

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

Updated March 2015

Ongoing Updates on the Actions for Brownhills, Pelsall, Rushall - Sheffield Area Plan

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. 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

3. 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

3.1 **Brownhills Town Centre Partnership** – The partnership is in the midst of constituting to a non profit community interest company. This will

allow them to apply for external funding to deliver the priorities set by the partnership in the annual Action Plan.

3.2 **Appearance of Town Centre** - The Town Centre regeneration officer and Environmental Health colleagues have been working alongside local outlets in Brownhills to ensure the appearance of the town is maintained and free from litter, further activity is underway to further enhance the appearance of the town and tackle accumulations of blown litter throughout the footprint.

3.3 Brownhills Canal Festival – The festival will take place on Sunday 28 June 2015, with a variety of acts performing throughout the day and an opportunity to browse stalls and exhibitions.

4 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

4.1 **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.

4.2 **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.

4.3 **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.

- 4.4 **Manor Farm Community Association** – The Silver Scheme Project was recently awarded a lottery grant of £325,000 for the continuation of its service to residents across the partnership. The hugely successful initiative has continued for the past twelve months at limited capacity since the original funding ceased in 2013. The award will enable this to grow and continue for a further three years.

5. **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

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

Camera 1 currently awaiting deployment into Townfold, Pelsall.

Camera 2 currently located in Yew Tree Road, Shelfield.

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. An example of this is the deployment of a nomad camera in Spring Close, to support community conversation around issues experienced at the adjacent garage site.

- 5.2 **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. Preparation and submission of a planning application for the erection of fencing on top of the bridge is underway, with conversations taking place to advise on the design, layout and specification.
- 5.3 **Turners Wood, Pelsall** - A community action day to progress with the development of the site continue with support from the Friends of Pelsall Common. Information will be circulated once details are confirmed.

- 5.4 **Rushall Playing Fields** – In conjunction with West Midlands Police and Youth Support Services the issues around the use of mini-moto's used within this area continues to be addressed through positive engagement with young people. The parks team are also now engaged and are liaising directly with youth support services to share information where appropriate. The successful seizure of a problematic mini moto took place recently and the rider identified by the local neighbourhood team.
- 5.5 **Winterley Lane** – It was previously reported that following a period of wet weather vehicles entering and exiting the site in Winterley Lane left an increased amount of clay and mud on the road surface. Due to the immediate risk this posed to users of the road it was deemed unsafe in its current condition and an emergency road closure was enforced. Action continues in this location to ensure the operating conditions are met.

6. Improving safeguarding and learning chances for children and young people

- 6.1 **Local Area Co-Coordinator (LAC) Update** – During the original recruitment exercise in October, two successful candidates were selected to fill the available posts, one of which will be a dedicated resource to the Brownhills ward area, the other for the Bentley – Darlaston North Ward. Commencement of posts took place in early February.

The posts were previously identified within the Communities and Public Protection team, Neighbourhood Services, however it was previously reported that the posts have been transferred to the Children's services directorate and will now be led by Andrea Potts and Isabel Vanderheeren.

The posts are now aligned to priorities within the Children's Services directorate and will be developing around families and young people, a decision was taken that the posts would both focus upon the Darlaston area and will no longer be a resource for the Brownhills ward area.

- 6.2 **Youth Support Services** – The current youth provision within the area is set to continue in its current guise until 31, August 2015. Current indications within the cabinet report detail that youth provision for our area partnership will continue to run through the third sector from buildings located at Brownhills Activity Centre and The Hub, Cherwell Drive, Brownhills.

Council owned youth centres will be reviewed to look at options around making them available for us by the third sector, this applies to Pelsall Youth Centre within our area partnership. Outreach services will be offered to Pelsall and Rushall – Sheffield wards in addition to the buildings highlighted for delivery of services in the paragraph above.

- 6.3 **Brownhills – Holland Park** The park will see the installation of nine pieces of outdoor gym equipment in the coming weeks, providing free outdoor options for local people to get active and become involved in social exercise sessions. The installation includes equipment suitable for people with disabilities, and is accessible from the main pathway between the skate park and the children’s play equipment.
- 6.4 **Rushall Playing Fields** Confirmation has now been received that the skate park in this location has been approved, it is anticipated that the development and installation of this site will take place in autumn 2015.
- 6.5 **High Heath Park** – It was previously reported that the Park Ranger and Councillor Rattigan were working closely on a funding bid to Biffa to address the drainage and produce a wetland area for local schools to take advantage of for education purposes. The outcome of this is yet to be reported.
- 6.6 **Princes Trust** – We are working in conjunction with the Princes Trust, identifying local young people to participate in their 12 week courses and providing suggestions to facilitate possible community activities for the team to undertake as their community project. The Princes Trust provide a 12 week programme giving young people the chance to improve self esteem, confidence and to gain skills through a variety of activities, folder based written work and work experience placements. At the closing ceremony of the recent course young people provided a presentation around their personal development and the

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