



# Walsall Area Partnerships

**North Walsall Area Partnership - Area Manager's Report**  
– updated for 18<sup>th</sup> September 2013  
**Ongoing updates on the Actions for North Walsall Area Plan**

## **Purpose of the report**

This report seeks to inform the elected members for North Walsall Area Partnership of some of the work carried out within the local area.

North Walsall has a number of workstreams, each with different Key Priorities that has been identified through work with partner agencies, Walsall Intelligence Network, Health teams and local community.

The Strategic Priorities are:

- a. Safer Walsall: Creating Safe, sustainable and inclusive communities.*
  - b. Children & Young People: Improving Safeguarding, learning and life chances for children and young people.*
  - c. Business and Jobs: Supporting business to thrive and supporting local people to work.*
  - d. Health & Well-being: Improving health, including well-being and independence for older people.*
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## **1. Workgroup Meetings**

- a. Safer Walsall: Creating Safe, sustainable and inclusive communities.*

**Chair: Nick Woods, Neighbourhood Manager Beechdale Community Housing Association**, – Partners Involved – ASB unit, IYPSS, WM Police, Beechdale residents, ward councillors, Walsall Area Partnership, Reedswood Park retailers, Stephenson Square retailers, Walsall Housing Group, Accord/Caldmore Housing.

- 1.1 The Dispersal Order, covering Stephenson Square to Reedswood Park, has been effectively implemented by the police. The Beechdale residents are being kept informed of actions, through the police neighbourhood teams. The police local teams are involved with the Beechdale Community Housing Association (BCHA) and have been able to respond directly to their requests/queries/concerns.
- 1.2 Local councillors BCHA and the police went into Mirus Academy on 5<sup>th</sup> July to discuss support to the local community, alongside discussion on youth service activities and positive activities.
- 1.3 The Beechdale Environment Support (BEES) have been involved with co-ordinating actions in their community, including engagement with BHEnergyGap.
- 1.4 Area Partnerships have included articles in the BCHA newsletter (Noize) to assist with tackling ASB. Stopping Doorstep crime has been promoted through the newsletter.
- 1.5 Area Partnerships has been working with the BCHA Neighbourhood Team to pull together information on economic and training opportunities for local residents. This is targeted work in the localities, for example, employment and skills and getting back into work initiatives. The information will be disseminated, to further encourage individuals into training, education or employment.
- 1.6 The application for BHEnergyGap was discussed at the 29<sup>th</sup> August 2013 Planning Committee, and agreed, subject to a number of caveats.



# Walsall Area Partnerships

1.7 The police have received details of criteria and application process for this years **Proceeds of Crime Act Funding**. The money has been split into a yearly and a monthly allocation. In the **yearly allocation** the force has £90,000 to split across the whole West Midlands area, and any application for this needs to be submitted by 5th September 2013. All applications will be discussed by Walsall Senior Managers on 9th September and then, depending on the number of bids received, some (or all if there are not too many) will be forwarded to HQ to be considered at force level. The criteria for this money is that any bid should reflect the priorities identified in the Police and Crime Plan, or the Local Policing Plan. Priorities listed below:

- **Police and Crime Plan Priorities:**
  - **improve public confidence in policing**
  - **creating stronger partnerships**
  - **developing greater local identity across the West Midlands**
  - **delivering better value for money**
  - **demonstrating the force's commitment to social responsibility**
  - **reducing crime and offending**
  - **better protecting people from harm**
  - **improving the service the public receive from the police**
  - **supporting stronger communities**
  - **ensuring an effective contribution to national policing**
  
- **Walsall Local Policing Plan:**
  - **Continue to reduce crime and offending**
  - **protect our communities from harm**
  - **support strong and successful communities**
  - **ensure people receive a good caring service**
  - **ensure that policing becomes more productive and effective**
  - **help build strong partnerships to increase safety**
  - **increase confidence and satisfaction in the service we provide**

The **monthly allocation** is £5000 to cover the whole West Midlands area, and this will be for short term issues.

Bids for this need to be submitted to the police by the first Friday of every month so that they can submit to HQ in time for their monthly tasking meeting where the money will be allocated.

The criteria for this is that it needs to relate to current LPU or force threats therefore issued discussed in the monthly Confidential Tasking & Co-ordination Meetings or anything raised as an issue by local residents may be appropriate.

Partnership bids are actively encouraged so anything that covers more than one agency will probably stand a much better chance of being supported.

Insp. Dave Payne is co-ordinating the proposals for North Walsall.



## Deployment of domehawk cameras

This is the current deployment of the domehawk cameras.

The location and allocation is discussed at the monthly multi-agency Confidential Tasking & Co-ordination Meeting.

Ref No.	Installed at	Purpose	Objective	Installation date	Due out
ND1	Webster Road, Leamore	To reduce ASB and offer reassurance	To gather evidence of ASB and support subsequent enforcement actions	16/08/2013	3rd September 2013- Fault identified. camera to be checked as no images are being recorded
ND2	Field Close, Bloxwich	To reduce ASB and offer reassurance	To gather evidence of ASB and support subsequent enforcement actions	15/08/2013	15/11/2013
ND5	Forest Lane, Coalpool	To tackle ASB and identify perpetrators of hate crime	To gather evidence of ASB and support subsequent enforcement actions	15/03/13	Stolen 10/08/13
ND7	Field Close (to cover A1 Taxis who have been targeted re: hate crimes)	To reduce ASB and offer reassurance	To gather evidence of ASB and support subsequent enforcement actions	May 2013	fault identified 19/06/13, no image & no control of camera, retrieved 28/06, collected 03/07, repair quote issued 12/08
ND8	Lister Close	To reduce ASB and offer reassurance. To support identification, linked to the dispersal order.	To gather evidence of ASB and support subsequent enforcement actions	28/05/2013	28/11/2013

A camera has been stolen from Forest Lane on Saturday 10th August. The police are investigating the incident.

## 2. Positive Activities Work Group

### *b. Children & Young People: Improving Safeguarding, learning and life chances for children and young people.*

Chair Imran Suddle – Senior Youth Worker- North Walsall

2.1 Integrated Young People Support Services (IYPSS) Summer Activities Programme being delivered across the area. Ward specific activities, with free activities included in the timetabled sessions

2.2 The projects will be evaluated and learning used to see what worked well in the local area and what requires further development.

2.3 Information on all programmes can be found on [www.whatsonwalsall.co.uk](http://www.whatsonwalsall.co.uk)



# Walsall Area Partnerships

- 2.4 Detached sessions in Coalpool/Harden-which have included sessions in the community/hotspots and also 6 visits/trips including sports related trips to Old Vicarage, Woodlands, Cambridge University & Mirus Academy & Black Country University Technical College tasters.
- 2.5 Proffitt Street Youth Club, art project 70 young people involved enabled young people to be engaged in the community and develop local ownership of the centre.
- 2.6 Police Open Day - Walsall Police Station - Sunday 15th September. The activity event part is funded by Area Partnerships.
- 2.7 4 Ladyz days at Mossley YC-which were well attended by young women from a wide range of backgrounds.
- 2.8 4 Parent & Young people sessions at Proffitt Street (co-delivered with WHG) evidence from evaluations for these sessions show young people enjoyed and got much from the activities. Parent sessions also seemed to gain momentum with lots of interest from local parents.
- 2.9 Partnership work with IYPSS, Walsall Housing Group staff, St Aidan's group, Mirus Academy, Black Country University Technical College, Sneyd Community Association, police, Area Partnership and the potential to build on this with future joined up work.
- 2.10 Mary/Lewis Street: IYPSS has been engaging with young people in the area. This has included asking young people about their thoughts about their existing cricket facility in Birchills (Birch Street). On 6<sup>th</sup> August IYPSS took young people from the local area to Edgbaston Cricket Ground, for a tour and cricket coaching at the Indoor Academy. There was positive feedback from all those who attended and, funding permitting, IYPSS are hoping to undertake a longer coaching session in half term. Following this visit IYPSS held a cricket session in the area (at Rue Meadows) on the 7<sup>th</sup> August that was also well attended. IYPSS are investigating a new cricket pitch that could be laid in Rue Meadows (aka as Bullys Park) which is a 10 min walk from Mary Street. There are a few issues including a) damage to the existing concrete pitch b) cost of installing the new pitch.

IYPSS & Parks Services are looking into installation of a new pitch, with a potential cost of around £1400 for installation. Funding is being sought from different partner agencies.

## 3. Economic Workgroup

### **c. Business and Jobs: Supporting business to thrive and supporting local people to work.**

Chair Michael Greenfield

- 3.1 Area Partnerships are working to support Walsall Adult & Community College, Mirus, Walsall College, Regeneration Team, Work on the Horizons, WHG, Prospects and other work related organisations to enable the community to identify job related skills organisations.
- 3.2 The Economic Group has produced a list of training and employment providers within the area. This list has been promoted via the council web-site and through providers, to encourage individuals to sign up to appropriate providers. Examples: **Employment Programmes:**

#### ***Work Experience Opportunities***

*This provides assistance to unemployed residents to find work experience and placement opportunities within Walsall Council and assists partner organisations and employers to provide suitable opportunities. Call Walsall MB Council on 01922 652573 or go to [www.walsall.gov.uk/jobshop](http://www.walsall.gov.uk/jobshop)*



# Walsall Area Partnerships

3.3 Working with Nikki Rolls, Town Centre Manager, Area Partnerships, on behalf of the Economic Group supported the Party in the Park event held on 29<sup>th</sup> June. The event encouraged local residents to further engage with local services, to participate in different fun activities and to feel part of the overall local community.

3.4 The Area Manager attended the Walsall Works/Breakfast Briefing that was held at the Town Hall on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July. The event was to promote Apprenticeship Schemes across the borough. It was also to register organisations to be part of the Apprenticeship scheme. Regeneration Team are leading on this, supported by Sarah Morris from the National Apprenticeship Service. Additional funding is available from regional and central government for this scheme.

## 4. Health Workgroup

### ***d. Health & Well-being: Improving health, including well-being and independence for older people.***

Chair Nina Chouhan-lall. Public Health Lead for North Walsall.

4.1 The Health Meeting was held on Friday 23rd August 2013. Various plans have developed with Public Health, social landlords, community centres and sports and leisure services. Services are being delivered through various teams including the Teenage Pregnancy Team.

Examples of work with Teenage Pregnancy Team has included:

- Teens & Toddlers groups, run at Mirus Academy.
- Teenage moms drop in centres - once a week - to increase this to 3 times per week.
- Launch of 'Talk the Talk' October 2013. A DVD featuring local people talking about parenting and the impact on their lives. This is to be rolled out through various educational establishments.

4.2 The priorities for North Walsall linked to Public Health have been identified. The priorities are linked to the health data and the Area Profiles that were published in early 2013.

Weight management programmes are being supported, using Lifestyles Team and Sports & Leisure to deliver the service. The target areas include Blakenall, Beechdale and Bloxwich. Programmes include the Fun 4 Life programme that is a 12 week education and physical activity programme, starting at Bloxwich Leisure Centre on 17th September. The programme is targeted to children between the ages of 8 and 16. Each week attendees will take part in a physical activity session and a healthy lifestyle session. The Fun 4 Life programme, encourages children to practice new behaviours by setting weekly goals and by working with their parents/guardians.

4.3 The EVOLVE, weight management programme for adults is run by the Sports & Leisure Team. Working with Beechdale Community Housing Association a programme is commencing in early September.

To overall aim is to recruit 15 adults into a weight management programme. The programme is a low impact exercise session and should be suitable for adults with mobility or breathing problems. Various campaigns are being developed with the Reassurance Team, including those linked to passive smoking (Smoke Free Homes), tackling bogus callers, Healthy Retailer Award, fly tipping, and other health related issues.



## 5 Work Stream priority – Creating cleaner and tidier neighbourhoods

Chair Michael Greenfield

### 5.1 Environmental Clear up days (skip days) occurred on 24th June Dalkeith Road.

With the support of Environmental Services & Clean & Green Services a successful environment day occurred. The support has enabled the street to be improved. In summary 30 contaminated green recycling bins were emptied, 11 brown bins full of contamination, three access ways (the worst areas of the street) cleared of generated debris, approx 3 tonnes of waste material taken to the rubbish tip, approx 40 residents spoken with regarding effective waste management advice. 50+ stickers applied to waste bins, clearly stating what each bin should contain. The skip days were funded by whg.

An Environmental Services Officer has written to the owners of the most contaminated properties to notify them that this was a one off action and any further accumulations, will be their responsibility.

### 5.2 The Lea/Poets Estate. The targeted clear up of the area occurred on 2<sup>nd</sup> July, supported by Tarmac, WHG, WMBC colleagues, and local residents. In excess of 20 tonnes of waste was removed, including at least 8 fridges that were fly-tipped just prior to the clear-up day.

### 5.3 Cartbridge/Whateley Road Skip day 30<sup>th</sup> July. A litter-pick occurred with 2 skips of rubbish being gathered. A van load of rubbish was also removed by the Clean & Green Services.

### 5.4 On the 31st July the Area Manager walked the local area, from the Mill Lane Nature Reserve, through to the cemetery and up to Whateley Road Playing Fields, onto the main road. The walk had the Rights of Way Officer, ASB Officer for WMBC, Senior Countryside Officer and the Cycling & Pedestrian Officer from the Road Safety & Sustainable Travel Team (Engineering & Transportation).

A number of actions from the walkabout, were identified, including some cutting back of shrubs around the cemetery area. These actions are currently being followed up by different services.

### 5.5 Croxdene Avenue: Dudley Fields Skip day. A skip day was co-ordinated and organised by WHG on 7th August. 3 skips were made available on the estate and they were filled throughout the day. Some of the residents commented that the area is generally clear of litter, but the skip day has helped clear some of the unwanted rubbish that was accumulating in their homes and gardens.

### 5.6 Glastonbury Crescent - skip day with WHG scheduled for 16th October 2013 10.00am - 11.00pm

### 5.7 Operation Fridge is an initiative that has been started by Environmental Services. The process comprises of a local police database with full details of the vehicles stopped, occupants, location of stop and address of occupants. All fridges that are in the vehicle will be marked with a standard UV pen, detailing the vehicle registration of the vehicle stopped. This up-dated information will be forwarded to Environmental Services on a weekly basis to enable WMBC to compile a database. The aim is to reduce fly-tipping of fridges in the local areas.

### 5.8 Whateley Road Playing Fields. The land has been partly fenced off and the area has been used by a local resident for chickens, horses and goats. A shipping container was also on site. With the support of WHG and the police some enforcement action has been taken and WMBC Legal Team is currently involved to pursue further action against the local resident.



# Walsall Area Partnerships

Area Partnerships, working with the Countryside Team, are in contact with Rossendales to arrange removal of horses and other livestock that are on the land, and around the surrounding area. The Legal Team are continuing with their actions.

An 'Action Day' is due to occur to remove the illegal fencing that has been put up, as well as the livestock that is on the site. We are waiting for a date from the police to enable us to complete the final actions.

## 6.0 Open Partner Meeting

Chair Michael Greenfield

Meetings occur monthly (not August) and it is an opportunity for partners to participate in shaping the strategy and actions relating to North Walsall. It is also a forum for information sharing.

6.1 The Challenge Network are a national organisation that current supports young people to volunteer into their community. Area Partnerships assisted with their 'Dragons Den' event on 10<sup>th</sup> July, held at Forest Arts. Over 50 young people participated in 'pitching' their ideas to 'Dragons'. Ideas stemmed from campaigns for disability groups, summer sports activities, web-site development and 'meet your neighbour' activities. Successful bidders were provided with start up funding.

6.2 Volunteer Action Days from the Challenge Network. Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September. These are one day projects with a community partner or charity, whereby 12 young people, accompanied with one of the Challenge Network mentors do 4 hours of volunteering and are provided with £150, by the Challenge Network, to fund/help fund the project.

6.3 Local Community Leader Campaign. Campaign Days is when the young people (Challengers) go into Walsall town centre to deliver their campaigns. **The venue is at Forest Arts and it will be for approx. 1 hour on the Saturday and Sunday. On the 21/22<sup>nd</sup> Sept will be MP David Winnick on the Saturday and Deputy Major Peter Smith on the Sunday.**

Projects include 'Lets go Leisure' - Raising Awareness about the facilities on offer in Walsall Leisure Centres, I Believe - Blind Football Match to raise awareness for issues around visual impairment, CommUNITY Making Links in Our Community - Getting everyone to join together to create on big paper chain with positive thoughts about Walsall.

6.4 Children's University is a programme that will actively encourage children to 'gain credits' for extra-curricula activities. The programme is targeted at ages 5-19. If a young person participates in a youth club, swimming session, scouts at any of the 'Learning Destination' accredited by Children's University, they will have the opportunity to record the time spent in their Learning Log. After volunteering for up to 30 hours they will be able to 'Graduate' & receive a Bronze Award Certificate. They can participate in any validated learning activity and gain up to 1,000 learning hours.

A Validation Training Event was held on 18<sup>th</sup> July. 19 Validators from organisations including WACC, Ryecroft Community Hub, IYPSS, childcare teams, alternative education and WHG were trained as National Children's University Validators. This means that they are able to identify different local learning destinations for children, validate the learning that will occur, so that when children visit the site they are able to have their passport stamped (i.e. Leather Museum can be a learning destination, pupils who visit will have their learning validated).

Officers from the Sports & Leisure Team have also been trained as Validators and the expectation is that we will be using their database of providers to further develop learning destinations, not just across North Walsall built across the borough and beyond the WMBC boundaries.



# Walsall Area Partnerships

A planning meeting is occurring in early September with the Validators & the School Improvement Lead to roll out the programme and validate destinations over the autumn.

For more information [www.childrensuniversity.co.uk](http://www.childrensuniversity.co.uk)

## 7.0 Scrap Metal Workgroup

Chair Michael Greenfield

A Cabinet Report went to Council on 8th July 2013 and was agreed.

In summary:

- The Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 comes into effect on 1 October 2013.
- WMBC will seek to employ a Licensing Administration Officer on a temporary basis. This will also take into account the fact that a licence is issued for a three year term, and other factors.
- The Licensing and Safety Committee is to set an appropriate schedule of fees under the provisions of the Scrap Metal Dealers Act.
- WMBC will publicise guidance to a wider audience.

Area Partnerships are waiting for information/confirmation from Licensing regarding the processes that they are implementing to undertake this work.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2013/10/enacted>

## 8.0 Other information:

8.1. West Midlands Fire Service undertook a Learning event on 8<sup>th</sup> July. Area Partnerships participated in the event, which centred around the changes to the Fire Service and the redeployment of staff across the West Midlands. Crews from Wolverhampton, Bilston, Walsall, and Oldbury were in attendance. Basically the changes are around enabling the Fire Service personnel to tackle issues, not just fires, but also to be flexible to work in other area (i.e. Bilston Fire Staff working in Oldbury).

8.2. Ryecroft Hub. Ryecroft Neighbourhood Resource Centre are identifying individual activities, based on different themes, that could be delivered within the local community. They are also 'connecting' with funding agencies, to develop sustainable models of funding, once the initial 2 year funding is no longer available. They are basing ideas around different themes

- a) Crime and anti-social behaviour
- b) Children and young people
- c) Jobs, training and enterprise
- d) Health and well-being
- e) Community and elderly

A further meeting occurred 20<sup>th</sup> August. They are in the process of developing an Action Plan, based around the themes. Working with partners Ryecroft will aim to develop Job Clubs, business support, weight management programmes, fresh food outlets and young enterprise projects, amongst others.

8.3. Goscote Regeneration Meeting was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> July. The meeting is chaired by a representative from WHG. WHG are in the process of investigating and then submitting outline planning on the Brownfield land by the Lea/Goscote area for a number of houses. It is expected that 25% should be made available for social/affordable housing, with the remainder being sold. It is expected at a formal application will be made in the autumn.





## Walsall Area Partnerships

- 8.4. Big Local Mossley, meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> July. The Big Local is the £1m that will be made available to residents in Mossley. A steering group is being established to assist with the development of an Action Plan. The next meeting is to be held on 10th September.
- 8.5. Chepstow Residents Association. Area Partnerships participated in a Neighbourhood Watch meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> June at Bloxwich Police Station with the local residents, councillors and WHG. It was agreed that the Residents Association and The Neighbourhood Watch group will try to merge their meeting, as the discussions are often duplicated. The RA agreed to co-ordinate a visit to the Police Safe house, as some residents had not visited the venue previously. The ASB Officer will attend the co-ordinated meeting.
- 8.6. Mary Street/Croft Street. Issues are still occurring regarding young people playing cricket in the street, some young people going into other residents gardens and the 'void' space between the houses that has been gated. A visit was arranged with WHG, WMBC, Accord, local residents and local councillors, for Friday 16th August, so that the issues could be discussed further. The outcomes include the following-up the tree/shrub cutting and investigating the ownership of the 'garden space' situated between the houses of Lewis/Croft & Mary Street.
- 8.7. Blakenall Village Centre & New Horizons organisation. Doug Gill, the Chair of New Horizons has passed away. His Funeral was held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> August at 10.30am Christ Church, Blakenall.
- 8.8. Area Partnerships and the Strategic Resource Officer, Alex Boys, met with New Horizons in June to enable them to be further informed of the local area plans for North Walsall. Alex Boys has been able to signpost New Horizons to different funding streams, based on the services that want to use the YIPic as a base of operations. The Area Manager attended the presentation of organisations who were interested in using the YIPic. The organisation ranged from beauty therapist, Enterprise Tree (Business Start up), caterers, and a schools intervention team. The Board/Trustees are aiming to have the provision open and operating by early September 2013.
- 8.9. Beechdale Residents have commented that a consultation was undertaken by BH Energy Gap, who are a developer specialising in resource recovery and low carbon energy production. Some residents have not had an opportunity to engage in the consultation process. As a result Area Partnerships, working with Beechdale Community Housing Association, organised for BHenergyGap to undertake a formal consultation with the Beechdale Environment Group (BEES). The meeting occurred on 1<sup>st</sup> August. There were 2 separate consultation activities:
1. The BEES Meeting had approximately 19 attendees from the community. The presentation from BHenergyGap included a PowerPoint of the different elements to the plan, including the emissions flow, transport flow, environmental impact and job creation. The community were able to comment on a number of issues and ask relevant questions.
  2. Open Meeting directly following the BEES, opened up for a wider public audience. Three external people attended, including a representative from Leamore Business Park. The representative had contacted Area Partnerships requesting the public engagement, as a number of businesses in the park were concerned about emissions. It was expected that up to 10 businesses would attend. None turned up. To assist with informing the public Area Partnerships has 'loaned' a all of the exhibition boards and placed them at Frank F Harrison (next door to BCHA), with some of the boards also being used in that local library. These will remain in the local area until further notice.
- The BHenergyGap application went to the Planning Meeting, held on 29th August 2013, where the application was agreed, subject to a number of caveats.

Please note, this is a very brief indication as to the actions that have occurred/being planned in North Walsall. Report Author, Michael Greenfield, North Walsall Area Manager, ☎ 01922 65 4684, ✉ [greenfieldm@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:greenfieldm@walsall.gov.uk)