



Area South Report

Neighbourhood Governance Progress Report: April 2015 – June 2015

Date: Tuesday 7th July 2015
Name of Chair: To be confirmed
Reporting Officer: Shohir Uddin

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





South Luton update

Cohen's Yard Community Inclusion Project (CYCIP)

Partnership working and funding from the Near Neighbours scheme has dramatically improved community relationships in Dallow.

Over fifty volunteers painted play equipment, planted shrubs and carried out cleaning and litter picking at Cohens Yard on Friday 22nd May. Volunteers from the TUI group were coordinated through local organisations including Luton Borough Council, All Saints Church, Medina Mosque, Rabia Islamic School, Building Blocks and Luton Council of Faiths.

All the volunteers who took part contributed to the success of the day, which aimed to bring together local people from different communities and faiths to take action on local issues and collectively help transform a challenging neighbourhood. Everyone worked really well and came together to make the day a success.

The activities encouraged 40 young people, including 25 young Muslim women and 15 young people from Bangladeshi and Pakistani backgrounds, to engage in social action on issues that affect them.

It's clear that the strength of the local community partnerships is growing in Dallow. The CYCIP is supporting people to play an active part in improving their local communities. The steering group is currently planning a celebration event, which will take place on Saturday 25th July at Cohen's Yard.



South Ward Fun Day

The fun day to celebrate the recent improvements to the park was held on Saturday 6th June. TUI business group volunteers painted the children's play equipment in the Hibbert Street open space, which has brightened and refreshed the area.

Over 600 members of the community attended and enjoyed a range of fun activities including inflatable rides, a bouncy castle, face painting and beat the goalie. There was also information stalls, a BBQ, food, ice creams and refreshments. St. Paul's Church provided access to their facilities, which was vital on the day and hugely appreciated by all.

Local community groups attended to show their support and worked together to make the event a success. Local acts such as the Surrey Street Choir, Salvation Army band, Jazz4All Workshop Band and an artist from Tropical FM took to the stage and were a huge hit with the crowd.

The event was attended by the Mayor and the three ward councillors, who all enjoyed the day. The event was organised in partnership with St. Paul's Church, Luton Cultural Services Trust, Luton Borough Council, Salvation Army, Strathmore Church and Bedfordshire Police. The event addressed the community priorities set by 'Your Say, Your Way' and was funded by the South Area Board.



Farley Big Local

Thanks to Farley Big Local, the Farley Lunch Club enjoyed a St George's Day celebration lunch on 21st April. Members tucked into a traditional English lunch reminisced with old songs and took part in a sing song.

On the 23rd April the young residents of the estate, including the local Brownies group, enjoyed a St George's themed arts and craft session at the Farley Junior Youth Club.

Farley Big Local provided St. George's gifts for the events. Representatives from the partnership also attended to ask members about the types of activities and opportunities they wanted to see for the 50+ and younger residents in Farley Hill.

Festival at Brantwood Park

Mary Seacole Housing Association held a Community Fun Day at Brantwood Road Park on Saturday 2nd May. The free event was attended by over 1400 people of all ages and cultures. Attendees enjoyed a bouncy castle, inflatables, face painting and Ro's Exotic Reptile Experience and one lucky family won a generous prize worth £250, donated by Tesco.

The Housing Association organised the event to give something back to the generous Dallow community in which it is based. Volunteers from the Association and it's corporate partners, such as leading regional law firm Pictons, Tesco and Luton Borough Council, contributed to the success of the event.



Stronger and safer communities



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

The Big Iftar

Following the success of the first event last year, Luton will host a second annual Big Iftar 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 Iftar 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 Iftar.

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 Iftar
Rehana Faisal rehanafaisal@gmail.com

Challney Community Festival
Shohir Uddin Shohir.Uddin@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'.

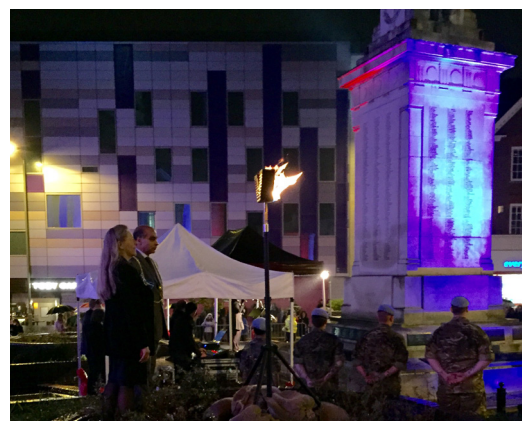
Jazz singer Konni Deppe, accompanied by guitarist Nils Solberg, and Ukulele band Ukie Toones got people swaying and tapping their toes with their performances. And children and young people from Tina's School of Dance and The Hat Factory based Street Dance Productions showcased their amazing dance talents.

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

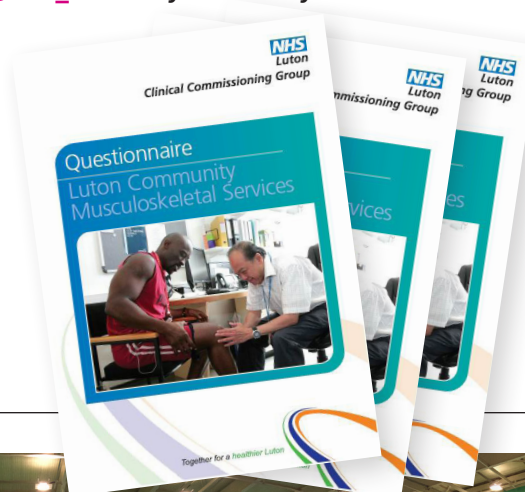
We're always keen to discover what you think about our services. So, if you are receiving or have received treatment from our CMSK service for conditions such as a bad back or sore shoulder, please tell us about your experience and let us know how we can improve things. Your views matter and they will 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 people's confidence so they are able to join other local health clubs and classes, like those run by Active Luton.

South area updates



Dallow ward - 'Your Say, Your Way' Project Update 2015

Dallow Primary School

Over 33 children regularly attended the Easter playschemes and took part in various activities including cooking sessions, craft, cricket, football, rounder's and team building activities. Many of the children who attended came from vulnerable families and had low self-esteem. During the sessions, staff noticed some of those children showing signs of increased confidence and an improvement in their behaviour.



Foxdell Infant School

Over 32 children attended the schools Easter playscheme over four days. The scheme was so popular it became oversubscribed and staff had to create a waiting list. The feedback from the parents and the children who attended was very positive. One parent said; "The playscheme gave me the opportunity to go to work, knowing my child was safe and having fun", whilst another commented; "I wish we had more days, it's good for the kids as they get bored at home."

Farley update

The Targeted Youth Development Team is pleased to report that the Barnfield South Youth Zone had over 992 visits from families, children and young people between January and March. The organisers of youth related activities included Friends of Bright Eyes, Barnfield West Academy, Chums (Young carer project) Seetec, LCET and Targeted Youth Service teams.

The Targeted Youth Work Team is working intensively in the evening and weekends with 17 of South Luton's most vulnerable young people, and their families. Five staff from the Detached Team collectively spent 200 hours engaging and developing contact with young people in street based settings across Farley Hill, Park Town and Dallow.

Welcome to the Farley Library!

The new library access point is up and running. The community can now enjoy browsing new books, using free Wi-Fi, as well as ordering, returning and borrowing books. The access point has a children's reading corner, larger print books and two tablets for public use. Come along and see for yourself!



Wing Chun Kung Fu

A new martial arts group starts this month at Farley Community Centre. The sessions will take place every Thursday from 8pm – 9pm.



South Ward - 'Your Say, Your Way' Funded Project Update

Park Town Community and Children's Centre recently secured funding to deliver playschemes throughout the school term holidays.

Both the Easter and May playschemes were very successful, with over 55 children attending each term. The children who attended enjoyed a number of activities including; designing a pencil case, mask making, Easter crafts, Easter themed cooking and an Easter egg hunt.

The playschemes are proving to be a valuable service and provide a safe environment for the children to play and make new friends.

YOUR SAY YOUR WAY

...in South Luton

Your Local Councillors

Dallow Ward

Cllr Mohammed Ashraf	Mohammed.Ashraf@luton.gov.uk
Cllr Mohammed Farooq	Mohammed.Farooq@luton.gov.uk
Cllr Nazia Rafiq	Nazia.Rafiq@luton.gov.uk

Farley Ward

Cllr Mahmood Hussain	Mahmood.Hussain@luton.gov.uk
Cllr Sian Timoney	Sian.Timoney@luton.gov.uk
Cllr Dave Taylor	Dave.Taylor@luton.gov.uk

South Ward

Cllr Amy O'Callaghan	Amy.Ocallaghan@luton.gov.uk
Cllr Paul Castleman	Paul.Castleman@luton.gov.uk
Cllr David Agbley	david.agbley@luton.gov.uk

Luton South Local Policing Team

PS Melissa Cunningham 5547 –
Luton Police Station, Buxton Road, Luton

✉ Melissa.Cunningham@Bedfordshire.pnn.Police.uk

🌐 www.bedfordshire.police.uk

☎ 101 for non emergencies

Looking for more information?

For further information about this report or the
Your Say, Your Way programme,
call us on **01582 548776** or email
YourSayYourWay@Luton.gov.uk

South Area Manager:

Shohir.Uddin@luton.gov.uk

Community Involvement Manager:

Emma.Colclough@luton.gov.uk

Upcoming community events in East Luton

Dallow

Community Funday

Saturday 25th July 2015 at Cohen's Yard,
Shaftsbury Road from 12pm – 4pm.

The Building Blocks Children Centre

Parent's Forum, in partnership with All
Saints Church and Medina Mosque, is
planning a Community Funday at Cohen's
Yard Park on Thursday 20th August from
12pm – 4pm.

Farley

The Farley Users Committee

The Farley Users Committee was awarded
'Your Say, Your Way' funding to provide
Farley residents with 3 summer trips in 2015:

- ★ Great Yarmouth on Saturday 8th August
- ★ Southend on Saturday 15th August
- ★ Brighton on Saturday 22th August

All departing from Farley Community Centre,
Delphine Close at 8am and returning at 5pm.
Tickets cost £7 per person and will be available
from Monday 6th July from the Farley
Community Centre.

**For more information contact the centre
on 01582 736812.**

South

Big Iftaar - Following the success of the
first event last year, Luton will host a second
annual Big Iftaar on Friday 10th July 2015 at
St. Georges Square from 7pm – 10pm.

See page three for more information.

Park Town Junior youth club - secured
funding to run a residential trip to
Kingswood in West Runton in the summer.
The trip is a great opportunity for children
to take part in a number of outward bound
activities, which will improve team building
skills, communication skills, raise self-esteem
and help build positive relationships.

**For more information contact the
centre on 01582 482957.**

