

## **APB Meeting – 28<sup>th</sup> September - Rudheath & Witton Neighbourhood**

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The following report updates progress in the neighbourhood since the last Area Partnership Board meeting.

The report will update progress against each of the following headings:

- Neighbourhood Plans
- Community Representatives
- Community Activities
- Town & Parish Plans
- Big Local – getting people Involved

Taking each of the above the following actions are underway:

### **1. Neighbourhood Plans**

The plans were reviewed by the Interim Neighbourhood Partnership Board at a recent meeting held Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September. The plans are on target with no major issues being raised. Minutes of the meeting and copies of the plans are available on request via the N&RN area working team.

#### **1.1 Key activities underway**

- Creation of a supporting Connexions plan to take the Youth Task Group forward to next phase. This phase will include an intergenerational initiative between the Schools and elderly residents and youth representation on the new Community Board.
- The development of a neighbourhood web site which will be hosted by the Community High School. Work has now commenced on building the site with draft proposals put to a recent community network meeting
- Community Network meetings being run every 6 weeks with positive turn out from local representatives. .
- The Big Local Consultation has completed with analysis nearing completion.
- Big Local Phase 2 being prepared (see Item 5 below)
- Community representative guidelines prepared in draft for comments and feedback.
- Elderly Initiatives being developed in readiness for winter period EG Winter Warmth project being organised by Cheshire Community Development Trust (CCDT)
- Big Fun Day for 2012 will be held at Rudheath Community High School - planning commenced.

#### **1.2 Statistics**

All planned actions on target

### **2. Community Representatives**

There are now 20 representatives registered across the eleven locations (see map in Appendix 1), with all locations having at least one representative. There are a further 10 registered volunteers willing to support activities in their locations.

The recent Big Local consultation has identified a further potential 60 people interested in getting further involved and these have been allocated to their respective community rep for follow up contact.

## **2.1 Key Activities underway**

- CCDT providing resource to work in some of the key community locations (B and F) where we require additional reps or volunteers.
- All existing reps have taken on task to contact the relevant residents in their locations of the 60 individuals who have shown interest via questionnaire returns.
- Work to commence to agree governance of the new Community Board on which 11 community representatives will sit. The board is due to be in place before the end of 2012.

## **3. Community Activities**

Each of the community representatives have been asked to look at commencing local initiatives in their respective locations.

As with all volunteers and community activists, their time commitments vary as does their ability to manage and co-ordinate resources, plan activities etc.

The community reps in Location J acquired £1300 funds to provide youth diversionary activities during the summer months. They targeted youths involved in the Belmont Road Play are ASB and engaged with them in outdoor pursuits activities.

A number of volunteers and representatives from Location A have been working at Northwich Train Station supporting the local Friends of Northwich Train Station (FONTS) Work includes litter picking, grass cutting, gardening and general maintenance of fencing, plat tubs etc. The Environment & Transport sub-group will be linking with the FONTS members to undertake the work in the station action plan.

The Health & Well-being sub-group are working on introducing a weekly community cycle ride at Roker Park, once the scheme has been drafted the community reps will be invited to help plan, organise and run the initiative.

### **3.1 Key Activities underway**

- FONTS continue to plan improvement activities of the Station and surrounding area.
- The R&W conservation group has scheduled clearing parties at the planned orchard site in preparation for preparing the ground for fruit tree planting. See their progress update in Appendix 2.
- A food co-operative initiative is underway, with reps visiting other areas of CWAC for best practice as part of its tasks to creating a business plan.
- In conjunction with Groundwork, the community reps are supporting Grozone activities and will be working with them to assist with an exit programme that will eventually see Grozone moving into community ownership.
- The first formal community group is planning to be established in Location A, plans underway to follow up with a community group in location E using the residents involved in the Belmont Road Play area meetings.
- Meetings to be planned to develop the summer youth activities project into a wider neighbourhood scheme.

### **3.2 Statistics**

£7,000 of funding obtained with further funding coming from INEOS (subject to approval)

## **4. Town & Parish Plans**

The neighbourhood has been moving towards community activities and plans supported by partners and key agencies. In line with this aim we have been working with Cheshire Community Action (CCA) to agree a local approach to implementing community led parish and town plans.

This approach will create a sustainable platform to reinforce and continue a community led neighbourhood. To this end an outline approach using the Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE) nine step process was recently tabled at the Rudheath Parish Council for their support and endorsement to proceed. Support was given and two councillors have been nominated to sit on the Parish Plan Committee.

Informal discussions have also taken place with key Northwich Town Council representatives with a view to seeking their support to proceed with a similar approach for a community led Town plan. The principles of the above were also put to the Interim Neighbourhood Partnership Board who have also endorsed the approach.

#### **4.1 Key activities underway**

- Arrangements to be made with CCA to organise the first Rudheath Public Parish meeting to propose the community led planning approach to the community and seek their support and involvement.
- The five location (G,H,I,J and K) Community Representatives will be invited to sit on the steering committee plus other local volunteers
- Formal proposal to be made to Northwich Town Council to seek their support to proceed with a town plan.

#### **4.2 Statistics**

- Neither Rudheath nor Northwich Town parishes have previously undertaken community plans.
- It will take approximately 12 to 24 months to create these plans.
- It will cost approximately £18,000 to support the planning processes and deliver the plans.

### **5. Big Local – getting people Involved**

The Consultation period completed at the end of July. Analysis of the feedback is nearing completion. This work has been achieved through a participatory appraisal approach undertaken by Groundwork.

The consultation work was part of Big Local Phase 1 and cost £10,000. Big Local Phase 2 will provide a further £20,000 funds to further develop the phase one outcomes and to prepare our interface with the wider communities not directly involved in the earlier consultation. This next phase will underpin the principles of the community led planning approach discussed in Item 4 and will also deliver a Community Plan.

The Community Plan will address issues and comments made from the consultation phase and will include the following:

- Service improvements
- Youth activities
- Community initiatives
- Community led Planning

In order to support and manage this plan a Community Board will be created. The £1m Big Lottery funds will be made available to support the plan where needed. The board will be encouraged to seek a variety of funding streams to meet the community plan.

The Community Plan will be reviewed post creation of the proposed parish plan and any agreed Town plan in order to ensure neighbourhood wide activities are maintained and that the correct activities are placed under the remit of the Parish and Town Councils

### **5.1 Key Activities underway**

- Finalising analysis of consultation phase
- Feedback of findings and conclusions to key community stakeholders
- Publishing consultation outcomes to the public
- Sign off of phase one by Big Local
- Creation of Phase two plans and approach by Groundwork.
- Development of Community Board role and governance

### **5.2 Statistics**

- Over 450 residents were involved in the consultation process.
- Over 60 residents showed interest in further involvement in Phase 2 and local initiatives
- Big Local has appointed the Community Development Fund (CDF) to manage the £220m allocated to the programme.
- The neighbourhoods £1m has already been invested by the CDF and is accruing interest. Any interest made will be included in the final sum allocated to the neighbourhood communities.
- We will be commencing a 10 year programme of activities with Phase 2 being the start.

Appendix 1 – Neighbourhood locations Map



## Appendix 2

This is to let you know what is happening with the orchard.

Cynthia and I met Pete Attwood, Mike Inger and about ten volunteers from Crewe and we cut down and raked all the site of weeds, then with Mike's help plot out the orchard pathway and staked it. Pete is coming on Monday to finish the strimming. Cynthia and I will be there too just to check we have marked it all right and in case Pete has any queries. Then Tuesday at 10am the Sky volunteers are coming to help us dig the path. Steven says we can order our stuff and they will deliver whenever we want it. Obviously, we want the edgings etc on Tuesday. Beth Allcock put a bit in the Guardian about the 20th so maybe we might get more volunteers. She sent a photographer so I will send her a press release asap for next week although all newsquest staff are on strike next week.

Cynthia please email me your photos from Tuesday to include in my blog and press release. Also to upload on our natwest profile. Kevin - can we use the site lock up? If so may I have a key? Ant can you also email over any site photos you may have?

Other news - Jo Sayers says our bid is now being decided on 29th Sept. The local Youth Club will definitely collaborate with us and we need to make a stage with them for Apple Day as the kids are putting on a music show. I will see about a performance licence asap. I was thinking we could ask the Horticulture pupils at Grozone to clear the weeds in October if the tutor agrees. This will give us more space for stalls or a performance area. The Youth club can provide us with gazebos and tables via Connexions.

Beth Allcock's boyfriend is a professional film maker and will film our Apple day for free to make a funding promo dvd so I am not using Ken now.

The Parish Council meeting was very positive, all of the councillors present were impressed with the orchard and I have emailed them details and asked for support.

I will have to use my mobile or Hanna Montana camera as I need to make and post the film tomorrow because the deadline is almost up ( Sunday) and voting will then be open so we need to promote voting for us!! and I am out all weekend having fun with steam trains and kites. I am going to do a weird cartoony film with some apples talking! Well that is the plan as the other videos on Youtube look stale and boring so we will stand out. Even if it is rubbish, it will be different! I could also use Jesse's toys in the film. My rabid brain will have a think and then it depends on if I can edit things ok online.

Ok chaps and chappesses, c u soon ,

Thanks Abby