



# Walsall Area Partnerships

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

**Updated 17 November 2016**

### **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

The report for this Area Panel focuses on some of the work carried out within the community by local groups and partner agencies.

#### **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. The development of this is currently being discussed as part of wider work with the Leadership Group for Walsall.

### **3. Brownhills Ward**

Some key highlights for the ward include;

**3.1 Brownhills Town Centre Partnership** – The Christmas Market Magic event is due to take place 10 December 2016, on the High Street. Town Centre officer Diane Mansell will be leading this and can be contacted on [diane.mansell@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:diane.mansell@walsall.gov.uk) for further details. In conjunction with this there are further activities at the Brownhills Methodist Church 9-1230 and Brownhills Water and Light Festival at the canoe centre 530 – 7pm.

**3.2 Brownhills Community Association** - continues with a successful range of events at The Lamp, offering a unique performance and exhibition space in the heart of Brownhills. A variety of activities have already taken place in this refurbished performance space, with lots planned for the future too. It was business as usual for the centre, welcoming room bookings from a variety of clubs and interest groups into the meeting facilities and recreational space available.

The onsite nursery facility continues to thrive, offering a professional service to parents locally and further afield, alongside the youth provision which runs in the form of a twice weekly youth club and an evenings outreach per week.

To discover more about the forthcoming events, to book a space within the facility or to explore existing sessions the website found at [www.brownhillsca.org.uk](http://www.brownhillsca.org.uk) . The provision in this location provides an excellent platform for people to build confidence, develop new skills and enhance employability through the use of performance arts and common interest groups.

The centre was a pilot site for a Cuppa with a Copper session which was held over lunch time on 10<sup>th</sup> November, although numbers were low it was a building block to engage local neighbourhood officers with the community and will be developed in a more targeted way to capture some of the community sessions held within the centre, and beyond.

**3.3 Brownhills West Community Group** – The group welcomed local police, whg and Area Partnerships to their meeting in early October to talk through some of their key concerns. The estate has seen a number of changes physically and resident wise and priorities have changed for some elements of the estate. There were answers provided to a variety of questions with some further follow up work under way.

**3.4 Northfields Way** – The barrier system has now been installed at this location, the lines and signage were undertaken prior to the final stages where the

barrier was lifted into place. To date feedback has been limited while the scheme is in its infancy.

- 3.5 Ravenscourt** – reports were received that the building had been breached, the photographs of the open doorway were widely shared on social media however this access route and a further breached doorway to the lower level were promptly secured. At this time the building remains secured.
- 3.6 Clayhanger Friends of the Park** – This group has continued to develop with progress towards an action plan being made, supported by the clean and green team at Walsall Council.
- 3.7 Brownhills Firework and Bonfire event** – the event in Brownhills was last in a schedule of four events across Walsall, it was well received by the local community and those that travelled to attend the event, with the display commended for its brilliance. The parks team have seen a reallocation of our lead officer and we now welcome Jason Owen to the area as community liaison officer, with Anne-Louise continuing in her role as community liaison manager working boroughwide.

#### **4 Pelsall Ward**

Some key highlights for the ward include;

- 4.1 Big Knit and Royal British Legion Pelsall Branch** – The brilliant display of knitted poppies last year was excelled by the addition of towers and cornflowers for this years display. The village was radiant with poppies adorning the clock and surrounding areas. The number of people involved in the build up to the remembrance service was a great example of people far and wide coming together to delivery a poignant reminder at this of remembrance.
- 4.2 Friends of Pelsall Common** – the group has seen a change in leadership and support of late with Sheila Lewis taking over the role of chair with previous chair Maureen Payton remaining an active member of the group as vice chair as this group continues to support the commons of the area.
- 4.3 Pelsall Community Association Bowling Club** – The group have recently rallied round following the news of proposed budget cuts to bowling facilities. A strong committee in conjunction with local elected members are working to secure the future sustainability of this facility for years to come through researching alternative methods of delivery in lieu of council funding support identified in budget proposals. A testament to the resilience of the local community who seek to ensure the provision for the bowlers.
- 4.4 Pelsall Councillor Connect Ward Forum** – the first ward forum is due to be hosted on 24 November 2016, following previous area panel agreements to develop a local ward forum to engage local people in designing a local plan

for the area focusing upon the issues which continue to be of importance to local residents. A verbal update at the area panel can be expected.

- 4.5 Pelsall Villa Colts Football Club** – The club continues to grow with the addition of ladies football within the current organisation of the club. This couples with the intake of further teams at the under 7 age group, supported in part by area panel funding for the current year.
- 4.6 Cuppa with a Copper** – the initiative was ran within Pelsall Village Centre in late October, based on previous events in the ward it was felt that the greatest opportunity to host this was to operate it as a drop in session on a Saturday within the library. This was well attended and a variety of different conversations took place with the police and partners. It was a model which proved to work well for the area and work is underway to develop a wider programme of conversations with key partners in the area.
- 4.7 Neighbourhood Watch** – There has been an increased promotion of this locally over recent weeks with a number of new members signed up at the recent ‘Cuppa with a Copper’ event and the Over 50’s event at Walsall Town Hall. New street co-ordinators have also been recruited but there are still many more opportunities being pursued at present for this. Social Media presence has increased and the scheme continues to see support from Kevin Pitt, WM Police.

## **5. Rushall – Sheffield Ward**

Some key highlights for the ward include;

- 5.1 Rushall Development Group** –As part of the remembrance services held across the borough the Rushall Development Group approached the Area Partnership to secure funding to replace the damaged flag at the cenotaph. This was supported by all ward members and the group successfully procured a new flag in time for the service on 13 November 2016.
- 5.2 Manor Farm Community Association Silver Scheme** –The association continues to deliver a range of courses, both of a vocational and leisure nature. The Silver scheme continues to grow in strength with Rushalls Cuppa with a Copper being hosted as part of a targeted intervention with those attending the lunch club. Polce and lunch club guests enjoyed a lunch whilst chatting about some key concerns and some helpful tips around keeping safe over the darker nights of autumn and winter. The association attended the recent over 50’s event at Walsall Town Hall to promote the opportunities and services on offer at their scheme.
- 5.3 Unauthorised encampments** – As part of a boroughwide injunction covering specific sites, the ward has seen a number of its open spaces protected from encampments by a court injunction prohibiting unauthorised encampments in

those locations which have seen a high impact on communities from this type of activity. Hawthorn Road and surrounding streets have seen physical improvements to restrict vehicular access to the large expanse of open space.

- 5.4 Stubbers Green** – A number of interested residents are supporting this location through the education of visitors, provision of food for wildlife within the pools and through the ongoing litter picks taking place to keep the area clean and free from debris.
- 5.5 Rushall Skate Park** – Youth commissioned provision provided by Bloxwich Community Partnership continues to see work take place through outreach youth engagement. The sessions continue to encourage young people to enjoy the area in a positive manner.
- 5.6 Girl Guiding and Scouting** – The groups continue to encourage recycling as a means of fundraising to support local young people to enjoy and experience the variety of activities available through these groups. Christmas Fairs, outdoor sessions in addition to the weekly groups held. In addition there are art and craft sessions hosted by the Development Group at the local library which are available for these young people as well as any interested young people from the area.
- 5.7 Spring Close Neighbourhood and Community Group** – This group has formed in order to tackle some local issues impacting upon the lives of people residing in this location. The group have mapped out issues and developed an action plan to engage with stakeholders to improve the area, it is led and driven forward by the very active members of the group who are currently meeting regularly to progress with local actions identified.

## **6. CCTV**

- 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 Currently located in Victoria Road, Pelsall.

Following two serious arson incidents involving local vehicles the partnership camera remains in this location. Residents have received information containing key contact details within this location.

Camera 2; Out of service

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.

The camera located in Victoria Road has previously seen requests for downloaded footage from police colleagues, there have been no further requests for footage in relation to recent incidents taking place at this location.

Requests for cameras in other locations are considered based on intelligence and data, the community are encouraged contact relevant departments where concerns require reporting;

Private residents can report matters directly to the Community Protection Team by any method below;

Telephone (01922) 650000

Email [communityprotection@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:communityprotection@walsall.gov.uk)

It may also be possible that one of the following council departments can assist in the first instance:

- Walsall MBC 01922 650000
- Environmental Health 01922 652223
- Clean & Green 01922 653344
- Trading Standards 01922 652210
- Walsall Mediation 01922 637713

## **7. Partner Agency Key Changes**

**7.1 Neighbourhood Police Team** – The roll out o changes for police commences on 28 November 2016, our partnership will welcome a new Sergeant, Debbie Gallon who will take up the role covering the entire footprint of our area partnership.

**7.2 West Midlands Fire Service** – A new Station Commander has joined us, Mark Flanagan will now be taking the leadership role for the Area Partnership and will be driving forward the key priorities for the area over the coming months.