



East Area Board

Neighbourhood Governance Progress Report: March 2015 – May 2015

Date: Wednesday 24th June 2015

Name of Chair: Councillor Alan Skepelhorn

Reporting Officer: Gary J. Roberts

(On behalf of the East Luton Partnership Group)

This report gives an overview of the progress on addressing community priorities in East Luton, which were agreed with local people, councillors, and council partners as part of the 'Your Say, Your Way' programme.



East Luton update

Residents decided how money was spent to improve their local areas.

The East Luton 'Decision Day' took place on 17 March at Ramridge Primary School. The council organised the event as part of the 'Your Say, Your Way' funding programme and over 120 people attended to listen to the project presentations.

Attendees were asked to vote for the projects they felt would most benefit their local community and because of the amount of funding available, all 17 projects were successful on the night. We look forward to working with them all over the coming months and we're excited to see the community benefit in East Luton.

The community decision days give local people an opportunity to decide how public money is spent to improve their neighbourhoods. The projects awarded funding all aim to make a real difference to local communities and there will be another chance for groups to apply next year.

Organisation/ group	Amount applied for	Project idea
23rd Luton Boys Brigade	£1,263	23rd Luton Boys Brigade
Active Luton	£1,500	Friday night football and basketball project
Friends of Putteridge Primary School	£1,469	Community Festival
GreenHouse Mentoring	£1,320	Training of volunteers
Groundwork Luton & Bedfordshire	£1,500	Growing project working in local schools to address childhood obesity
Hart Hill Adventure Playgrounds	£1,480	Football Tournament 'Ryan's Cup'
Hart Lane Education Centre	£1,500	Series of themed festival events
Level Trust	£1,500	Shoes for schools. Targeting the most deprived schools in the area
One Nation ERSO	£1,500	Walking football project. Targeting some of the hard to reach groups in the east Luton area
The Pragati Women's Organisation	£1,500	Awareness of harmful chemicals in daily life
Raynham Way Pre-School	£1,500	Purchase and installation of sensory equipment at the pre-school
St. Anne's Church	£1,500	'Pop in club'. Purchase of new equipment for the parent and toddler club
Stopsley Village Pre-school	£1,499.94	Development of the outdoor play space
Friends and Parents of Tina's School of Dance	£900	Summer School for the benefit of children in the East Luton area
Luton Carnival Arts	£1,500	Carnival Arts project working with specific schools in the East Luton area
Children's Links	£1,500	Steel storage container for new youth provision
Friends of East Luton	£1,500	Volunteering in the community and promotion of activities particularly for older people. Focus on addressing isolation and loneliness

Targeted Youth Service update.

The Targeted Youth Development Team is pleased to report that the good work at the Ashcroft Youth Zone continues. The team are busy engaging with a number of families, children and young people from the East Luton area.

The Targeted Youth Work Team is also working intensively with 16 young people and their families, who are some of the most vulnerable local residents.

For information about youth services in your area contact Abdul Halim, Youth Development Worker, on 01582 607688.

A partnership approach to anti social behaviour.

A new youth club was introduced at Hart Hill Adventure Playground in February 2015. The new group was introduced after the local community raised concerns about anti social behaviour taking place at the playground.

Bedfordshire Police, Youth Offending Service, Housing, Community Safety, the Youth Service, Safer Luton Partnership, Area Boards, Neighbourhood Governance, ward councillors and representatives from Children's Links all came together to launch the club, which has been a resounding success so far.

For more information please call Tom or Sharon at the playground on 01582 431311.

If you experience anti social behaviour you should contact the Local Neighbourhood Policing Team on 101 but in cases of an emergency always dial 999.

Stronger and safer communities



The Big Iftaar

Following the success of the first event last year, Luton will host a second annual Big Iftaar on 10 July 2015 at St. Georges Square.

This year the event will focus on two themes; 'No-one will go hungry in Luton during Ramadhan' and 'The Srebrenica Massacre; a commemoration' and will involve local partners Luton Borough Council, the Police, InspireFM, the local 'Remembering Srebrenica' and members of the local Challney communities.

The Luton Big Iftaar event will begin at 7pm.

Breaking fast will begin at approximately 9.15pm and all those in attendance will be invited to join the community feast.

InspireFM will lead a food drive in the week leading up to the event and will be collecting donations at the Dallow Community Centre. The collection will then be packed up and distributed on the day of the Big Iftaar.

On the day volunteers will be needed to collect and distribute the food donations. If you'd like to volunteer, donate or be involved in the event please contact the following;

Volunteering for event
volunteering@luton.gov.uk

Donating Food for Food bank
Mohammed Tariq m.tariq@inspirefm.org

Donating Food for Luton Big Iftaar
Rehana Faisal rehanafaisal@ymail.com

Challney Community Festival
Shohir Uddin Shohir.Uddin@luton.gov.uk

Luton in Harmony Campaign

The Luton in Harmony campaign is a community movement that seeks to promote diversity and cohesion in Luton. Now in its fifth year, the campaign group is working hard to build a positive reputation for the town.

Luton in Harmony is looking to raise awareness of the campaign and already has a presence in local schools, colleges, the university and in other local organisations and businesses. The campaign is already well known at local festivals and community events.

The Luton in Harmony team would like to encourage you to find out more information about what they do and how you could help by visiting their website. Local people and organisations can show their support in many ways including wearing the Luton in Harmony badge, displaying information and banners or getting involved in local events.

If you would like further information about the campaign, or would like to become part of Luton in Harmony please contact Maureen Drummond, Project Manager Luton in Harmony, on 01582 547 228 or by email on Maureen.Drummond@luton.gov.uk





Stronger and safer communities

Creative People & Places 2014-2017

In 2014 a group of Luton Arts organisations secured £686,000 of investment for art projects in Luton. The programme, called Luton Creates, aims to increase the number of local Luton people who engage and participate in high quality arts. It also aims to inspire local people to become more involved with the arts by building stronger relationships with communities.

Luton Creates wants to take audiences on a journey and is looking to interest people who are new to the arts and challenge those who already engage with art to try different experiences.

Community engagement is a key part of Luton Creates so local Creative Community Forums have been set up at Chaul End, Futures and Bury Park Community Centres.

Future projects and programmes by Luton Creates will be based on four main areas; Bringing artists from outside Luton to inspire local artists and communities to develop their own ideas; Communities working with artists in Luton to create projects to bid for Your Way Your Say funding; Creating residencies for artists from Luton and elsewhere to work within a community and; Developing creative connections between artists and communities to encourage discussion and debate about the arts.

Karen Perkins Director of Arts & Museums at Luton culture Consortium Lead for the CPP Project **Karen.Perkins@lutonculture.com 01582546726.**



Luton celebrates VE Day

Lutonians came out to join in the celebrations of the 70th anniversary of VE Day marking the end of the Second World War in Europe.

The celebratory event, which took place on Friday 8 May outside the Town Hall featured songs and dance styles reminiscent of the 1940s. Luton in Harmony's project manager, Maureen Drummond was the MC for the event which included performances by Sacred Heart Primary School Choir who sang a number of old-time favourites including 'We'll meet again' and 'Wish me luck as you wave me goodbye'.

Jazz singer Konni Deppe, accompanied by guitarist Nils Solberg, and Ukulele band Ukie Toones got people swaying and tapping their toes with their performances. And children and young people from Tina's School of Dance and The Hat Factory based Street Dance Productions showcased their amazing dance talents.

Luton also participated in a beacon lighting ceremony supported by 678 (The Rifles) Squadron Army Air Corps and Bedfordshire Police cadets. The formal part of the proceedings included the Council's Chief Executive Trevor Holden reading a tribute to remember those who sacrificed their lives at home and abroad. A bugler player then marked the beginning and end of a two-minute silence. The High Sheriff of Bedfordshire, the Countess of Erroll and Mayor of Luton Cllr Mohammed Farooq lit the commemorative beacon together as others were lit in towns and cities across the country.

The Town Hall and the War Memorial were also illuminated with red and blue lights to reflect the buildings which were lit up on VE Day in 1945.

Trevor Holden, Chief Executive, Luton Borough Council, said: "The rain could not dampen the spirits of the performers and spectators as Luton celebrated the 70th anniversary of Victory in Europe. This special day gave us the opportunity to reflect on the roles played by the many local men and woman in the armed forces, as well as civilians, and to pay tribute to those who bravely risked their lives to help defend this country to give us the freedom we all enjoy today."



Health and wellbeing



Luton CCG Updates:

Under the weather? Why not visit the Pharmacist?

Did you know that your community pharmacist is qualified to give you advice on a wide range of health issues and treatments?

Next time you wake up with a sore throat, hayfever or you're just a little unwell, think about visiting your local pharmacist first. You don't usually have to make an appointment and many treatments cost less than the price of a prescription, so the visit could also save you money!

Remember - if you are worried about your health or have an ongoing health concern, you should still seek advice from your local GP.

New patient survey on Community Musculoskeletal (CMSK) services – have your say

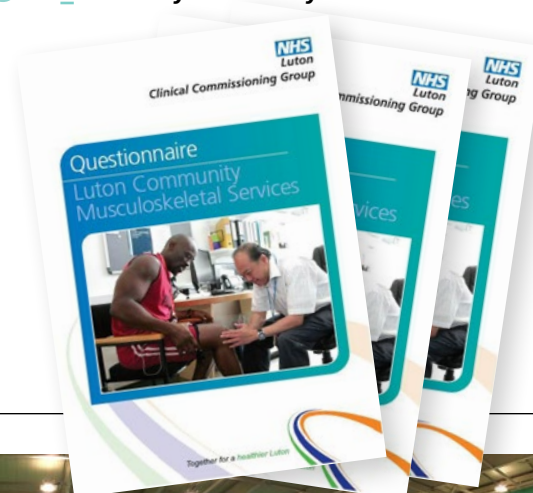
We're always keen to discover what you think about our services. So, if you are receiving or have received treatment from our CMSK service for conditions such as a bad back or sore shoulder, please tell us about your experience and let us know how we can improve things. Your views matter and they will help us to decide how we design this service in the future.

You can pick up a paper version of the survey at the service (the return postage is free) or complete it online at <http://consult.luton.gov.uk/portal>. The deadline is 5pm on Friday 12 June 2015.

Get health tips from our Twitter feed

If you're looking for health tips, reliable health advice or want to know more about our work, follow us on Twitter!

You can find us at twitter.com/nhsLuton_lccg or search for [@nhs_LCCG](https://twitter.com/nhs_LCCG) if you already have a Twitter account.



Luton Drugs and Alcohol Partnership:

A new drug and alcohol treatment pathway has been agreed by the council and its partners and will now begin to be implemented. The pathway will focus on recovery outcomes and will be based around a new 'Recovery hub'. The hub will be a community space offering a wide range of support to those looking to recover from drug and alcohol misuse and was made possible by £500,000 in funding.

Teams and services that provide recovery services are redesigning the current service, including how it is delivered. Their aim is to create a service that offers people who are affected by addiction the best chance of recovery and an opportunity to achieve their own personal goals. Having a more visible local recovery community will also act as an inspiration to others in Luton who continue to struggle with addiction.

The new pathway and redesigned service will increase the number of positive outcomes and recoveries, offer better value for money and most importantly tackle the harm that drug and alcohol causes to local people and communities.



Fight Klub comes to Luton

Active Luton launched the popular 'Fight Klub' class at a special event at Lea Manor Recreation Centre in March 2015.

The workout is a combination of boxing, kick-boxing and dance, and involves punching and kicking a free-standing punch bag to motivational, high tempo music.

Helen Barnett, Chief Executive of Active Luton, said: "Fight Klub workouts are fun, effective, easy to follow and suitable for all levels of fitness. We had a huge turnout for our launch event and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

"If you're looking for something fresh, new and fun which has huge benefits to your health and fitness, we think this could be the answer!"

Regular Fight Klub sessions are held at Lea Manor Recreation Centre on the following days:

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| ■ Thursdays: 8.05–9.05pm | ■ Mondays: 7.30–8.30pm |
| ■ Wednesdays: 8–9pm | ■ Saturdays: 10.30–11.30am |

For more information visit www.activeluton.gov.uk and www.fightklub.co.uk



Environment and economy



Getting out of the house into a career

As part of Volunteering Week 2015 (from 1-7 June), Luton Borough Council is promoting the many benefits of volunteering. They recently spoke to Viji Desikan who is one of many success stories from the Council's own volunteering programme.

Spending days at home cooking and doing the housework was proving to be dull and uninspiring for 31 year-old Viji Desikan when she arrived in the UK from India.

"I was working in India as a technical editor but had to give that up when I came here. I found being at home all day really frustrating as I felt that I needed to share my experience and skills with others as well as wanting to get out and about and meet new friends."

Viji decided to get out of the house and join Luton Borough Council's volunteer scheme. The authority has been running the programme since 2011 to give residents an opportunity to gain valuable experience while giving something back to the community.

"I began to become involved in various roles", said Viji. "These included working as a community centre assistant, supporting cultural events and as a health champion for the Diabetes UK Luton roadshow."

"I also took an adult learning training course. I enjoyed every minute of volunteering as it gave me new experiences in a range of areas, boosted my confidence and gave me the opportunity to move into a full-time job."

Volunteering also gave Viji the chance to meet lots of new people. "They really appreciated my work and many became mentors who guided me and helped me to learn and grow. They congratulated me when I did well and corrected me if I did something wrong. It was a fantastic learning experience."

Viji is proud that she now has a permanent job as a community centre assistant for Luton culture and fully credits volunteering for her success. "It is the perfect way to learn new skills and obtain practical experience that gives you something to offer prospective employers", she added.

Cllr Jacqui Burnett, Portfolio Holder for community development said: "We are proud of our volunteering scheme and Viji is just one example of the growing number of people who are finding it valuable and a real stepping stone to career opportunities."

"It is open to everyone and I would encourage anyone who is thinking about volunteering to get in touch and find out about the range of opportunities that are available."

For further details on Luton Borough Council's volunteer scheme call 01582 548772 or email volunteering@luton.gov.uk



Outdoor gyms open in Luton parks

Luton Borough Council has opened outdoor gyms in two of its award winning parks and in a local open space to give local residents an opportunity to get fit and healthy.

The pilot project installed outdoor gyms in People's Park, Brantwood Park and in Cohens Yard open space, the equipment is available to use free of charge, 365 days a year.

The specially designed outdoor gym equipment is similar to conventional indoor gym equipment and includes hand bikes, exercise bikes, chest press and a cross trainer.

The gyms are a joint initiative between the Council's Parks Service and Public Health teams and aim to provide opportunities for those with poor health and low incomes to take part in physical activity.

The locations were identified as areas of Luton which have significant health difficulties and it is hoped the gyms will help improve the health of local residents by reducing risk factors such as obesity.

The outdoor gyms give local residents the choice and opportunity to improve their fitness whilst encouraging social interaction. It is also hoped that this will help increase peoples confidence so they are able to join other local health clubs and classes, like those run by Active Luton.

East area updates



St. Anne's Parish Church Parents & Toddlers Club benefit from 'Your Say, Your Way' funding.

The Parents & Toddlers group held an open day on 2 June. It was well attended by parents and children who enjoyed the new children's kitchen and climbing frame which were purchased with 'Your Say, Your Way' funding.



Carol Mitchell, the group's leader, said; "Although we do have a good number attending each week we can still accommodate a few more. If anyone fancies coming along on a Tuesday from 1.30pm to 3pm, they would be very welcome. The church is on the corner of Crawley Green Road and Hart Lane."

For more details contact Carol Mitchell on [07795 324046](tel:07795324046).

Off road motorcycles – "You told the Police. They are doing"

Mini motos, mopeds, quad bikes, trial and any other mechanically propelled vehicles that are driven off road can cause a nuisance and should not be used on public roads, pavements or spaces. Road-registered motorcycles being inappropriately driven can also cause nuisance. These bikes can be very loud and can destroy local parks and open spaces.

PS 5547 Melissa Cunningham confirmed that there are plans to run several policing operations in East Luton using off road police motorbikes and police officers to tackle the emerging issue. This is likely to take place over the spring and into the summer so updates on the progress of this operation will be provided in future area reports.

As much detail as possible is needed about what the riders and bikes look like. Information on where the bikes are coming from, who owns the bike and where they live is also required. **If you have information about illegal off road bikers please report this to the Police by dialling 101.**



Stopsley Village Pre-School make great use of 'Your Say, Your Way' funding.

The Pre-School, which has moved into new premises at Stopsley Community Primary School, has already made excellent use of their 'Your Say, Your Way' funding. The parents and staff have completely refurbished the play area, which is used exclusively by the Pre-School.

The staff recognise that it is important the children are able to enjoy physical activity from a young age. They hope this enjoyment will lead to a greater understanding of the benefits of exercise and healthy living as the children grow up.

The before and after pictures highlight the impressive changes – Well done to all involved!

The Village Beacon (Stopsley Baptist Church)

A group from The Village Beacon (which is part of Stopsley Baptist Church) has been out litter picking. In April the group took to the streets to give the area a good clean up, an activity which they undertake at various times throughout the year.

Not only does the community and local environment enjoy the benefits of the clean up, the volunteers also have a lot of fun!

If you're interested in meeting like minded local people and would like to participate in the next clean up day, please contact the GreenHouse Project on 01582 528213 or email Ian.Pirks@stopsley.net.

YOUR SAY YOUR WAY

...in East Luton

Your Local Councillors

Crawley Ward

Councillor Terry Keens	44 Havelock Road, Luton, LU2 7PR	07809 10 03 85 terry.keens@luton.gov.uk
Councillor James Taylor	69 Bracklesham Gardens, Luton, LU2 8QT	07809 10 03 92 james.taylor@luton.gov.uk

Round Green Ward

Councillor John Baker	10 Holford Way, Luton, LU3 4EB	07809 10 03 79 john.baker@luton.gov.uk
Councillor Irak Chowdhury	49 Overstone Road, Luton, LU4 8QY	07809 10 03 80 irak.chowdhury@luton.gov.uk
Councillor Mark Rivers	30 Kingston Road, Luton, LU2 7SA	07714 13 97 13 mark.rivers@luton.gov.uk

Stopsley Ward

Councillor Michael Dolling	125 Old Bedford Road Luton LU3 1LF	01582 42 96 46 michael.dolling@luton.gov.uk
Councillor Meryl Dolling	125 New Bedford Road, Luton, LU3 1LF	07809 10 03 82 meryl.dolling@luton.gov.uk

Wigmore Ward

Councillor Peter Chapman	268 Old Bedford Road, Luton, LU2 7EQ	01582 72 32 93 peter.chapman@luton.gov.uk
Councillor Diane Moles	12 Nightingale Close, Luton, LU2 8EZ	01582 72 32 93 diane.moles@luton.gov.uk
Councillor Alan Skepelhorn	15 Lennox Green, Luton, LU2 8UT	01582 27 18 51 alan.skepelhorn@luton.gov.uk

East Luton Local Policing Team

General Contact Telephone: 101

Emergencies Telephone: 999

Email: LPT.luton-east@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk

Web: www.bedfordshire.police.uk

Looking for more information?

For further information on this report or the "Your Say, Your Way" programme please call us on 01582 55 87 81 or 01582 54 69 85 or email:

Gary J. Roberts	gary.roberts@luton.gov.uk
Emma Colclough	emma.colclough@luton.gov.uk

Web: www.luton.gov.uk



Upcoming community events in East Luton

Ramridge Primary School & East Luton Community Festival

Saturday 27 June 2015

At Ramridge Primary School,

Turners Road North, Luton, LU2 9AH

★ Bouncy Castles ★ Face Painting ★ Asian Foods ★ Licensed Bar ★ Bric-a-brac, Plus lots lots more – **For further information contact the school on 01582 72 99 70.**

Stopsley Baptist Church Wild West Academy

Monday 27 to Thursday 30 July 2015

Holiday club for primary school age children (Reception - Year 6).

