

# **Brownhills, Pelsall, Rushall - Sheffield Area Partnership**

## **Area Manager Report**

**Updated January 2015**

### **Ongoing Updates on the Actions for Brownhills, Pelsall, Rushall - Sheffield Area Plan**

#### **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.

This years Christmas market event took place Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th December in Brownhills town Centre. There was a wide range of bespoke and niche stalls offering handmade jewellery, crafts, candles, bespoke soap gifts, homemade cakes and confectionary, Christmas gifts and much more available which enticed more than 4000 visitors to the town during this period. To compliment the market there was also a Santa's Grotto, Ice Rink, Bucking Reindeer, Face Painting,

Christmas Donkey, Harry Potter Birds of Prey Display and children's rides to entertain all the family.

Moving into the New Year, the main priority is to work more closely with Ravenscourt Precinct agents, investigate a Civic Space development as well as continue to improve the town making it more vibrant, and attractive to both the businesses and users.

3.2 **WHG development** - WHG have begun their 10 year plan in the area, to expand and build new properties, with 3 planned new developments in Wessex Close, Linden Road and Short Street, from 2015-2017 Silver Street will then also be developed. This will provide a large number of new homes in the area and will link in with the development of town centre plans to encourage more people into the main shopping area. A project reference group for the development met on 20<sup>th</sup> January to discuss planned proposals for the area.

3.3 **Ryders Hayes School** - have been awarded a share of government funding to enhance PE lessons and improve participation levels in exercise activity sessions throughout the school. £850,000 was awarded across the borough, with Ryders Hayes receiving a share of this.

3.4 **Brownhills Miner** - The iconic miner island, a landmark for locals and visitors alike has picked up the title of runner up in Britains best roundabout, a competition annually held by the local roundabout appreciate society. It will now be featured in the calendar – Best of British Roundabouts 2015.

#### 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 **Walsall North Foodbank** – Set up during the Autumn 2014, the foodbank has already helped more than 100 families, with an increase in demand as the Christmas period approached. There are currently around 30 volunteers who help out at the foodbank, including collections within local supermarkets to ensure supplies meet demand.

4.2 **Evolve Weight Management Programme** – As previously reported, WHG and Walsall Council Sport and Leisure were working in partnership to deliver a weight management programme at Humphries House, Brownhills. The overall aim of the programme as well as weight management is community engagement. The course has now finished, with positive healthy lifestyle lessons being utilised by participants, the number of homecooked fresh meal including fruit and vegetables has increased, the intake of takeaway food has decreased and overall activity levels have improved amongst those who completed the course.

4.3 **Brownhills Community Association** – The association have begun further development of their community gardening programme, following funding secured

through the area partnership further opportunities are now available to get involved, a further application to whg to build upon this work is being drafted in preparation for the Brownhills in Bloom competition later this year. The community association is working closely with the Princes trust to build upon the existing provision and maintain positive engagement with the local community involved.

- 4.4 **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.
- 4.5 **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.

## 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-Sheffield and Pelsall** - We currently have access to two cameras that can be deployed in the area:

Camera 1 currently located in Old Town Lane, Pelsall.

Camera 2 currently located in Yew Tree Road, Sheffield.

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. Examples of this include the deployment of additional cameras in areas of greatest concern, recently Old Town Lane, Pelsall where both the area partnership and whg cameras were deployed at slightly different locations to provide the greatest level of cover possible.

- 5.2 **Fordbrook Bridge, Pelsall** – A community meeting was held on 25 November 2014 to further engage with local people around a series of incidents involving items being thrown from the rail bridge, and proposed works to mitigate further incidents. Despite a variety of measures implemented by Walsall Council, West Midlands Police and

Sustrans to this point, however the issues in this location continue. To date there have been a series of comments received regarding the proposed fencing, these have been collated and provided to sustrans. The next step is for the development of a planning application for the erection of fencing on top of the bridge, for which sustrans will be the lead agent.

- 5.3 **Turners Wood, Pelsall** - A community action day to continue with the development of the site was postponed due to adverse weather conditions. It is proposed that this action day will be re-arranged with an offer from the Friends of Pelsall Common to look into hiring St Michaels Church Hall to enable the offer of warm beverages, a place to store personal belongings and access to toilet facilities. Information will be circulated once details are confirmed.
- 5.4 **Rushall Playing Fields** – In conjunction with West Midlands Police and Youth Support Services the issues around the use of mini-moto's used within this area continues to be addressed through positive engagement with young people. The parks team are also now engaged and are liaising directly with youth support services to share information where appropriate.
- 5.5 **The Friends of Rushall Park Committee** – A ceremony was held where The Friends of Rushall Park planted a Rowan tree on a green off Lichfield Road to mark the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War, in memory of those from Rushall who gave their lives during the conflict. MP Sir Richard Shepherd attended the ceremony and helped residents to plant the tree.
- 5.6 **Winterley Lane** – Following a period of wet weather vehicles entering and exiting the site in Winterley Lane left an increased amount of clay and mud on the road surface. Due to the immediate risk this posed to users of the road it was deemed unsafe in its current condition and an emergency road closure was enforced.

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

- 6.1 **Local Area Co-Coordinator (LAC) Update** – During the recruitment exercise in October, two successful candidates were selected to fill the available posts, one of which will be a dedicated resource to the Brownhills ward area, the other for the Bentley – Darlaston North Ward. The start date for both candidates has been confirmed as 2 February 2015 for induction and commencement of posts.

The posts were previously identified within the Communities and Public Protection team, Neighbourhood Services, however within the last area manager report it was detailed that they have been transferred to the Children's services directorate and will now be led by Andrea Potts and Isabel Vanderheeren.

The posts are now aligned to priorities within the Children's Services directorate and will be developing around families and young people, rather than the original plan to come alongside individuals who are isolated, vulnerable and excluded from society due to factors such as age, frailty, disability, access. It is likely that due to the change

in focus the posts will now be renamed to reflect the change, and difference in delivery.

**6.2 Youth Support Services** – With the darker nights upon us, the detached youth team continue to be out and about throughout the early evening period, visiting the known sites frequented by local young people and responding to hotspots identified through local partners. The team continues engaging with young people across the partnership footprint.

**6.3 Prospects Careers service** - There are currently 2 programmes running aimed at 16/17 year olds, the first is to target people that have 1 grade C GCSE, offering them support in getting ready for work, life and education, The second is for young people that have no GCSE's and are aged 16/18 years old. If anyone is aware of any potential candidates for either of the 2 courses the Tony Lloyd at Prospects is able to assist in this area partnership area.

#### **6.4 Brownhills – Holland Park**

**6.1** The park will see the installation of nine pieces of outdoor gym equipment 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.

**6.2 Rushall Playing Fields** as part of the ongoing improvements at this location the Walsall Council Parks team are working closely with the Friends of the park to access funding and develop a skate park for young people to compliment existing provision. The friends of the park group were 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.

**6.3 High Heath Park** – It was previously reported that the Park Ranger and Councillor Rattigan were 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. The outcome of this is yet to be reported.

The annual Christmas event took place on 13 December 2014, featuring a variety of attractions, spanning over a greater period of the day building upon previous years success. The community funday is designed to raise the aspirations and civic pride of all involved including school children, families, parents, local residents and community members, third sector groups, faith groups, partners and businesses.

**6.4 Princes Trust** – We are working with the Princes Trust, identifying local young people to participate in their courses and providing possible community activities for the team to undertake as a 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. A recent community project included revamping a nursery garden, providing a safe environment and providing the nursery with a place for enjoyment in an outdoor setting for their children.

## **7. Other Activities**

- 7.1 The Friends of Pelsall Common are working in conjunction with Pelsall Village School, Ryders Hayes Academy and St Michaels Primary school to purchase and plant three Rowan trees near to the play area on Pelsall Common in memory of Gareth Perrins-Seedhouse who sadly passed away in 2014. The trees will each be of a different colour, and one will be planted per school at a special ceremony later this year.
- 7.2 At the previous Area Panel meeting, a request was made to provide a summary of funding allocated through the Brownhills, Pelsall, Rushall-Sheffield Area Partnership since the commencement of the current structure in 2010. Attached at appendix 1 is a summary of projects completed to date and breakdown of totals per ward area for your reference.

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Appendix 1. Area Managers report

WARD	2010-11	2011-12	WARD	2012-13	WARD	2013-14
Brownhills	Cherwell Drive West funday Notice Board	32.64 43.45 554.4	Brownhills	Brownhills in Bloom Brownhills booklet Holland park funday Canal festival Brownhills west funday Signage	Brownhills	Holland Park Security Animal antics Brownhills CA Car Park Brownhills radio system Holland Park skate park Brownhills Christmas Magic
Pelsall	The Drive - Pelsall Drop down bollard	43.45 554.4	Brownhills	Clayhanger cheerleading Christmas tree lights Christmas booklet Brownhills library noticeboards Clayhanger TRA	Pelsall	Forest Schools Sheffield Pavilion Mcdonalds Bin Enwood School Enhancing skills in the neighbourhood Rushall park
Rushall-Sheffield	Smartwater AS Flyers	600 2000	Pelsall	Cheerleading project Funday Wood Lane gabing Pelsall Villa Colts Village radio scheme High heath park MUGA Bin Installation North common McCullough Plaque	Cross cutting	Navy training corps Reach up - funday hire Summer activities Its a knockout Domehawk deployment Walsall get active website Family learning health workshop
		139.84 600 1331.36 2400.96 1529.4 610.06 5000 907.2		2795.44 230 1306.8 800 1000 3000 200 138.76		2000 253 1948.67 1159.9 945 3085
		18982.28		9421		9642.57
		2000 4391.46 275 1247.3 550 1000 4160.77 742.08 14366.61	Rushall - Sheffield	Station Road Works Bramcote Way Greenfields signage Planting Bramcote Way		
		615 200 156 423.07 161.97 128.96 2500 420 138.72 1700 980		415.72 270 1856.04 171.8 2342.44 3990 198 267.5 151.75 984.2 3598.48 34246.93 31464.86		
		7418.72				
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