

West Area Committee Meeting 8.10.08
Community Development Report – bullet point updates
Responsible Unit Development Manager – Heather James

- **Policing** – staff at both Hockwell Ring and Lewsey Community Centres (C.C.) continue to work closely with the police to try to alleviate any difficulties in the neighbourhood. Currently, one of the main difficulties involves young people congregating in communal areas such as shopping parades, causing concern to local residents. It is hoped that a combined effort to try to divert youngsters towards new and worthwhile activities whilst at the same time supporting local agencies to look into means of dispersal, will help to improve the situation. For example, at Lewsey the boxing club have promoted a new programme aimed at young people, and at Hockwell Ring staff are working with PCSO's and Active Luton to try to find funds to re-surface the basketball court and to put in place coaching/mentoring schemes. Once the court can be used for proper tournaments etc, this will provide a focal point for young people to meet and learn new skills.
- **Festival and Family Days** – Communities in both Hockwell Ring and Lewsey neighbourhoods were able to enjoy some family fun out in the open during the summer. The two events, held on 27th July and 28th June respectively, gave local organisations an opportunity to raise funds for their own causes whilst entertainment was provided in the form of arena events, a football tournament, bouncy castles, music and dance. Grateful thanks are due to everyone who gave their time to make them so successful, especially the community volunteers.
- **Learning** – There are many new opportunities for members of the community to gain more knowledge and have fun in the process. Adult literacy and numeracy classes begin this term at Hockwell Ring C.C. and at Lewsey CC there has been an increase in the number of classes organised by the Tuition Service to accommodate 1:1 learning. Recently, children who were taught on a 1:1 basis for various reasons, have been able to gradually get used to group learning again by attending new classes, also at Lewsey.
- **Children's Activities** – Summer Playschemes at both Hockwell and Lewsey CC were very popular, with average attendances of over 30 children each day at both sites. Staff were supported by volunteers who, recruited as part of Community Development's extensive campaign, gave great commitment and enthusiasm, making the playschemes successful and providing hours of entertainment for 5 to 10 year olds. Other childrens activities at the centres are continually being developed and reviewed to achieve high standards. For example, 1) gymnastics sessions at Lewsey CC will now incorporate displays for parents,

Christmas celebrations, improved Health and Safety/discipline and new times more appropriate to age and ability, and 2) the Fun Club at Hockwell CC has a programme of Saturday morning activities from which children can learn whilst taking part in crafts, physical activity and creative play.

- **Toddler Play** – toddler groups at both centres have taken on new leases of life as one of the groups at Hockwell which used to be run by the PCT is now led and run by parents/carers, whilst the Young, Gifted and Loud group at Lewsey has a new leader and a new time slot. There are also plans to develop a network for toddler groups in the area to facilitate joint trips/visits etc. Full 'What's On' programmes are available from both centres.
- **Community Consultation** – The Community Development Service is carrying out town-wide surveys to determine the nature and level of service that the people of Luton want in their neighbourhoods. User surveys will be given to those currently taking part in activities at community centres and non-users will be surveyed as widely as possible in busy areas by staff 'out on the streets'. The results will be made available shortly.
- **Centre Improvements** – Hockwell Ring CC will be closed during the week of the October half term for sound proofing in the Community Hall and decorating in the communal areas.
Staff are also looking into ways of improving the centre's community garden – any interested volunteers can ring the centre!
Lewsey CC is due to have new lighting and plaster boarding in the coffee bar stairwell, and the kitchen and coffee bar are being painted and updated very shortly.
The wonderful art work created by children from Chantry School is almost ready to be put up on the walls of Lewsey CC, adding lots of colour and vibrancy to four of the walls.
In addition, Lewsey is being audited for its energy efficiency so that improvements can be made where necessary.

Coming up.....Christmas Shopping at Bath Market, New 50+ Keep Fit, Community Carol Concert, Dance Spectacular, Children's Christmas Partiesand anything else you might like to see on our programmes!!

Contact Heather at Lewsey CC on 01582 696355 for further information.