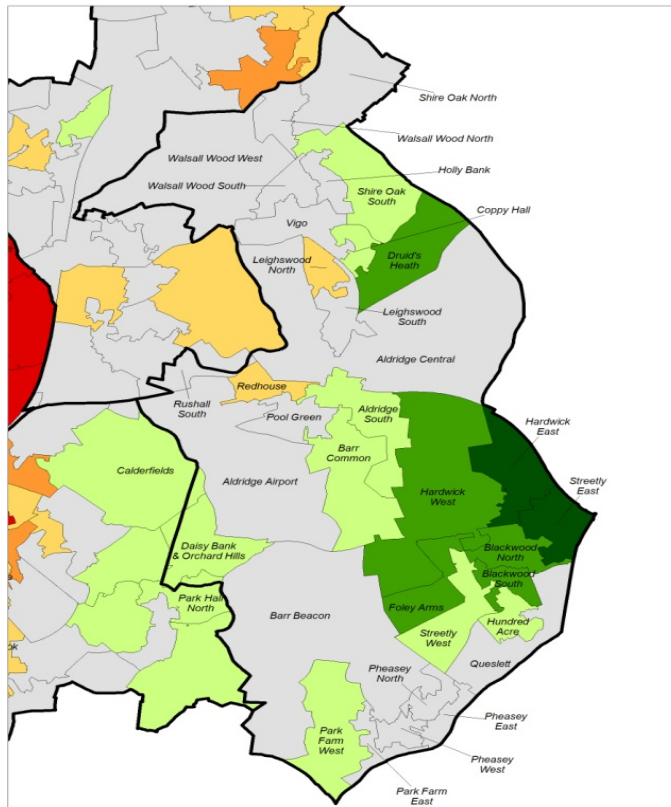
- Supporting business to thrive and supporting local people into work.
- Improving Health including well being and independence for older people
- Creating Safe, Sustainable and Inclusive Communities – Reducing levels of crime and providing the right environment for people to live in.
- Improving Safeguarding, Learning and the Life Chances for Children and Young People

Aldridge & Beacon communities

Summary Area Partnership Profile information:

From the 2011 ONS Census & other data sources

www.walsallintelligence.org.uk www.walsall.gov.uk/census www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk
www.nomisweb.co.uk



- Indian: 3.6%
- White Irish 1.0%
- Mixed White/Black Caribbean: 0.9%
- Lower proportion of minority ethnic residents than borough overall (23.1%)
- Aldridge & Beacon relatively much less deprived than National and borough average.
- Only 3% of residents experience levels of severe multiple deprivation – compared with 44% across Walsall overall.
- Redhouse and Leighwood North are the most deprived locations (Yellow = 3rd most deprived level. Order = Red/Amber/Yellow/Grey/light Green/Green/Dark Green)

Life Expectancy

- Average life expectancy (LE) for females in Walsall is 82.7 years
- Female LE in Aldridge North & Walsall Wood (82.9) is above average
- Female LE in Aldridge Central & South (85.2) above average
- Female LE in Pheasey & Streetly (87.8) above average
- Average life expectancy (LE) for males in Walsall is 77.8 years
- Male LE in Aldridge North & Walsall Wood, Aldridge Central & South and Streetly (83.5) is above average
- Male LE in Pheasey (79.68) is above average

Education and Young People

- Very good educational attainment at all levels, with low levels of persistent school absence
- Child Health issues include; perinatal mortality (babies who are still born or die within 7 days of birth) and childhood obesity for 10-11 year olds is on the increase.

How are people engaged currently?

Within Aldridge & Beacon there are a wealth of local voluntary and community groups, alongside statutory agencies who work within the community.

WMBC, whg, police, Fire Service, Aldridge Village Business Partnership, libraries, faith and religious groups, schools and 'Friend of..' groups all have a role in engaging with the wider local communities.

Area Partnerships co-ordinates Network Meetings & Partnership Meetings in the local area, which brings together different services and organisations to enable better co-ordination of work activities for the local community.

Area Partnership regularly disseminates information to the local communities, using social media.

Area Panels are a WMBC constituted group, comprising of local Ward Councillors. The meetings occur in the local community and residents are invited to attend the meetings.

Various other local groups meet.

Area Partnership Approaches to consultation and engagement

Consultation is the dynamic process of dialogue between individuals or groups based on a genuine exchange of views, with the objective of influencing decisions, policies or programmes of action. (The Consultation Institute)

The terms consultation, involvement and engagement which improve understanding and contribute to community action and positive change are often misunderstood or used interchangeably. All are about listening to the views of local people in order to shape services, develop policy or take action.

For the purposes of this document these terms are defined as follows:

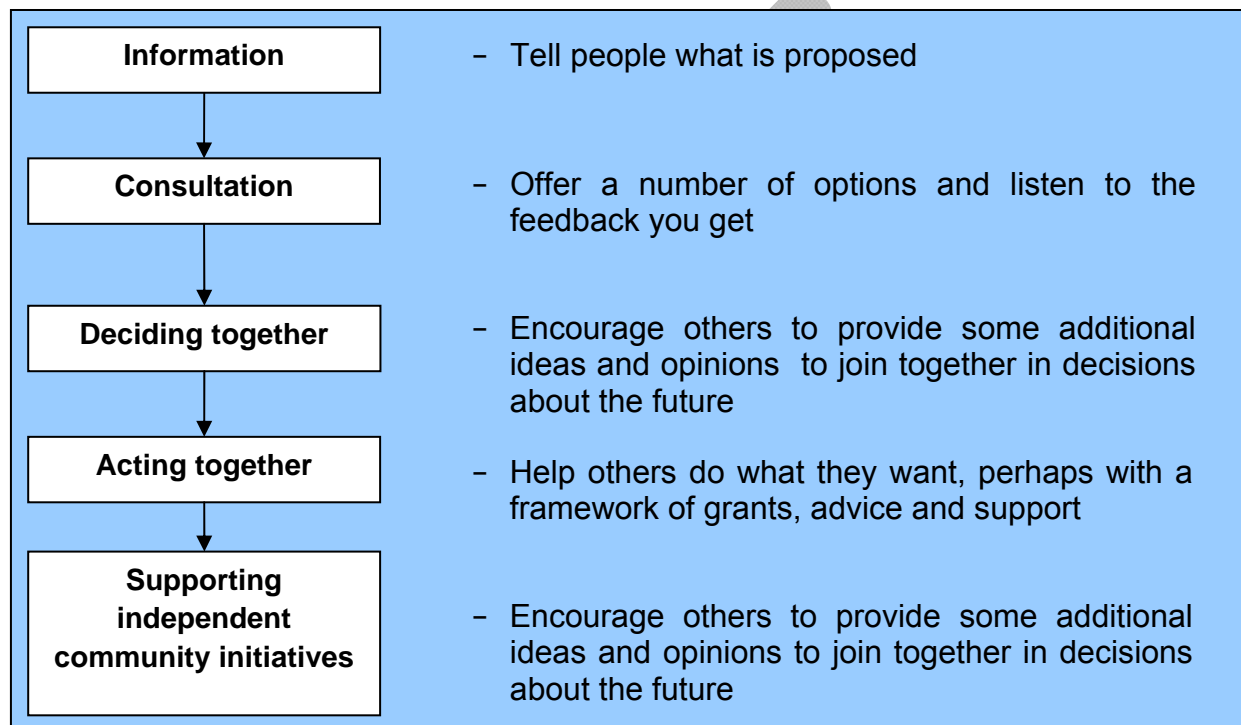
Consultation is the overall process of asking for and listening to the views of local people or groups with the aim of influencing decisions, policies or actions.

Involvement is a process in which people actively participate, during which the information is exchanged and views sought, with the aim of influencing decisions.

Engagement involves an on-going two-way partnership between the partner organisations and stakeholders. Decision-making may be shared between the parties.

In practice there are no clear-cut distinctions between the different terms and it is easier to think of them on a ladder. A well established model of participation sets out 5 levels of participation, from providing information right through to community initiatives (Fig. 1);

Fig. 1 Ladder of participation (David Wilcox, 1994)



Aldridge & Beacon

Hubs/Network Meeting

As part of the hubs/networking initiatives Area Partnerships will be contacting using the following networks/groups as part of the on-going discussions regarding hubs/networking.

Groups			
Audience	Activity	Delivery Organisation	By When
Area Partnership meeting	Information exchange/discussion	Area Partnerships	2 nd July 2015
Blackwood Pavilion Users Group	Information exchange/discussion	Blackwood Pavilion Users Group / Clean & Green Services	2 nd July 2015
Walsall Wood Family Fit N Fun Day – Oak Park	Event with opportunity to consult	Area Partnerships	4 th July 2015
Aldridge Networking Meeting	Information exchange/discussion	Area Partnerships	6 th July 2015
St Anne's Coffee Morning	Information exchange/discussion	St Anne's Church, Streetly	8 th July 2015
Aldridge & Beacon Area Panel	Feedback and discussion	Democratic Services	14 th July 2015
Streetly Networking Meeting	Information exchange/discussion	Area Partnerships	15 th July 2015
Pheasey Networking Meeting	Information exchange/discussion	Area Partnerships	21 st July 2015
Aldridge Village Business Partnership	Information exchange/discussion	District Centre Management	22 nd July 2015
BBQ in the Park – Blackwood Park Streetly	Event with opportunity to consult	Youth Support Services / Blackwood Pavilion Users Group	23 rd July 2015
Streetly Family Fit N Fun Day – Veseyans Rugby Club	Event with opportunity to consult	Area Partnerships	25 th July 2015
Walsall Wood Networking Meeting	Information exchange/discussion	Area Partnerships	28 th July 2015

Pheasey Family Fit N Fun Day – Collingwood Centre	Event with opportunity to consult	Area Partnerships / Collingwood Centre	1 st August 2015
Area Partnership meeting	Information exchange/discussion	Area Partnerships	6 th August 2015
South Aldridge Neighbourhood Watch	Information exchange/discussion	South Aldridge NHW / WM Police	11 th August 2015
St Anne's Coffee Morning	Information exchange/discussion	St Anne's Church, Streetly	12 th August 2015
Pheasey Fun Day – Doe Bank Park	Event with opportunity to consult	Clean & Green Services	19 th August 2015
BBQ in the Park – Blackwood Park Streetly	Event with opportunity to consult	Youth Support Services / Blackwood Pavilion Users Group	20 th August 2015
Area Partnership meeting	Information exchange/discussion	Area Partnerships	1 st September 2015
St Anne's Coffee Morning	Information exchange/discussion	St Anne's Church, Streetly	9 th September 2015
Aldridge Village Business Partnership	Information exchange/discussion	District Centre Management	23 rd September 2015
Aldridge & Beacon Area Panel	Feedback and discussion	Democratic Services	29 th September 2015
Area Partnership meeting	Information exchange/discussion	Area Partnerships	1 st October 2015
St Anne's Coffee Morning	Information exchange/discussion	St Anne's Church, Streetly	14 th October 2015
<i>Opportunities to Network through existing groups and new groups/events (ongoing)</i>			<i>(future dates to be added)</i>