

WEST AREA BOARD & COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday 2nd April 2012

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SUBJECT: PROGRESS REPORT ON WEST AREA NEIGHBOURHOOD
PLAN

PURPOSE:

1. To update the Committee on progress with the Area Neighbourhood Plan and the work of the pilot Area Board through the “Your Say Your Way” Neighbourhood Governance project

RECOMMENDATION (S):

2. That the Committee considers the updates on progress and any issues arising on existing priorities and approves the new set of community priorities and suggested delivery action plan of responses.

REPORT:

3. Since the last West Area Neighbourhood Board meeting (24/01/2012), a revised action plan has been produced with partners to address the newer community priorities, as per ‘Your Say, Your Way’ Decision Day event results in September and October.
4. Partners have all committed to the responses/ actions to be delivered and are all working to the action plan and feedback through scheduled Officers Groups. There is still a recognition that in some instances, organisational changes to LBC, Police and Health is impacting on the speed of delivery.
5. Officers continue to progress key older priorities and roll forward where there are linkages with newer priorities or, where there is no overlap with new priorities, bring them to a natural conclusion. Other Community priorities that have been selected through other evidence/ feedback, but not voted on as the 3 or 4 top priorities at the Decision Day events will continue also to be addressed e.g. Hospital parking and Youth Forums.

6. There follows below an update on progress with activities identified in the Area Neighbourhood Plan by theme.
7. **Stronger and Safer Communities**

Stronger Communities

Participatory Budgeting: PB events were held in all Challney, Leagrave and Lewsey in January/February, with over 200 local residents in attendance. A diverse variety of projects applied for the funding with 20 community projects being successful and CDS committing to work with unsuccessful projects in future.

Develop Community Centre programmes and hubs: Community Centre's and Hubs continue to provide a wide range of activities, initiatives and events, with the main focus being on Challney Festival which takes place on 1st April. (Please see additional Community Development Service report)

Neighbourhood Communications: In response to the community priority regarding 'more comprehensive communication on neighbourhood services', research is being undertaken by one of our LBC volunteers in Challney regarding starting a neighbourhood website for local residents. A partnership leaflet detailing neighbourhood services is also being developed for distribution at Challney Festival.

Safer Communities

Continued Targeted Enforcement Patrols and High Visibility Policing:

- **Keeping as much of a Police presence as possible (Challney)**
Actions ongoing
 - Introduction of Patrol Plans for Community Officers to provide structured patrol (key places at key times)
 - More corporate approach to identifying and addressing local issues (utilising LPT Community Officers from all areas and actively commissioning the use of other Force Departments where appropriate)
 - LPT Community Officers taking ownership of Schools to increase local presence / visibility – a great deal of work in this area, now going into open evenings where allowed to speak to parents and children (Challney Boys will not allow us to do this)
 - Use of Force Tasking System to provide Police presence relating to demand / issues
 - Actively increasing the use of volunteers and Police Cadets – West team now has 6 cadets working alongside the PCSO's. Being cadets their role when trained will be liaison with neighbourhood watch in the West Area, help to build relationships and resourcing the enquiry office, alongside with visible patrols with the PCSOS.

- **Tackling anti-social behaviour (Leagrave)**

Actions ongoing

- Introduction and use of a new management procedure and multi agency Serious ASB Team to deal with ASB. (St Dominic's Square) work ongoing in this area
- Introduction of Patrol Plans for Community Officers to provide structured patrol (key places at key times)
- More corporate approach to identifying and addressing local issues (utilising LPT Community Officers from all areas and actively commissioning the use of other Force Departments where appropriate)
- Use of Force Tasking System to provide Police presence relating to demand / issues
- LPT Community Officers taking ownership of Schools and will target / educate likely offenders – as above

- **Improve the relationships between the Police and the community (Lewsey)**

Actions Ongoing

- Focussed engagement through multi agency public meetings and events
- Consultation through I.A.G.
- Dedicated LPT Community Officers for the West area.
- Introduction of Patrol Plans for Community Officers to provide structured patrol (key places at key times)
- LPT Community Officers taking ownership of Schools to increase local presence / visibility
- Actively increasing the use of volunteers and Police Cadets – as above
- CAPs and other Crime Prevention initiatives planned to provide information and build relationships – street meet 29/2/2012
- Effective use of external communications and media
- Introduction of problem ownership and management of local issues by LPT Community Teams

Police Priority – Vehicle Crime in the West of Luton Update – Following analysis that identified a spike in vehicle crime in our area a Problem Pier Plan was initiated and Supervised by Sgt Connelly. This has now reduced by working with partner agencies and neighbourhood watch. An overview without providing details of all tactics, is that a number of short term actions were commissioned, both overt and covert backed by medium and long term initiatives that continue and have led to a significant reduction in offending.

Police Priority – Burglaries, Challney Update – following analysis that identified Challney area as a hot spot for burglaries, a number of short term actions were commissioned, both over and covert back by medium and long term initiatives. Crime prevention work carried out

through street meets, media, school websites (to parents), and neighbourhood watch. This has reduced slightly and work is ongoing in this area.

8. Health and Well Being:

Targeted Health & Wellbeing Interventions: Area and town-wide health initiatives and sessions continue to run including ongoing programme of occupational therapy services, activities for vulnerable people (such as yoga, boxing, Thai boxing), stop smoking and midwives baby feeding sessions, stroke rehab aftercare and Health Trainer initiatives.

Lewsey Sports Park - £1.5m Lewsey Sports Park opened on the 16th January and feedback from Active Luton is that the facility has started well and has already had to put on additional classes to cope with the demand from residents.

Public Health - Public Health Dietician commissioned to work with families in 2012 – 13. Sessions will be run in suitable venues including running at least one session to be accessible for Leagrave residents.

Eat better, start better – Healthy eating programme in children centre venues. Will be run in Luton Children Centre's in 2012-13

In line with the 'Better Access to GP's priority in Challney' public health and CDS are looking at ways of encouraging patients to join their practice's Patient Participation Group so that they can feed back their concerns direct; and also link into the Luton-wide Patient Reference Group. The above will be promoted at Challney festival is in early April.

9. Environment and Economy:

Chaul End Open Space WREN bid – Parks are facilitating a session with local stakeholders/ community groups regarding the types of play equipment available for the new play area.

Tree planting at Lewsey Park - a second community tree-planting event was held at Lewsey Park on 3rd/4th March. A total of 700 whips were planted by children from local schools and residents.

Volunteering – Local volunteers, recruited through the LBC Volunteers scheme, have supported PB Decision Day events in all three wards. There are also several local volunteers that are helping LBC to enhance the services it delivers at Chaul End and Hockwell Ring Community Centres.

Work Clubs – In line with the LBC volunteer scheme, Community Development and Adult Community Learning are setting up a Work Club and Social Enterprise Clubs at the Chaul End Centre and Lewsey

Community Centre respectively. The work club will look to help those citizens who are looking to gain employment or get into training or education. The Social Enterprise Club will look at supporting citizens who want to start their own social enterprise or business. Both clubs are scheduled to start in March.

10. Children and Young People

This will be covered under Agenda Item 8.