

Brownhills, Pelsall, Rushall - Sheffield Area Partnership

Area Manager Report

Updated June 2015

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 – The partnership is in the midst of constituting to a non profit community interest company. This will allow them to apply for external funding to deliver the priorities set by the partnership in the annual Action Plan.

3.2 Appearance of Town Centre – As part of the area partnership big spring clean activity the town centre area to the rear of silver court and along the former market site and surrounding streets were litter picked and cleaned by Walsall Council area clean and green services, whg estates team, community volunteers, a local ward councillor and area partnerships.

- 3.3** Brownhills Canal Festival – The festival will take place on Sunday 28 June 2015, with a variety of acts performing throughout the day and an opportunity to browse stalls and exhibitions.

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 Active Steps, Brownhills and Rushall** – Walsall Council active lifestyles team continue to deliver the weekly active steps programme at the Parkview Centre in Brownhills, each Wednesday at 10.30am, costing £2 for participants, and for Rushall based residents there is a session at St Michael and the Archangel Rushall Parish Church, Leigh Road, all sessions are delivered as part of the NHS Walsall Falls pathway provision. Active Steps is a specialised exercise programme for people who have previously experienced a fall or are worried or at risk of falling. Sessions provide people with the opportunity to take part in low impact supervised activity sessions in a safe and enjoyable environment.

- 4.2 Walsall Walk On** - the popular Walsall Walk on activity takes place across the borough, with two specific to this area partnership. A free weekly guided walk in Rushall sees attendees meet each Friday at 1.45pm for a 2pm start at Park Lime Pits, lasting a duration of approximately 45 minutes. A monthly walk also takes place at Pelsall North Common on the third Saturday of each month, meeting at the Pelsall North Common Nature Reserve car park in Wood Lane at 10.15am for a 10.30am start. This lasts for approximately 2 hours. All walks are free and are suitable for all levels of fitness and ability.

- 4.3 Brownhills Activity Centre** – Activity continues through a busy timetable of activity sessions and groups utilising the space within the centre, delivering activities for a range of ages and interests such as craft sessions, canoe skills, yogalates, nursery provision, indoor bowling, to mention a few. This is in addition to the partnership working with Manor Farm CA who are delivering vocational courses from this venue.

- 4.4 Manor Farm Community Association** – The site continues to see developments in the range of provision offered at the site. The imminent installation of a new synthetic playing surface to the rear of the centre will see an all weather facility complete with flood lights for year round usage.

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 1 currently located in Vicarage Road, Pelsall.

Camera 2 currently located in Yew Tree Road, Shelfield.

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. An example of this is the deployment of a nomad camera in Spring Close, to support community conversation around issues experienced at the adjacent garage site.

The camera located in Vicarage Road has seen three recent requests for downloaded footage from police colleagues who are in the process of reviewing the information in relation to recent incidents taking place on top of the rail bridge.

5.2 Fordbrook Bridge, Pelsall – The proposed erection of fencing in this location is being led by Sustrans, supported by the community safety partnership, neighbourhood policing team and the area partnership. It was previously reported that a planning application for the erection of fencing on top of the bridge was underway, with conversations taking place to advise on the design, layout and specification. The initial design was unsuitable for the conservation area within which the bridge is located, and further designs are now being developed.

5.3 Partnership ASB tours – In conjunction with Midland Heart, the Area Partnership, Community Safety Team, and the local neighbourhood policing team from Brownhills the accommodation in Tamworth Close forms part of an action plan to improve the area. Recent clean up activity has seen a reduction in bulky items left in the area surrounding the flats, removal of domestic accumulations in the bin store area and successful police activity has seen the removal of drug related paraphernalia from properties in this location.

5.4 Fly-tipping enforcement – Reports continue to come in to the council regarding unacceptable fly-tipping activity at various locations around the partnership area. Enforcement from environmental health continues.

5.5 Community Safety information packs – As part of a joint initiative with the Pelsall Neighbourhood Policing Team, Community Safety Unit, Area Partnership and local elected members, a series of information and advice leaflets were distributed to residents in an area experiencing perceived ASB and environmental issues with litter. Positive feedback from this initial exercise provides scope to further deliver this type of intervention in identified hotspots.

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

- 6.1 Local Family Co-Coordinator (LAC) Update** – Of the two appointments made, one post remains filled, delivery of this role is aligned to priorities within the Children’s Services directorate and will be further developing around families and young people, a decision was taken that the post would focus upon the Darlaston area with consideration in the future around any potential inclusion in Brownhills.
- 6.2 Youth Support Services** – The youth support service has submitted an application to the area panel for a variety of activities for young people in the area throughout the summer period. Subject to approval this will see a busy timetable of activities across the footprint to engage with young people and provide positive activities.
- 6.3 Brownhills – Holland Park** The park has seen the installation of seven pieces of outdoor gym equipment with a further two expected in the coming weeks, providing free outdoor options for local people to get active and become involved in social exercise sessions. The installation includes equipment suitable for people with disabilities, and is accessible from the main pathway between the skate park and the children’s play equipment.
- 6.4 Rushall Playing Fields** Confirmation has now been received that the skate park in this location has been approved, it is anticipated that the development and installation of this site will take place at a slightly delayed timescale of Spring 2016.
- 6.5 Princes Trust** – We are working in conjunction with the Princes Trust, identifying local young people to participate in their 12 week courses and providing suggestions to facilitate possible community activities for the team to undertake as their community project. The Princes Trust provide a 12 week programme giving young people the chance to improve self esteem, confidence and to gain skills through a variety of activities, folder based written work and work experience placements. At the closing ceremony of the recent course young people provided a presentation around their personal development and the positive difference the course has made to their future employment prospects.

7. Cross Cutting;

- 7.1 Big Spring Clean** - As part of a week long initiative to clean up areas across the borough, our area partnership undertook nine clean up events cutting across all three wards. We saw cutting back of shrubs, litter picks, deep cleans, information distributed, dog fouling awareness and information campaign. Further activity of this nature will be considered for the future on a case by case basis with interventions already planned for autumn involving the removal of shrubs / bushes where problems are identified.

7.2 Community Hubs – Conversations will shortly be underway with the new administration and identified portfolio holder to determine the direction for this project.

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