

**YOU SAID
WE'RE DOING**

AGENDA ITEM: 9



Central Area Report

Neighbourhood Governance
Progress Report: October 2015 – January 2016

Date: 15th March 2016

Name of Chair: Mohammed Riaz

Reporting Officer: Marek Lubelski

This report gives an overview of progress on addressing community priorities in Central Luton under the themes of 'safer and stronger communities', 'health and wellbeing' and 'environment and economy' as agreed by local people, councillors and council partners as part of the 'Your Say, Your Way' programme.





Central Area Updates

November 2015 to February 2016

The High Town Team

The High Town Team - a group of people made up of High Town councillors, residents, LBC staff and representatives from local organisations who originally came together to access 'Portas' funding to improve the 'High Street' – continues to meet regularly to develop ideas that will bring more people and businesses to the area and improve High Town Road.

One of the latest initiatives sees the arrival of a new website that encourages businesses to come to High Town and tells the local community what is happening in their neighbourhood, how to get involved and what opportunities there are in an area only five minutes from town and 25 minutes from London.

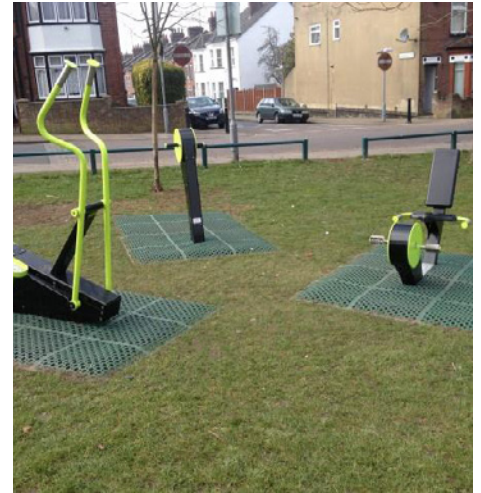
The site www.hightownroad.com focusses on three main headings, quality, opportunity and creativity. It enables groups and organisations to advertise what they are doing whilst also acting as a community information notice board. Have a look and contribute where you can!



Community Development

Three of the four Central Area wards have been lucky to have had community workers carrying out development work in their neighbourhoods over the past year. Saints, Biscot and High Town workers have been employed by the Nehemiah Foundation to work alongside local people and a diverse range of organisations and groups to facilitate projects and community interaction. These projects have varied across the areas but all have one thing in common; they all brought people together when they were set up, and with strong interest from community members they will continue to do so.

The types of activities on offer are wide ranging. In Biscot there are lunch clubs, women's knitting groups etc., whilst in Saints there are links with the Oasis Centre and archery sessions. High Town benefitted from community gatherings of all kinds, including quizzes, cultural celebrations and dance, and across all three wards extensive community involvement and consultation has been carried out. It is hoped that additional funding can be found to extend this valuable work and to continue to help people to help themselves.



Keeping Fit

Luton's communities are set to benefit from new homes being built in the town. Part of the agreement made with developers will see small amounts of money being used for local neighbourhood improvements and for work in the community. Saints ward for example, will be able to offer local people a new and exciting way to keep fit when its allocation of funding is used to provide three items of outdoor gym equipment in Blundell Road Recreation Ground.

Research carried out at Liverpool John Moores University, which evaluated the provision of this type of equipment, found that as it is free, accessible and in a pleasant natural environment people feel motivated to use it and as a result are healthier, both physically and mentally. The photo shows the type of equipment that has been ordered, in place at Bells Close.



Participatory Budgeting in 2016/17

Following the success of projects in the Central Wards last year, LBC's Strategic Community Services Team is pleased to announce that the opportunity to apply for funding will be coming your way again later on this year. Groups will be invited to apply from mid-May, with community Decision Days being held after the summer. If you are part of a community group, organisation, or if you have an idea for a project in your neighbourhood which we could help, support and work with you on to bring it to fruition, we would like to hear from you.

For further information, or if you would like to register to ensure that you receive an application pack, please contact Heather James by emailing heather.james@luton.gov.uk or telephoning 01582 548785.



Financial Challenge

NHS England announced the Clinical Commissioning Groups' (CCGs) revenue allocations for the next five years in early January.

Luton CCG's 2016/17 allocation showed an increase of 7.5 per cent compared with the national average of 3.7 per cent.

The draft Payment by Results (PbR) tariff has also been announced. PbR are the prices that commissioners pay providers for each patient seen or treated, taking into account the complexity of the patient's healthcare needs. They show an average increase of 1.1 per cent - that is 3.1 per cent inflation less a two per cent efficiency gain.

The CCG has started the planning and contracting process for next year and is considering how this growth will be invested for the benefit of the Luton population.

Long-term Sustainability and Transformation Plan

We are undertaking work to create a Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP). This plan will be an overarching, decisive document that will set out how, over the next 5 years, we will provide innovative, cost effective, high quality services for all Luton's residents.

Leaders in the health and social care professions, as well as key stakeholders from across our entire local health economy, will be involved in the creation of this plan. Our STP needs to integrate with our local health and wellbeing plans, show how quality and care forms an essential part of our commissioning intentions and demonstrate how the services we plan to commission are efficient and financially sustainable.

STPs are a statutory requirement to meet the challenges set out in the NHS Five Year Forward View.



Alternative Provider Medical Services (APMS) GP Contracts

Luton CCG is working with NHS England to ensure there is sufficient capacity to meet current and future demand as well as expected patient needs in Luton. We need to encourage sustainable integrated primary care practices to:

- meet the changing needs and expectations of our population
- improve outcomes and tackle inequalities
- maximise all resources across the system, and to secure a sustainable service for the future.

The review of Alternative Provider Medical Services (APMS) contract provides Luton with a real opportunity to improve and transform primary medical services by integrating urgent care access and offering easier access to urgent primary care appointments 24 hours a day.

However, no decision has been made regarding the future of any of the affected practices and none will be made without the registered patients of each practice, GPs, Luton Borough Council and Healthwatch, having a full opportunity to be involved in finding the best possible solution for the provision of their future services.

In conjunction with NHS England, Luton CCG will undertake a formal consultation and stakeholder engagement process that will examine the four APMS contracts in two phases

- Transforming the Walk-in Centre and Town Centre GP Practice
- Reviewing the other three APMS GP practices; Sundon Park Health Centre, Moakes Medical Centre and Whipperley Medical Centre Dates of the formal consultation are being finalised and all key partners will be kept informed of progress



Stronger and Safer Communities

Community Cohesion Conference - Luton Town Football Club –

Cohesion in action



26 November 2015

The Conference was chaired by Cllr Jacqui Burnett, Portfolio Holder for People and Places, who in her opening remarks noted: "As someone who is immensely passionate about Luton, I was proud to see such a diverse range of people come together so enthusiastically and full of ideas about how we can work together to strengthen relationships between our communities, improve the image of the town and ensure a better quality of life for our residents.

"One thing that stood out for me was the impact that social media can have on cohesion, which got me thinking about how the Council and our partners can contribute more to ensure an accurate narrative is being presented.

"We have so many useful ideas and things to think about and look forward to developing the strategy with our communities and partners over the coming weeks and months."

Expert key note speakers included:

- **Dr Joel Busher** from Coventry University who talked about the damage anti-minority activism is doing to towns like Luton and the types of approaches and leadership which can manage conflict between groups.
- **Dr Colin Roberts** from Cardiff University discussed the rise of social media and how this presents a whole new challenge in terms of community cohesion.
- **Nicola Monk** Service Director, Policy & Performance, LBC who spoke on understanding community cohesion in Luton.



Other presentations on the day were:

- LBC's **Laura Church** spoke about the Council's Investment Framework and the importance of improving the image of Luton. Delegates were in agreement that the new jobs and opportunities this will create will benefit Luton communities and instil an improved sense of belonging.
- **Cllr Andy Malcolm**, as chair of the High-Town Festival group talked about how events can bring communities together.
- **Michael Campbell** pioneered a new Christian project in Luton called Luton Town Centre Chaplaincy (LTCC) five years ago with the specific role of meeting the pastoral and spiritual needs of people of all faiths and none. LTCC currently have teams of chaplains working in the Crown and Magistrate Courts, Luton Borough Council, The Mall, Asda, Noah, Luton Rugby Club, and engage with the general public on the street through our Street Teams on a weekly bases. In addition LTCC support the police, local authority and emergency services at times of public unrest during EDL Demonstrations, serious crime in Marsh Farm and more recently the Britain First demonstration.



Rehana Faisal - is a member of Suffa Tul Islam Education and Community Centre in Luton and is heavily involved in the Centre's community support and outreach work. She has also been the joint representative and spokesperson for the Luton Council of Mosques and the Sunni Council of Mosques.



Kevin Thorburn from Luton Town FC Community Trust about the club's increasingly diverse fan base and the key link between sport and cohesion.

Stronger and Safer Communities

DON'T WAIT TO
**STOP THE
HATE**



Holocaust Memorial Day event in Town Hall

Luton Town Hall opened its doors on Sunday 24 January to host the annual Holocaust Memorial Day event. Holocaust Memorial Day has been held annually in the UK since 2001 and offers a chance for people to remember victims and survivors – those whose lives have significantly changed because of the Holocaust and subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur, as well as ongoing atrocities that continue to occur today.

The theme for this year's event was 'Don't stand by – make the world listen', The main address was given by the CEO



of Liberal Judaism, Rabbi Danny Rich. Musical contributions came from guest singer Deborah Christopher, the Luton Male Voice Choir and pupils from Denbigh High School performed a specially written play based on the theme 'Don't stand by – make the world listen,'.

Mayor of Luton Cllr Dave Taylor said: "Together we can keep memories alive by reflecting on the past and honouring the survivors and victims of the Holocaust and other genocides. This event gives us the opportunity to bring communities together, respect each other's differences, and also challenges us to use the lessons of the past to inform our lives today. A warm welcome is offered to all."

Councillor Hazel Simmons, leader of the Council said "I attended a very moving Holocaust Memorial Day Service on Sunday with a range of local people from different faiths and walks of life came together to commemorate the victims of genocide reminding us what makes Luton such a special place to live and work."

CSP update for Area Board

soLUTIONs, Luton's Community Safety Partnership (CSP), recently consulted with residents in Luton about the fear and perceptions of crime. Results from this survey now show the priorities for local people and will directly feed into a work programme for the next year. The Partnership would like to thank the residents who completed the survey, for your time and effort to support us.



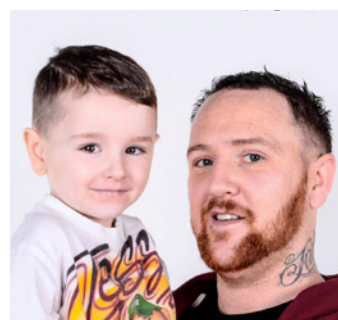
Alongside this, the new Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy has now been signed off, which provides targets for reductions in crime in Luton, which the Partnership is committed to for the next three years. A copy of the strategy can be seen by visiting www.luton.gov.uk

The Bedfordshire Partnership Hate Crime Awareness Week (8th-12th February 2016) was supported county wide by the soLUTIONs CSP, led by Bedfordshire Police. The week included a number of Hate Crime workshops in local venues, an information stall and advertising in The Mall, social media campaigns and the launch of third party reporting centres. The third party reporting centres in Luton are at the TOKKO Youth Space on Gordon Street, LGBT Links on Inkerman Street and CYCD on Leagrave Road. You may also wish to attend the Disability Resource Centre, Poynters House on Poynters Road. To report a hate crime, please contact Bedfordshire Police on 101 or 999 if you are in danger. You can also report online through the Bedfordshire Police Web site - www.bedfordshire.police.uk and true vision www.report-it.org.uk

The soLUTIONs Domestic Abuse Partnership has been pursuing a White Ribbon Award for their ongoing work to help bring an end to abuse against women and girls in Luton. The campaign involves men in rejecting violence against women. Cllr Naseem Ayub, portfolio holder for adult social care and domestic abuse is championing the campaign.

To find out more, please visit www.whiteribboncampaign.co.uk and sign the pledge.

The Partnership has also launched the new Domestic Abuse phone line and website. If you are or know of anyone who is a victim of Domestic Abuse, please contact us Monday-Friday from 8am-5pm on 01582 853 677 or visit www.lutondomesticabuse.co.uk



**YOUR SAY
YOUR WAY**



Environment and Economy



Dame Kelly Holmes Trust 'Get on track'

The Dame Kelly Holmes Trust 'Get on track' programme is for 16-25 year olds and aims to give young people the self-discipline, motivation and confidence to enhance their chances of getting a job.

Once again the Dame Kelly Holmes trust, in partnership with Luton Borough Council, prior to Christmas completed another successful, Sport England, Lottery funded project to serve the community.

On this occasion it was based at Luton Sixth Form College who once again demonstrated their value as a key partner in the continued success of the Trusts flagship programme, Get On Track.

Get On Track is a seven week, intensive personal development programme that has world class athletes sharing their valuable life skills and experiences, with the young people on the programme. On this occasion there were 28 students who really embraced the programme, displaying a great level of commitment to develop themselves and further their chances in being successful in life.

Over the course of the project multiple environments and experiences were created to challenge the students to get out of their comfort zones and stretch themselves to develop the often overlooked crucial interpersonal skills that need to be combined with their academic endeavours.

The key focal delivery areas of the programme included:

- communication skills
- self esteem
- ability to self express
- ability to work with others
- ability to lead, manage conflict
- presentation skills, project management
- problem solving
- accountability.

Huge congratulations to all young people, staff and partners involved in another really positive project delivered within the community.

Making changes for the better in 2016

If you want to make a change to your lifestyle this year then Active Luton is on hand to help you on the journey.

This New Year they have launched the #makeachange campaign to inspire and support local residents to become fit and healthy in 2016. Active Luton offers many different ways to do this and prides itself on having something for everyone.

This year's campaign tells the motivational stories of a number of Luton residents who have already transformed their lives as the result of using Active Luton's facilities. It is hoped that they will encourage others to make these life changing choices during 2016.

Twenty-one year old Sam is deaf. He won a bronze medal for Great Britain

in last year's Deaf European Games and is hoping for similar success in the Deaf World Cup in Italy later this year. "I joined Inspire when it opened and I also do circuit training at Lea Manor. What I really like about Active Luton is that you can choose what you prefer to do - gym, classes or swimming - and even go to different centres. I enjoy every minute!"

Matthew, 57, joined Active Luton two years ago and uses Inspire, Lea Manor and Lewsey six days a week. "Getting fitter has made me happier and improved my self confidence to take on new challenges," he said. "I am planning to take part in the London to Paris bike ride and then after that to qualify as a fitness instructor."

Chelsea, a 26-year-old teacher, also has a positive story to tell. "Since adopting a fitness routine I have lost four stone and discovered a motivation and determination that I never knew I had.

I have even signed up for a half marathon this year. I am the fittest I have ever been and now have a very positive body image."

Helen Barnett, Chief Executive of Active Luton said: "Every New Year lots of people make resolutions to be more healthy and active. We want to help them to maintain these good intentions and make real, sustainable changes for the better.

"We have a friendly team of experienced professionals who can come up with a fitness plan to suit you and your lifestyle. Come along and see for yourself and make 2016 your best year yet!"

To read the Active Luton success stories visit www.activeluton.co.uk or for more information call 01582 400272. You can also follow @activeAL on Twitter and 'like' Active Luton on Facebook.



'Your Say, Your Way' funding updates

HIGH TOWN WARD

The Alzheimer's Society

High Town activity group for people who have dementia, their families and their carers is run weekly at the Methodist Church by The Alzheimer's Society. Sessions are tailored to the needs of those who come along and they provide a lifeline of care, support and information as well as a place at which mutual peer support can be gained. PB funding was used to sustain the group by helping to pay for expenses involved in facilitating the range of activities available, which, this year have included reminiscence, crafts, quizzes, a visit by Bramingham Singers, art and information sharing provided by experienced and trained staff.

Stress and anxiety are common conditions frequently experienced by carers so in October MIND ran a very successful 6 week course for the carers, helping them to cope and understand. Carers have also been given a talk by the Police about their dementia packs scheme which include information about safety in the home, the opportunity for home visits and news about datalink pots which contain information about a person's blood group, medication and carer contact details. All of this was extremely helpful and reassuring for carers, one saying 'I don't know how I would have coped over the last year' without the group.

BISCOT WARD

Blenheim Scouts camping trip.

Blenheim Scouts used their funding to enable the camp to take place by making it more accessible to their entire group, firstly through subsidising specialised activities and secondly by paying for some of the camp fees. New opportunities to have fun and to take part in adventurous activities such as kayaking and rafting gave the scouts higher levels of confidence and independence away from home whilst also improving their teamwork skills.

Leaders appreciated the value of the children's experience, particularly in terms of developing citizenship and understanding relationships but this is perhaps best summed up by the feedback one scout gave. He said: "I learnt a lot about self-confidence and trusting others after climbing the 10 metre pole and then balancing with another person on the tiny platform before leaping off and free-falling back down".

Other long term benefits, such as how to behave well and co-operate with each other, the importance of speaking to others with respect and when to take the lead will continue to be helpful, in the home, in the community, at school and in each scout's social life.



BARNFIELD WARD

Mustard Seed Lunch Club

Mustard Seed Lunch Club is a community group that runs from Christchurch, Bushmead to provide healthy, freshly cooked three course meals for people over 60 once a month, and a lighter meal for people of all ages on alternate fortnights. Currently the club has reached maximum capacity, with more than 50 community members who attend and see the club as a crucial part of their lives, enabling them to meet new people, eat together and have something special to look forward to.

None of this could be achieved without the efforts of 10 committed volunteers who plan, prepare, shop for and serve at the lunches, one of whom said: "People are a source of inspiration. Being a volunteer has kept me physically and emotionally active. Serving them has given me a sense of purpose".

PB money was used to enable the group to continue to provide a high quality service by paying for volunteers to receive basic food hygiene training and buying necessary kitchen equipment.

SAINTS WARD

Children's Multi-sports

Weekly informal sports sessions have been running on Fridays at Denbigh High School since January last year for children aged 6 to 11. The aim has been to try to encourage youngsters to 'get active' and to send a clear message to families that there are lots of alternatives to children being bored at home!

Playing cricket, badminton and taking part in other fitness activities, where there has been a focus on participation and

enjoyment rather than on competition, has enabled children to grow in confidence and improve their skills whilst also providing perfect opportunities to make new friends while exercising.

One parent commented on how she was particularly pleased that going to sessions had helped her son 'to develop his listening and concentration skills and helped him to co-operate as part of a team'. Generating enthusiasm for active and healthy lifestyles continues to be one of the main benefits of PB funding.

YOUR SAY YOUR WAY

...in Central Luton

Your Local Councillors

Barnfield

Councillor Rachel Hopkins	rachel.hopkins@luton.gov.uk	07714138718
Councillor David Franks	david.franks@luton.gov.uk	01582 414925

Biscot

Councillor Naseem Ayub	naseem.ayub@luton.gov.uk	07714139967
Councillor Mohammed Ayub	mohammad.ayub@luton.gov.uk	07714139966
Councillor Tahir Khan	tahir.khan@luton.gov.uk	07957413338

High Town

Councillor Andrew Malcolm	andrew.malcolm@luton.gov.uk	07714138722
Councillor Aysegul Gurbuz	aysegul.gurbuz@luton.gov.uk	07809100384

Saints

Councillor Asma Rathore	asma.rathore@luton.gov.uk	07712854018
Councillor Mohammed Riaz	mohammed.riaz@luton.gov.uk	07904169342
Councillor Raja Saleem	raja.saleem@luton.gov.uk	07714139360

Luton Police station, Buxton Road, Luton, LU1 1SD

Call: 101 for non emergencies

Email: LPT.Luton-Central@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 54 87 85** or email: **Heather.James@luton.gov.uk**



Upcoming community events in the Central Area

Biscot:

- The One Nation annual football tournament will take place at Denbigh High School on the astro turf pitch in March/April. Contact Sunny on 07771 349188 or email sundarali@yahoo.com
- There are new activities starting all the time at Bury Park Community Resource Centre. For example Boxercise, Guru Nanak Wellbeing Club, Telephone: **01582 450194** for more details.

High Town:

- High Town Festival is coming on 2nd July. If you are interested in having a stall or getting involved go to the website hightownfestival.org or telephone Heather James on **01582 548785** to find out more.
- Take a look at the website www.hightownroad.com
- The NOAH Academy has organised two free courses - NOAH'S KITCHEN to help you to cook with confidence, and HOME MAINTENANCE to help you to maintain and improve your home. Tel: **01582 726152** for more information.

Saints:

- Good coffee, home made food and lively conversation at Limbury Baptist Church café (on the corner of Gardenia Avenue and Limbury Road) every fortnight from 10.00am to 12.30pm Next meeting: 19th March.
- Also at Limbury Baptist Church – plans are afoot for the summer 'Holidays at Home' scheme for older people. Includes entertainment, social activities, lunch etc. Tel: David on **01582 528077** for more details.

Barnfield:

- For events and information please join the Facebook group 'Everything Bushmead'. There are already hundreds of members and it is a great way of bringing people together.

