

ALDRIDGE & BEACON AREA PANEL

Area Manager's Report

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report seeks to inform Elected Members for the Aldridge & Beacon Area Partnership of some of the work carried out within the local area. The information in this report was correct at the time of writing, Thursday, 17 March, 2016. All information in this report is for work carried out since July 2015.

2. Recommendation

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

3. Priorities

- 3.1 Walsall Council 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

- 3.2 Aldridge & Beacon Area Partnership has a number of key priorities which have been identified through work with Ward Councillors, partner agencies, Walsall Intelligence Network and the local community:

- Reducing Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour
- Positive Activities for Young People
- Cleaner Streets & Greener Spaces
- Support and Positive Activities for the Over 50s
- Road & Pavement Maintenance & Safety
- Improving Health

- Reducing Loneliness and Social Isolation in Older People

3.3 Aldridge & Beacon Ward Councillors: Cllr Andrew, Cllr Bird, Cllr Clarke, Cllr Douglas-Maul, Cllr Harris, Cllr Hughes, Cllr Kudhail, Cllr Murray, Cllr Rochelle, Cllr Sears, Cllr Towe, Cllr Wilson

3.4 Aldridge & Beacon Partners: Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Unit, Youth Support Services (YSS), West Midlands Police, Walsall Housing Group (whg), West Midlands Probation Service, Walsall Intelligence Network, Environmental Health, Reassurance Team, Area Partnerships, Public Health, NHS Walsall Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), Aldridge District Centre, Engineering and Transport, Clean & Green Services, Caldmoreaccord Housing Association, Walsall Voluntary Action, West Midlands Fire Service, Social Care and Inclusion, Leighwood School & Children's Centre, Pheasey Park Farm School & Children's Centre, Area Family Support Team, Trading Standards, Community Development, Streetly Community Association, Aldridge Community Centre, Collingwood Centre, Pheasey Park Farm Community Centre, Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, Sports & Leisure Services, Jobcentre Plus, Citizen Advice Bureau, Welfare Rights, Walsall College, Streetly Library, Aldridge Library, Pheasey Library, Walsall Wood Library, Victim Support, Walsall Adult Community College (WACC), Streetly Neighbourhood Watch, Pheasey Park Farm Neighbourhood Watch, Orchard Hills Neighbourhood Watch, South Aldridge Neighbourhood Watch, North Aldridge Neighbourhood Watch, All Saints Church, St. John's Church, Beacon Church, Aldridge Methodist Church, Pheasey Community Church, The Thomas Project, Friends of Doe Bank Park, Friends of Blackwood Park, Oak Park Leisure Centre, The Hothouse, Aldridge Youth Theatre, Walsall Wood Scouts, Key Ring, Collingwood Autism Support Group, Forget-Me-Not Streetly Dementia Group, Blackwood Pavilion User Group, St. Anne's Coffee Morning Group, Aldridge Friendly Club, Streetly Disabled Senior Citizens Club, Aldridge Volunteer Gardeners, Streetly Community Garden Group, Age UK Walsall, The Well, Brownhills & Walsall Wood Fellowship, Brownhills Community Association, Countryside Services, Walsall Wood Football Club, Aldridge School, Streetly Academy, Castlefort School, St. John's School, Blackwood School, Manor Primary School, Lindens Primary School, Pheasey Park Farm School, Meadow View School, Red Star AFC, Shire Oak Academy, Aldridge Cinema.

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

4.1 CCTV Camera Deployment – through confidential tasking meetings, partners agree the priority areas to deploy CCTV, from the crime statistics fed to the area partnership by the Walsall Intelligence Network, which is data shared by all the major stakeholders. Currently we have CCTV cameras deployed in

Beechy close, Pheasey, Brook Lane, Walsall Wood and Collingwood Drive, Pheasey. We also have a number of Enviro Cameras (covert) across the area to help capture incidents of fly-tipping. These have captured a number of incidents that are now being pursued for prosecution. For example a fly-tipper in Bridle Lane, Streetly was caught on camera and has been fined £1,000 with on-costs including victim surcharge his actual fine came to just over £2,500 for dumping household waste at this location. In November an emergency application came in for a camera to be deployed to Beacon Road, Pheasey, following a number of anti-social behaviour issues outside the shops at this location, the camera from Beechey Close was redeployed here. As of the 17th March, our cameras are deployed in Collingwood Drive and Bridle Lane, Streetly. 19 of the council's 23 envirocams are deployed at locations within the Aldridge & Beacon area.

- 4.2 Flashing CCTV Sign Deployment – through confidential tasking meetings, partners agree the priority areas to deploy CCTV flashing signs, from the crime statistics fed to the area partnerships by the Walsall Intelligence Network, which is data shared by all the major stakeholders. Currently we have a flashing CCTV sign deployed in Middlemore Lane, near to Aldridge Community Centre and Collingwood Drive, Pheasey.
- 4.3 VASS flashing speed warning signs - through partnership with whg a speed warning sign has been purchased for use across two Area Partnership areas (Brownhills, Pelsall, Rushall-Shelfield and Aldridge & Beacon) along with enough additional funding to allow 6 deployments (3 per Area Partnership). VASS speed signage records a driver's speed as they approach and it then displays the speed limit on the screen. It also has the capacity to provide downloads to enable an understanding of average speeds in this location. To be most effective Highways recommend no more than two weeks in any one location. This has been proved to slow drivers down in the short term but not long enough for them to get used to it in situ. The 6 deployment locations are being confirmed and the sign will then be deployed from autumn 2015 in a rolling programme and completed by end of March 2016.
- 4.4 Pheasey and Walsall Wood– the Local Police and Crime Board has provided an ASB Priority Activity and Performance Update which shows from April to June 2015 the vicinity of Pheasey is now considered as a Hotspot Zone. Walsall Wood also has a zone of concern around Oak Park. Through the confidential tasking meeting, partners such as the WM Police, WM Fire Service, Community Safety and Area Partnerships, are monitoring the activities in these locations. Collingwood Drive & Hillingford Avenue, Pheasey there have been a number of issues connected with youth ASB which partners are particularly focusing on.

- 4.5 Aldridge Aggregates & Recycling illegal recycling – due to concerns raised by local residents to ward councillors about the activity on the site, Walsall Council have been monitoring the situation and working with the Environmental Agency. A notice has been served on the site to stop operation and to clear the site by April, 2016 as a deadline for completion.
- 4.6 Neighbourhood Watch Meetings – there have been a number of local meetings for the various Neighbourhood Watch groups since the beginning of June, including the North Aldridge and South Aldridge Schemes. We have received a number of bulletins from Tony Marshall, North Aldridge Neighbourhood Watch which have been shared at the monthly Aldridge & Beacon Partnership meeting.
- 4.7 Blackwood Park, Streetly - has achieved the Green Flag Award for the first time. The park is among a record-breaking 1,582 parks and green spaces that will also receive a prestigious Green Flag Award – the mark of a quality park or green space. Clean & Green Services would like to thank all the volunteers and officers who worked hard to make this happen. A recent “Clean for the Queen” tidy up was held at Blackwood Park and we had over 100 volunteers (including many pupils from the local Blackwood Primary School).
- 4.8 The Transport Museum, Northgate – has secured £5,000 grant from whg’s Local Neighbourhood Fund. The funding will be used to help safeguard its vintage vehicles. For more information about whg funding www.whg.uk.com/community-projects
- 4.9 Networking Groups – meetings took taken place in July. All 4 meetings were well attend with some positive discussions including a suggestion at the Walsall Wood meeting by Cllr Sears to look at how we can reduce social isolation within our communities. We are following this up with support from Walsall Council’s Public Health Department. The dates of the next round of meetings are shown below:-
- Streetly – 23rd February, 2016 All Saints Church
 - Aldridge – 22nd February, 2016 Aldridge Methodist Church
 - Pheasey – TBC
 - Walsall Wood – Monday, 11th April, 2016 The Well, Beacon Way
- 4.10 Stroll in the Park – the group meets Tuesday afternoons leaving the starting point 2:15pm. The walks last 60 – 90 minutes for more information please contact Michael Penketh on 0121 353 0666.
- 4.11 Remembrance Concert, Shelfield Male Voice Choir – Aldridge Methodist Church in partnership with Aldridge Village Partnership Friday 30th October 7:00pm in aid of the poppy Appeal.

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

- 5.1 Aldridge & Beacon's Youth Support Services (YSS) - team continues to provide both supported and detached youth work, which have been taking place across the area. The Summer Programme was delivered across the area; 243 young people attended 17 centre based activities and day trips. Staff have now returned to normal duties running evening sessions at Blackwood Youth centre and Aldridge Manor House, intensive one – one support and Detached street based work. The team are currently developing their October Holiday programme of activities to ensure that ASB is low during this time. To see the full programme please go to www.mywalsall.org/positive/
- 5.2 BBQs In The Park – Blackwood Park Streetly was the venue for BBQs in the Park. This year's events were organised by a number of partners, including Blackwood Pavilion User Group, Streetly Neighbourhood Watch, YSS, Area Partnership and West Midlands Police. The events were funded by the Blackwood Pavilion User Group. This years dates, which all started at 6:00pm:
- Thursday 21st May - 20 young people and 15 adults attended
 - Thursday 25th June – cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances
 - Thursday 23rd July – 30 young people and 25 adults took part in this event. The young people particularly liked the Smoothie Bike as they were able to make smoothies, Banana & Strawberry being a favourite.
 - Thursday 20th August – 28 young people and 20 adults took part in this event. This event encouraged a good turn out by families many of whom brought along picnics to enjoy the park atmosphere.
- 5.3 Troubled Families – As part of the Troubled Families initiative across the borough, I represent Aldridge & Beacon area partnership in the confidential multi-agency meetings. I am pleased to report that there are very few families in our area that are discussed at these meetings.
- 5.4 Park Fun Days – this years Fun Days were organised by Clean & Green Services and took place across the borough. The days included children's rides, storytelling, charity stalls and fun activities. The one in our area took place at Doe Bank Park on Wednesday 19th August which was well attended including support from Cllr Towe, WM Fire Service, Compass Fostering, Cat Protection League, Healthwatch, Clean & Green, RSPCA, Reach-up Climbing Tower, Move Truck and the Belly Buster game.

- 5.5 Aldridge Youth Theatre – ran a Summer Drama Workshop supported with funding from Aldridge & Beacon Area Partnership. The Workshops took place from Monday 10th till Friday 14th August 10:30 – 3:30pm for 8 to 16year olds. The event focused on drama, music and movement from around the world. The workshops were well attended with 32 young people taking part. Cllr Rochelle, Wendy Morton MP and Area Manager visited on the Thursday to see the young people in action. The final performance took place on the Friday which was well attended by parents and friends of the young people performers. The week was also supported by the Theatre volunteers including a couple of older young people who had been involved in previous years workshops who wanted to offer their support.
- 5.6 31st Sutton Coldfield West Scout Group, based in Streetly – has received £80,000 grant from Veolia Environmental Trust to help with the building of a Scout facility/community centre. The grant has been awarded through the Landfill Communities Fund for more information www.veoliatrust.org/
- 5.7 Light Party (a positive alternative to Halloween) – Saturday 31st October 5:00 – 7:00pm at St Martin’s Church free event open to all, fancy dress but not ghouls, monsters or witches. Light up the night walk will also be taking place. For more details and to book a place contact juliepenney-smartinschurch@outlook.com

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

- 6.1 Aldridge Village Partnership – Aldridge District Centre Officer Diane Mansell has worked with the local businesses in Aldridge Village and Aldridge Volunteer Gardens to help make improvements for the Britain in Bloom competition. The judging took place 10th September with the Village winning a Gold Award and Best in Category.
- 6.2 Use of social media – through the use of Twitter and Facebook, we are working more than ever with local businesses to promote them through our Facebook pages:-
- <https://www.facebook.com/LetsdoitinStreetly>
 - <https://www.facebook.com/DoltInAldridge>

- <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Lets-do-it-in-Pheasey/337780146321859>
- <https://www.facebook.com/letsdoitinWalsallWood>

The latest “likes” to these pages are:-

- Let’s Do It In Aldridge – 904 likes
- Let’s Do It In Streetly – 310 likes
- Let’s Do It In Walsall Wood – 384 likes
- Let’s Do It In Pheasey – 67 likes
- Facebook Friends - 614
- Twitter – 615 followers

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

7.1 Family Fit N Fundays – 3 events took place this year; Walsall Wood, Streetly and Pheasey:

- **Walsall Wood** Oak Park Leisure Centre took place Saturday 4th July with support from Walsall Wood Football Club, Cllr Clarke and Cllr Sears. Roller Skating, Swimming Fun Sessions, Dojo demonstrations, Reach-up Climbing Tower, Move Truck, Bouncy Castle, mini-motors, fitness demonstrations, Boys Brigade 5-a-Side Football competition. Also there was a Market Place area with stalls from Area Partnerships, Care User Support Partnership, Walsall Friends of The Earth, 1st Walsall Wood Scout Group, Specsavers, Compass Fostering, NHS Walsall Health Care Trust Bujinkan Kouryuu Walsall Dojo, Sports Plus Scheme and Cancer Care all providing information. There was a Magician on hand to provide entertainment, WM Fire Service came with their Fire Engine, WM Police came for a visit and whg provided their outreach van to engage with visitors. Overall 500 approximately people attended the day; Reach-up & Move Truck had approximately 200 young people and 60 parents, 275 people attended the Bouncy Castle & min-motors, 87 roller skating, 43 Swimming Fun Sessions. Overall it wasn’t as busy as last year but those that attended said they enjoyed the event.
- **Streetly** Veseyans Rugby Club took place Saturday 25th July with support from Veseyans Rugby Club, Cllr Kudhail, Wendy Morton MP, Area Partnership, Beacon Dog Agility demonstrations, Touch Rugby Activity, a virtual sponsored cycle from the Rugby Club to

Twickenham to raise money for the Air Ambulance Team, Reach-up Climbing Tower, Move Truck with a performance from Streetly Community Choir 'Sing2gether', Bouncy Castles, Dan Hemingway Fitness Coaching, Children's Balloon maker and Squiggles Entertainment Face Painter & Body Art. Also there was a Market Place area with stalls from Walsall Midwifery Led Service www.walsallhealthcare.nhs.uk/mlu.aspx, The Streetly Association and showcasing of ten local craft based businesses. Just over 500 people attended the day with over 200 young people climbing the Reach-up Tower.

- **Pheasey** Collingwood Centre took place Saturday 1st August with support from Collingwood Centre, Cllr Bird, Cllr Towe, Area Partnership, Friends of Pheasey Library, Pheasey Park Farm Children's & Nursery Centre, Pheasey Community Church, Reach-up Climbing Tower, Move Truck and 1940's USA Army Vehicles. In the Children's Hall there was the Belly Buster game to challenge young people & their parents on their healthy eating knowledge, Face Painting, Teddy Bear Tombola and Balloon making. In the main hall where refreshments were available there were First Aid Demonstrations, advice on Will writing, craft activities along with a Tombola store. Just under 300 people attended the day with 100 young people climbing the Reach-up Tower many for the first time.

7.2 Rosie's Walk and Festival, Aldridge Airport – took place Sunday 5th July with almost 400 walkers taking part with nearly £10,000 being raised for the Helping Hands charity. The event had a Bollywood vs Hollywood theme and the money raised at the festival will go towards helping projects supported by the charity.

7.3 Pheasey Craft Group, Collingwood Centre – who meet every Thursday have been helping victims of the Nepal earthquake by producing blankets for people who have been made homeless by the earthquake. The group also knit for other good causes and will put donations of wool to very good use.

7.4 Streetly Library Secret Garden – Area Partnerships have funded £3,763.88 towards a "secret garden" within Streetly Library, offering a quiet space for people, especially children to read in a safe, secure setting which will improve well-being. The space has always been there, but with no access to it and the space being overgrown, the funding has been used to install an access door, clear the space and produce a perfect space for the community.

- 7.5 Streetly Association Dishwasher – Area Partnerships have funded £704 to allow the centre to purchase a dishwasher in order to support a much valued senior citizen luncheon club, which has over 100 members from the local community.
- 7.6 Anchorage 55+ Club – Area Partnerships have funded £2,100 as a contribution to the club to help them replace their old, worn out equipment with new, updated equipment, which will enable the members and guests to the club to have a better experience when they visit, and in turn this will also attract new members.
- 7.7 Aldridge and Streetly Christmas Tree Festivals – Area Partnerships have contributed £600 towards the two Christmas Tree Festivals that are taking place at Aldridge Methodist Church, Aldridge and All Saints Church, Streetly. Both events will be held on Friday, 4th December until Sunday, 6th December. This is the third year that the Streetly Christmas Tree Festival will have taken place, and the second year for Aldridge.
- 7.8 St. Anne's Coffee Morning Group – Area Partnerships have contributed £1,500 towards a number of trips, arranged to take older people (50-95 years) on several trips to provide an outlet for befriending, interaction and fun and to reduce social isolation and loneliness. These trips are also open to members and their families from the Streetly Dementia Group – Forget Me Not.
- 7.9 Brewood Ringers – Back To Nature – Area Partnerships have contributed £1,152.50 towards new equipment for the group, new nets for capturing birds and insects. The new equipment will be demonstrated through 4 demonstration events throughout the autumn / winter 2015/6.
- 7.10 Men In Sheds – inspired by the learning and outcomes of Men's Sheds set up in Australia, a movement is now growing in popularity across the UK. Over the past few months, Area Partnerships has been working with West Midlands Fire Service and Royal Voluntary Service to see how a shed could work locally. An initial meeting was held on the 13th January, attracting a large gathering from local community group leaders. The aims for the Men In Sheds group are:-
- We envisage supporting the set-up of an Aldridge Men's Shed. We want the Shed to become a place for making, mending and hobbies where men and women will feel at home and pursue practical interests with a high degree of autonomy – a self-directed space for constructive activity that can help to address social connections particularly among older men and women - a place to meet new friends and regain a sense of purpose.
 - We want to support the creation of a space where members can come together to share the tools and resources they need to work on projects of

their own choosing at their own pace – or be part of a larger joint community project if they so wish - in a safe, friendly and inclusive venue.

- We want to support the creation of a place of skill-sharing and informal learning, of purpose, achievement and social interaction – to help reduce the isolation and loneliness often felt by older people as they move into retirement, experience a decline in their health or the loss of family and friends.
- We want to support the practical renovation of a disused space into a usable and welcoming workshop space – but more importantly - we want to make a difference to Aldridge residents by providing an alternative meeting space that enables increased social contact and well-being and opportunities for lasting friendships between people.

A meeting was held on Friday, 12th February at the Aldridge Youth Theatre, and over 50 potential “shedders” attended that meeting. There have been several meetings since, plus a visit to the nearby Moseley & King’s Heath Shed. Sean Carey, West Midlands Fire Service is leading on this project. At this time the group are still looking for premises to work out of.

7.11 Aspire2Engage Project – working in partnership with Walsall Football Club Community Programme, we are developing a new project called Aspire2Engage. The idea of the project is to link in local community groups with the football club, who have a responsibility set down by the Football League Trust to help deliver activities that promote, engage and develop the local community in 4 strategic priority areas, which are 1) Participation 2) Education 3) Health 4) Inclusion. The Community Partnership team are working with us on this project, who are themselves a registered charity, and a separate entity to the commercial arm of the football club. From a speculative email back in December, to date we have held 2 events at the football club, engaging with over 50 people from the local community. The incentive we offer to local groups to engage with us is up to 30 free tickets for a Walsall FC home match, including press coverage and publicity on the day to raise awareness of the group and the work they do within the local community.

There are 2 more events, on the 17th March and 14th April, allowing more groups the opportunity to engage.

There is also a borough-wide showcase event at the football club on Monday, 27th June. This showcase will promote 100 local community groups and organisations that offer activities, events and volunteer opportunities to the residents in the borough. It is hoped that by showcasing the good work that the community & voluntary sector offer, local businesses will commit to helping these groups through their corporate social responsibility policy, with a community grant scheme the ultimate end goal.

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