

Report to Walsall South Area Panel
Area Community Plan Refresh 2014-15

Tuesday, 8 July 2014

1. Context

1.1 On 8 April 2013, Walsall Council approved 'The Walsall Plan 2013 - 16' – the Sustainable Community Strategy for the Borough. This sets out a three year vision for Walsall as a “great place to live, learn and invest”. The Walsall Plan identifies four strategic priorities;

- 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
- Improving safeguarding and the learning and life chances for children and young people

1.2 In order to inform the public of Area Partnership activity, a summarised Area Plan document for each Area Partnership has been drafted. The draft summarised Area Plan for Walsall South Area Partnership is attached at appendix 1.

1.3 The Area Community Plan summary document contains details of activity undertaken across the Area Partnership together with planned activity for the future.

1.4 The Area Community Plan summary document for the Walsall South Area Partnership is submitted to the Area Panel for their consideration, noting it highlights for Elected Members and the community, the range of activity undertaken in their locality, in accordance with the multi-agency arrangements put in place for Area Partnerships.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Area Community Plan summary document be approved, with amendments to the final version to be agreed by the Chair and Vice Chair

3. Next Steps

3.1 It is anticipated that the Area Community Plan summary document will be updated on an annual basis, to ensure Elected Members and the community are kept informed.

3.2 The Area Community Plan summary document will be made available by the end of July 2014, in print and on-line, to inform of the work of Area Partnerships.

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Area 4 – Walsall South suggested notes for Community Area Plan

<p>Walsall Town Centre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walsall town centre has been undergoing a high level of regeneration with allocated sites for new shops, leisure facilities and offices. • The Waterfront area has undergone significant improvements including the opening of a hotel. • Development of the Old Square Shopping Centre site is well underway. • Environment Education Day led by Environmental Health supported by partners. • A business crime initiative will be run in the centre to provide infrastructure to connect retail premises to reduce crime
<p>St Matthews</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Matthew's Church continues to celebrate it's 800 years by holding events throughout the year • Caldmore Village Hub provides community support with the Time4Real project now well established volunteer members have clocked up over 1,000 hours of skills swapping. • Aaina Community Hub is delivering a number of health related initiatives for women to tackle heart disease, obesity and diabetes. • Work on the final phase of the Arboretum improvements programme have started with the building works on the much awaited Visitor Centre. • The community garden in Caldmore Village has received a community benefit of an open air classroom that will be used by the Primary school and wider community.
<p>Paddock</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pocket Places project to reclaim unused pockets of land in Chuckery, to re-knit the social and physical fabric of the community. • Chuckery Street Scene leaflets were distributed to support a cleaner street campaign • Park Hall Community Association are running cookery courses aimed at people living alone or on a low income to promote understanding of dietary needs and a healthy eating regime. • The fourth Chuckery Festival took place June over two weeks with various events taking place. • The building improvement works are on schedule at Park Hall Junior school
<p>Palfrey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broadway West Playing Fields has come back into use with an opening event in March, it is supported by a users group of volunteers from the community • Caldmore and Palfrey Festival took place for it's second year in Palfrey Park the 3 day event included the Strolling Stories presentation, a piece of processional theatre performed along the carnival route. • The Big Local Palfrey project is on track to deliver benefits for the area • Get on your Bike - free cycle training available to adults (16yrs+) in Palfrey Park • Myplace in Delves continues to provide activities for young people including My Future project which will give young people the skills they require to be ready for college and find employment.
<p>Pleck</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilbraham Court which is located on the Manor Hospital site will help homeless men with mental health, drug and alcohol related issues. • A grass verge in Primley Avenue was voted for by residents for development for parking spaces to benefit the area. • Alumwellies and Alumwell Nursery have rated 'outstanding' by Ofsted • The League of Friends at the Manor Hospital have raised enough money to purchase a Fibroscan machine worth £89,950 to help patients with Liver Disease. • The Pleck Park has been busy holding sports days, cricket tournaments and a Funday planned for August

Safer Walsall: Creating safe, sustainable and inclusive communities

Cannabis Plants in Caldmore and Alumwell – a cannabis factory was discovered in Dudley Street, Caldmore with over 200 plants along with another site found in Durham Road, Alumwell. A teenager was arrested in connection with the Caldmore site and remanded in custody.

Heroin and cocaine discovery in Pleck – police uncovered nearly £80,000 of drugs in Fellows Park Gardens, Pleck. A man was arrested and his home in Wednesbury Road was found to contain drugs paraphernalia. The man was jailed for 6 years and a known associate got 12 months detention for supplying drugs in the area.

Fly-tipping in Watery Lane Palfrey – a man was found guilty of fly-tipping a settee, two mattresses and several bags of rubbish on a local car park owned by whg. The man from Rutter Street was fined £555. Residents who supply evidence that leads to a successful prosecution are being offered a reward of £100.

Borneo Street Allotments in Butts – will receive two new car parking areas along with a new entrance. This has been agreed to tackle parking problems in the location.

New Allotment Plots – due to the popularity of allotments South Walsall Allotments at Broadway now have 40 plots. New members can pay for the first year and get the second year free. For more information please contact South Walsall Allotments staplesarrow@aol.com

Children and Young People: Improving safeguarding, learning and life chances for children and young people

Walsall South's Integrated Young Peoples Support Services (IYPSS) - team continues to provide Detached youth work which have been taking place four times a week across our area and the last Saturday of each month, where the team support the free styling event at Myplace, Delves. The Summer school holiday programme has been developed and will run from Saturday 12th July to Saturday 30th August including Get Active – sports challenge, Community Feast, Big Music project, dancing, Hate Crime awareness to name but a few.

The Swim, Gym and Groove project at the Gala Baths – has been running successfully with increasing attendance from Walsall South young people. IYPSS have provided a bus to transport young people from across our area as it was found that they had difficulty attending, this approach has enabled 12 young people from Palfrey and Caldmore to participate.

Cook sessions at MyPlace, Delves – these sessions are run by young people to showcase their talents. They recently visited young people in Willenhall and exchanged cooking ideas including impressing the group with their Black Forest Gateaux. The Walsall South young people will now be doing an event for friends and family.

Vulnerable young women - have participated in a variety of creative activities based around educative and preventative themes. The course empowers the young women to make positive choices about their own lives, preventing them from being involved with grooming and potentially involved in sex work.

Walsall South Young People Consultation – 289 young people were consulted with. The young people were asked various questions about positive activities including when would they like sessions to take place 108 said Friday's, 110 said Saturday's with 35% liking sessions before 6:00pm and 33% after 6:00pm.

Smoking cessation sessions – as part of the consultation young people expressed a need for smoking cessation advice. A programme has newly started with Walsall NHS health care trust staff discussing the facts around electronic cigarettes.

Business and Jobs: Supporting businesses to thrive and supporting local people in to work

Electrifying the railway, Walsall Town Centre – Park Street Bridge is over 100 years old and needs a rebuild. This is to allow electricity lines to enable the trains to be powered from December 2017. Initial work will take place September to November 2014 and then restart late January 2015 to avoid the Christmas period. This work will happen in four stages to allow Park Street to remain open for business throughout the project with completion planned by July 2015.

Potential new jobs – the Caldmore Tidy group had identified a number of empty properties in the Caldmore area that the project had asked for support from the council and wider community to try to develop. The old Electro-plating building in Corporation Street has been empty for sometime. Local developers have put in plans for a medical centre complex for the site which could create up to 30 new jobs for the area to support a 70 strong workforce.

Business and Sports Hub – preparation work has started on the old Lime House site with the main building work to start in August 2014 with a planned opening September 2015. The three story building will include a sports hall, fitness studio, restaurant and business centre with a focus on young entrepreneurs and training opportunities.

Health and Well-Being: Improving health, including well-being and independence for older people

Diabetes Awareness Week 9th – 15th June – as part of Walsall South's Healthy Lifestyle group partners, councillors and Diabetes UK have come together to lead on a piece of work for our area. Diabetes is both a national and local issue with 3.2 million people diagnosed with the condition and last year saw the biggest increase in new cases since 2008. Early warning has been identified as the key to meet this growing challenge. Walsall Central, Pleck, Palfrey and Alumwell have been sent information packs to encourage our community to test their Risk Score. The risk assessment only involves 7 questions, including height and gender and will take approximately 3 minutes. Residents will be able to know if they are at risk of developing diabetes from this simple test and the kind of things they can do to lower the risk. Centres across our area had trained staff who provided support during the week these included: Mosques, Temples, Pharmacies, Supermarkets, Sure Start Children Centres, Caldmoreaccord and the Manor Hospital. The campaign will be monitored through Diabetes UK to identify those accessing Diabetes UK risk tools following receipt of the campaign packs. To date:

- Over 13,000 envelopes were delivered across Walsall South
- 45 officers from across partners including the voluntary sector were trained so they could pass the information about the campaign to colleagues and the wider community
- 500 individuals have been spoken to in the community along with 800 additional leaflets being handed out
- 200 were helped to complete the on-line risk assessment and signposted accordingly

The group will summarise the outcome from the project to provide an update to the Health and Wellbeing Board and NHS Walsall CCG Diabetes STaR group. For more information go to the website where people can check their score www.walsall.gov.uk/diabetesrisk

Walsall Community Chaplaincy project – the gym project funded by Walsall South and run at Walsall Campus at Gorway has successfully helped 9 men from our area to address the way they think about their criminal activity and its impact on the local community. By using physical exercise followed by group discussion the men have identified their problems and developed support networks to help them build positive coping skills.

Critical Care Unit, Walsall Manor Hospital – work on this new unit will start this July the plans have been redesigned to make the site bigger than first suggested due to the expected increase in demand. The improved plans will take approximately 72 weeks to complete.