

Brownhills, Pelsall, Rushall - Sheffield Area Partnership

Area Manager Report

Updated November 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. Recommendation

2.1 The Area Panel is requested to note the contents of this report.

3. Area Plan Development

3.1 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

4. 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

4.1 **Brownhills Town Centre Partnership** – The partnership continues to meet, with town centre officer Diane Mansell leading for the Brownhills Area. The forthcoming Christmas event is due to take place throughout the day on 12 December 2015 with For Brownhills, this event will take place on 12 December 2015 with family orientated

activities and attractions for all ages. The local Canoe club are running an evening event to compliment the daytime attraction on the same day.

4.2 Pelsall Frost Fair 2015 –Pelsall Frost fair is proposed for the first weekend of December, this Christmas event will be supporting local businesses and crafts people to generate trade over the festive period and will include festive chorus and attractions for the community to enjoy.

4.3 Festive lighting is already up throughout the High Street in Brownhills, with lighting for Christmas Trees in identified locations across the partnership expected in the first week of December. These trees are part of the regular festive lighting scheme.

5. 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

5.1 Safeguard open space users – As part of a partnership with Walsall Probation we are undertaking a programme of works to safeguard the open space in key locations throughout Pelsall to ensure users of the common land areas are safe from traffic and issues caused by vehicles accessing the common. Uneven surfaces, vehicles driving at speed and parking adjacent to facilities used for leisure activities and improving health locally have been a concern for some time. The installation of physical barriers to restrict car access

5.2 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.

5.3 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.

- 5.4 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.

Funding provided through the Area Partnership has now levered in additional funding from the Arts Council, the facility is now recognised as a small arts venue, which is creating excitement amongst the local community and provide opportunity for live performances and shows amongst other things for the surrounding community.

- 5.5 Manor Farm Community Association** – The site continues to see developments in the range of provision offered at the site. The completed installation of a new synthetic playing surface to the rear of the centre now offers an all weather facility complete with flood lights for year round usage. Increased exercise classes for the older community, through the area partnership contribution to compliment the silver scheme, are now underway with the improved access to equipment for the bespoke social activity for adults with additional needs also progressing.

- 5.6 Mental health and dementia services** – Dementia cafes continue to run throughout the area, with specific one off events in key locations throughout the year.

6. 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

- 6.1 CCTV for Brownhills, Rushall-Shelfield and Pelsall** - We currently have access to two cameras that can be deployed in the area:

Camera ;1currently located in Vicarage Road, Pelsall.

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 Vicarage Road has seen 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.

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 Anti Social Behaviour Unit by any method below;

Telephone (01922) 648291

Email asb@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

6.2 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. There have been a series of meetings to agree a positive way forward for the works to fit in with planning criteria, whilst meeting the objectives of sustrans. With ongoing incidents continuing it is noted that the safety of vehicles and pedestrians utilising this route remains paramount to the design and implementation of the scheme.

6.3 Rushall Rail track, Station Road – Comprehensive work has been undertaken to address the issue of mini moto use in this location. Crossing over into North Walsall the two area partnership areas have conducted a joint site visit to look at the layout and possible re-design of entrance and exit points to this location to engineer out the opportunity to access the site with mini moto type vehicles. There are completed designs now in place, with final pieces of the jigsaw coming together to ensure delivery is possible.

6.4 Neighbourhood reports of crime and ASB – Residents have raised issues of concern in connection with a number of areas as we are now into the darker nights. Residents, the community and visitors to the area are advised to report crime to police through the 101 facility if the situation is not an emergency, using 999 for urgent calls. A series of social media posts have alluded to issues that may not always be reported to the relevant authority, and thus can create an element of fear amongst communities. The police darker nights campaign is now underway to provide awareness raising amongst communities.

6.5 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. A fifteen point action plan has now been completed addressing issues such as

- i) Use and effectiveness of CCTV
- ii) Home fire safety checks for properties and communal areas
- iii) Maintenance concerns addressed
- iv) Waste disposal and reduction in fly tipping improved

6.6 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. Action is currently progressing in relation to two key areas of concern, further updates will be provided when available.

6.7 Northfield Way, Clayhanger – A series of reports around a recent unauthorised encampment were received, the local neighbourhood police team in partnership with the area partnership and community safety are aware of residents concerns in relation to this location and are working at a solution to the problems experienced. Through new powers which has been in force for just over a year we are hopeful that a solution can be found to prevent the continued vehicular nuisance caused at this location.

7 Improving safeguarding and learning chances for children and young people

7.1 Youth sport activity, Pelsall– Increased engagement with young people has been taking place locally with a massive interest in junior football being identified and progressed through the development lead at Pelsall Villa Colts. The youth activity within the cricket club continues with junior training and winter nets ongoing throughout the closed season.

7.2 School traffic flow / parking – Concerns were raised at several primary schools regarding the worsening parking issues and traffic flow problems experienced at pinch points throughout the day. The risk this places for young people accessing schools was a key concern, with many examples of reckless parking and frequent use of areas restrictively marked at key times. The enforcement vehicle has been seen in and around these locations over several weeks with local primary schools improving communication with parents to raise the issue with the parking and drop off activity which is posing a threat to the safety of the pupils and community. A meeting with the AStars lead is imminent to further support this.

7.3 Brownhills scouts – Through the current scout programme locally, a number of leaders and members have identified the need to expand the unit beyond the current age restrictions, to ensure there is an offer for young people over 14 years of age. This enhanced programme will offer the opportunity to approximately 20 young people in the area on an annual basis.

8. Cross cutting;

8.1 A community celebration of life for council officer Gareth Perrins-Seedhouse is due to take place on 24, September 2015 with an unveiling of a plaque and tree planting on Pelsall Common adjacent to the play area which Gareth was instrumental in developing and completing for the young people of the local community. This scheme was developed in conjunction with the three local primary schools and was led by the friends of Pelsall Common.

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