

NORTH WALSALL AREA PANEL

Area Manager's Report

Tuesday 27th January 2015

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report seeks to inform Elected Members for the North Walsall Area Partnership of some of the work carried out within the local area.
- 1.2 North Walsall has a number of key priorities which have been identified through work with partner agencies, Walsall Intelligence Network and the local community.
- 1.3 The strategic priorities are:
 - Safer Walsall: Creating safe, sustainable and inclusive communities
 - Children and Young People: Improving safeguarding, learning and life chances for children and young people
 - Business and Jobs: Supporting businesses to thrive and supporting local people in to work
 - Health and Well-Being: Improving health, including well-being and independence for older people
- 1.4 There are monthly Non Confidential Tasking & Co-ordination (Partner) Meetings that occur in North Walsall. The meetings provide the opportunity for partner agencies to come together and share ideas, information and co-ordinate strategy based on the Walsall Plan.

The partners include: Community Safety Services (ASB Team), Young Support Services, West Midlands Police, residents, Ward Councillors, Reedswood Park Retailers, Stephenson Square Retailers, Walsall Housing Group (WHG), Caldmoreaccord Housing, Walsall Association of Tenant Management Organisations, West Midlands Probation Service, Walsall Intelligence Network, Environmental Health, Beechdale Community Housing, Mirus Academy, Frank F Harrison Community Association, St Aiden's Care Team, North Walsall Area Partnership, Walsall Adult Community College (WACC), Walsall College, Economic Regeneration Team, Work on the Horizons, Prospects, Public Health, Lifestyles Team, Forest Arts Centre, Blakenall Community Centre (BCC), Ryecroft Hub, Green Lane Baptist Church & Community Payback.

2. Safer Walsall: Creating safe, sustainable and inclusive communities

- 2.1 Inspector Beth Bridges has moved to a new post within West Midlands Police. Her post has been filled, as of 12th January 2015, by Inspector Jacqueline (Jax) Nicholson. Inspector Nicholson has worked within Walsall previously, having effectively managed the Willenhall Sector.
- 2.2 Beechdale Community Housing Association are supporting the residents and local community in tackling anti-social behaviour. There has been support to tenants who are causing a concern through their ASB activities and various interventions have been implemented, supported across the partnership. The next Beechdale ASB meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 27th January 2015.
- 2.3 Insp. Beth Bridges organised a 24 hour Dispersal Order for Stephenson Square for Thursday 8th January 2015, due to a number of young people causing a nuisance around the Lifelong Learning Centre. The young people were disrupting youth based provision and causing a nuisance to those using the centre. A longer term strategy is being looked into, including having Injunctions on those responsible for the disturbances.
- 2.4 In Bloxwich 19 young people were subject to a Dispersal Order. The order came into effect on November 21st and lasted until 23rd November. The aim of the 48 hour Dispersal was to address anti-social behaviour. The order covered Field Road, Chantry Avenue, Blakenall Heath and Ingram Road.
- 2.5 Working with the Greenspaces team and various partners in and around Mossley, there has been a repair of an old motorcycle barrier and the installation of 5 metres of steel trip rail. Further work is underway to install 'P' barriers in Vernon Way, subject to funding. The 'P' barriers are to deter off-road bikes from accessing the playing fields, and also to tackle anti-social behaviour and fly-tipping.

As mentioned to councillors and at various meetings, Area Partnerships will not be installing domehawk cameras in Vernon Way, to cover the site, as this is not a suitable deterrent, at the moment.

The gates were the solution that has been discussed within the community and appropriate actions are being undertaken.

- 2.6 A Skip day occurred on 26th November in Pargetter Street, Cairns Street, Jessell Rd, and Raleigh St. A Street Champion participated in the skip day activity as he volunteered his services and really assisted the community in moving and clearing rubbish from their properties.

Collected were:

- Six 8 yard skips (funded by Walsall Area Partnership) filled with over 12 tonnes of domestic & household waste
- Seven domestic waste bins de-contaminated and residents advised on future waste management
- Five domestic waste bins listed for repair with Clean & Green after finding lids broken etc. Whole area litter picked with Environmental Services & Street Champions.

There are at least 5 public waste bins at this location. Residents have identified that it was great that Area Partnerships were doing the skip day and they asked for it to be a regular occurrence. They were provided with advice on waste management and using the council depot.

- 2.7 Area Partnerships, Community Safety Team & the police met with the Leamore Tenants Management Organisation on 14/01/15. The residents identified a number of local concerns that were affecting them. This included complaints of food related odour from a fast food restaurant. This has been investigated by Environmental Services and local residents contacted regarding the actions taken. The establishment is conforming to regulations.

The next residents meeting is scheduled for 10th February, then it is every 2nd Tuesday of the month. Venue to be confirmed.

- 2.8 A resident who was fly-tipping items, including bed bases, mattresses, cushions and small electrical items in Rayboulds Bridge Road has been captured on camera. He has been ordered to pay over £800 by magistrates when he appeared before Walsall Magistrates on Monday 15 December. The resident, who lives in Beechdale, was captured on cameras purchased through Area Partnerships and placed in various locations across North Walsall by Environmental Services.

- 2.9 Centro are deploying a number of CCTV cameras covering various fly tipping hot spots on the old railway cutting, the Ryecroft to Reedswood track. Centro intend to infill the cutting, following agreement from WMBC Planning Team. The expectation is that the work will commence in January 2015 and be completed by Summer 2016. Area Partnerships are engaging with the Senior Project Team regarding the development of the work. Slacky Lane, by the entrance to Severn Trent Water, has had a barrier fitted to deter fly-tipping.

- 2.10 A site meeting occurred on 27th November and it appears that someone has been gaining access to the large open space that runs parallel to the canal, on the right hand side of Slacky Lane in the direction of Pelsall. Access from the road was via an

insecure solid metal bar gate, located approximately 50 yards beyond the canal bridge. The land is owned by the council.

There is evidence that a commercial sized vehicle has been driving onto this area for the purpose of fly tipping and feeding horses. There are four substantial (recent in Oct/Nov/Dec 2014) sized deposits consisting of stable waste, green waste, domestic rubbish and other general waste.

There is further evidence that the people responsible for this have actually cut back some trees to enable vehicular passage.

Waste had also been burnt on site. Arrangements were made to remove the rubbish, and securely weld the gates shut so that trespass could not occur.

- 2.11 Along Hawbush Road there is to be the refurbishment and installation of fencing, a domehawk camera and the removal of the bushes to the green space in Hawbush Rd.

whg are supplying the camera, with further financial requests made to Area Partnerships for assistance.

There will also be restricted access to the canal side footpath by the 'curly whirly bridge', as individuals have been seen congregating under the bridge and causing ASB.

The aim of the project is to address a long-standing ASB issue and to identify any activities that may be detrimental to the local community.

The police are also part of this initiative

- 2.12 A 'CCTV in Operation' sign is to be installed at Stephenson Avenue to inform the residents that there is one in operation.
On-going support is being provided through Beechdale Community Housing and the BEES (local residents group).

- 2.13 Cameras are deployed in different locations across North Walsall to tackle fly-tipping, anti-social behaviour and to assist with the detection of criminal activities.

Reference	Installed at	Installing Agency	Purpose	Objective
ND1	Stephenson Square, Beechdale	Neighbourhood Management	To reduce crime & ASB and offer reassurance	To identify offenders to enable appropriate action to be taken
ND2	Valley Road	Neighbourhood Management	To reduce crime & ASB and offer reassurance	To gather evidence of ASB and support subsequent enforcement

				action
ND7	Chapel Street	Neighbourhood Management	To reduce crime & ASB and offer reassurance	To gather evidence of ASB and support subsequent enforcement action
ND8	Essex Street Walsall	Neighbourhood Management	To reduce crime & ASB and offer reassurance	To gather evidence of ASB and support subsequent enforcement action

Covert cameras are also utilised. The distributions of cameras are decided at the monthly Confidential Partnership Tasking & Co-ordination Meeting.

- 2.14 Following a Local Policing Review of the future of police front offices, 27 front counters are due to close over the next 12 months – with 10 front counters remaining open, across the West Midlands.

The closures will take place in a phased approach. WMP have commented that the phased approach will not affect local policing, Neighbourhood Police and Police Community Support Officers will continue to work from their buildings.

For Walsall the only buildings affected by the closures are in Willenhall and Aldridge.

Bloxwich Police Station is not affected by the changes and the opening and closing times will remain as 8.00am – 10.00pm

Contact www.west-midlands.police.uk

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

- 3.1 Youth Support Service, Frank F Harrison are aiming to co-ordinate support to the young people affected by the recent Dispersal Orders in Beechdale. There are a number of identified young people who will be further supported within the local community, to enable them to recognise the detrimental effect that their nuisance behaviour is having on the community.
- 3.2 whg are working with the local community to develop a 'Selfie' project. The project is to enable residents around the Goscote regeneration projects to have their images shown on a number of hoardings around the local area. This is part of the 400+ houses initiatives that is being developed for the area by Keepmoat Housing.
- 3.3 Youth Support Services are to become further targeted and responsive with the work in the local areas.

- 3.4 Mossley Youth project has a number of young people attending the sessions based on the targeted youth work model. Mondays & Wednesdays provide generic youth work for the local community. The young people have fundraised for a trip to PGL (an outdoor based centre) at half term.
- 3.5 Focused work started in December around weapon awareness. Youth workers are using a case study from Newcastle to promote discussion. The work will look at how safe young people feel and how easy it can be to get hold of weapons.

In tackling knife crime Walsall College do a tutorial curriculum which deals with areas of 'Being Safe'.

Mirus run the 'Learning for Life' ethics based sessions every lunch time which includes campaigns such as 'One Knife; One Life' and 'Drive to Arrive'.

4 Business and Jobs: Supporting business to thrive and supporting local people into work

- 4.1 Prospects (Connexions Services) are engaging with young people and trying to find appropriate destinations for them.

November NEET data

- Walsall NEET - 4.2% North Walsall NEET - 5.6%
- Walsall not known - 8.6% - North Walsall Not known - 2.2% (not known - young people still believed to be in area but have left school)
- Nationally Walsall is within the top 3%.

Work is being done to reduce unemployment with good partnership working between Regeneration, local schools, Walsall College and local providers.

- 4.2 Goscote Regeneration Group has held 2 meetings with a 3rd planned for 20th January 2015. whg, who are co-ordinating the meetings, have worked with the existing group to enable a re-constitution and re-focussing of the group into various themes, which will assist with the development of the local housing (Keepmoat Housing) regeneration.
- 4.3 Keepmoat Housing, the developer's working with whg, have been given the go-ahead to proceed with the work on the derelict land, as part of the £50m project by whg. The expectation is that there will 177 affordable homes and 235 private homes for the area. The area for re-development is the land off Shakespeare Crescent, Keats Road and Chaucer Road.
- 4.4 Arriva buses have introduced a new bus scheme for Walsall. The bus route is to run

from Cannock, through Cheslyn Hay, Great Wyrley and into Bloxwich Town Centre. The new 'Sapphire' buses, on routes 1, 2,2a and 2e will be equipped with laptop and phone chargers and free wifi.

- 4.5 The Big Local for Mossley have finalised the plans. They have agreed to submit their plans to the Big Local in the coming weeks.
- 4.6 The Big Local Mossley are visiting the Ryecroft Hub on Wednesday 21st January, 3.00pm, as a way of determining what they may need within the local area. The visit is being supported by Area Partnerships and whg.
- 4.7 Steps To work are continuing with the multi-agency meetings that are occurring. In summary, the aim is to develop holistic approaches to combat barriers to employment by offering support and guidance whilst supporting a range of organisations and initiatives. They undertake work including training and employment skills sessions, debt management and food hygiene courses.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 4th February.

- 4.8 A new post has been developed through the Department of Work and Pensions, it is a Work Coach role. This supportive role will offer one to one support for work ready 16-18 year olds. Prospects are taking referrals (the 16-18 year of age who require support) from partner agencies.

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

- 5.1 Goscote Greenacres were targeted and a theft occurred between Friday 17th October and Sunday 19th October. Gardening and photography equipment used by adults with disabilities were stolen. Area Partnerships has contributed previously to the development of Goscote Greenacres.

Following conversations with Severn Trent Water and the Goscote Greenacres Community Development Officer, Area Partnership has enabled Severn Trent Water to support the project and to assist with replacing some of the equipment that has been stolen. They have replaced wheelbarrows, provided paints and physical resources to the group. They have funded hundreds of pounds of equipment.

Severn Trent Water is also looking to provide further support to local groups.

Community groups and individuals have also come forward to support the Goscote Greenacres to enable adults with disabilities to continue to garden in the local community.

- 5.2 Mossley Estate over 50's Club has started within the local area in December 2014. The idea of the Over 50's Club has been mentioned previously in different forums.

It has been discussed at the Big Local, at the Residents Association and within St Thomas' Church. There was an Over 50's Club on the estate previously, but this has ceased to operate.

The new Club is an Over 50's Club organised by and for local residents. There have been a number of club sessions to date.

They meet every Thursday 9.30am- 12.30pm at Mattesley Court.

It is an open club session, no membership subs and all are welcome to attend.

There are discussion groups, health related activities and they are planning to undertake walks, once the weather improves.

The group is self-organising and are seeking additional support to help its development.

- 5.3 Meetings took place on Thursday 6th November & Thursday 15th January regarding the consistent issues at Goscote Lodge Crescent. The meeting was held with Severn Trent Water and whg, with the aim being to put in various strategies and solutions to combat the on-going problems.

Analysis has shown that over the last 18 months there has been a lot of financial resources and time which have been spent in clearing the site.

Follow-up actions and meetings are occurring across the Partnership.

Other items of interest

- The Dolphin Pub land in Goscote Lane is to become the site for 18 homes. The site, by Slacky Lane, has been targeted as a fly-tipping hot spot.
- The Canal & River Trust have undertaken clearing of a river bank within the Birchills-Leamore area. David Bailey, the lead for the local area had a team of volunteers working in the area on 13th January 2015. The area, situated by the Aulton & Butler site, off Bentley Lane, was cleared of litter, on the canal side of the bank.

- Working with Clean & Green various overhanging trees and shrubs have been cleared from various trees across North Walsall. As a general rule trees are usually cleared if they are 'dead, diseased or dangerous'.
- Beechdale Community Lunch, for partner agencies to meet and share information is scheduled for Friday 23rd January at 12pm, at the Lifelong Learning Centre, Stephenson Square, Beechdale.
- Mossley Residents Association are interested in developing a 'No Cold Calling Zone' for their local area.

Information was disseminated to the group in November, asking them to notify Trading Standards of any 'cold calls'. There has been no calls from the local residents, as yet, regarding receiving 'cold calls'.

- An Over 50's Walking Football Club is commencing. The activity, organised by whg Health Champions is aimed at encouraging over 50's to participate in health related activities. There is no running or sprinting. It is solely walking. If anyone is interested contact: Martin Berry, Health Champion, whg. martin.berry@whgrp.co.uk
- West Midlands Fire Service are looking to register Community Members. They are looking for recruits to become a WMFS Community Member, who will be able to assist in inform the service on its development. This will also include helping with the planning, fundraising, and making West Midlands a safer place. Contact WMFS communitymembership@wmfs.net Tel: 0121 380 6680

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