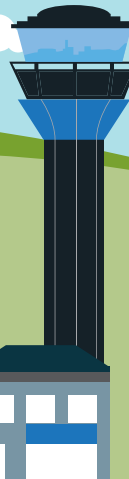
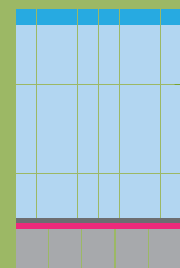


**YOU SAID  
WE'RE DOING**

**AGENDA ITEM**

**7**



# North Area Report

Neighbourhood Governance  
Progress Report: March 2015 – June 2015

**Date:** 22 June 2015

**Name of Chair:** Councillor Mike Garrett

**Reporting Officer:** Sandra Hayes

This report gives an overview of progress on addressing community priorities in North 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.





## North area updates

### Residents decide on which local projects should receive funding

A series of decision events have been held across all 19 Luton wards over the last three months. The 2015 decision days for North Luton took place between 28th Feb and 5th March with over 30 project presentations and nearly 150 people taking part.

The Council organised the events as part of the 'Your Say, Your Way' programme and local residents voted for a number of projects to receive funding.



Before the 2015 decision days could take place, Northwell councillors held a presentation for the projects that they believe contributed the most to their community and this year's winners are listed in the table below.

The North decision events were a great opportunity for networking and allowed people to find out about the huge range of local community projects which were being proposed. Successful projects on the day included; sports and play-scheme activities for young people, healthy eating classes for families, walking groups, football sessions and counselling and motivational support for women. An 'open arts' project for women, a 'feel good' shoes project for families with school age children, and a range of activities and support for older people suffering loneliness and isolation were also successful.

**For more information call 01582 548773 or email [YourSayYourWay@luton.gov.uk](mailto:YourSayYourWay@luton.gov.uk)**



Project Name	Amount
Active Luton - Icknield/Limbury (arts, crafts and exercise sessions for older people)	<b>£1,500</b>
Active Luton – Northwell (swimming sessions for children & young people with disabilities)	<b>£1,475</b>
Friends of Keech (Garden Party)	<b>£1,500</b>
Friends of Redgrave (Various family swim sessions)	<b>£1,500</b>
Futures 50+ Group (WW2 event at Wickstead Park)	<b>£1,000</b>
Futures Fun Factory (Playscheme Sessions)	<b>£1,500</b>
Futures Young Voice (Workshops, training and drop in sessions)	<b>£1,496</b>
Great Bramingham Park Friends Group (hedges for wildlife)	<b>£1,500</b>
Level Trust – Northwell (Learn at home packs for local pupils)	<b>£752.40</b>
Level Trust - Sundon Park (feel good shoe vouchers for local pupils)	<b>£1,500</b>
Luton Culture (Community summer Trips)	<b>£1,500</b>
Marsh Farm Events Committee (Community events)	<b>£1,250</b>
Marsh Farm Fireworks (Various items for the event)	<b>£1,500</b>
Marsh Farm Futures (Community Resource Room Furniture)	<b>£1,341</b>
Nine Red Presents.. (Art therapy Project)	<b>£1,500</b>
Redgrave Children & Young People's Centre (renting space at the Fun Factory)	<b>£1,500</b>
Sangam Ladies (floristry classes)	<b>£1,489.40</b>
Signpost (Litter Clearance)	<b>£1,090</b>
The Non Violence Alliance (Story telling Project)	<b>£1,500</b>
The Safer Luton Partnership (Training of mentors)	<b>£1,500</b>
Warden Hill Infant School (Seaside Project)	<b>£1,500</b>
Warden Hill Community Centre (Laying new footpaths around the centre)	<b>£600</b>



# 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](mailto:volunteering@luton.gov.uk)

Donating Food for Food bank  
**Mohammed Tariq** [m.tariq@inspirefm.org](mailto:m.tariq@inspirefm.org)

Donating Food for Luton Big Iftaar  
**Rehana Faisal** [rehanafaisal@ymail.com](mailto:rehanafaisal@ymail.com)

Challney Community Festival  
**Shohir Uddin** [Shohir.Uddin@luton.gov.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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'.

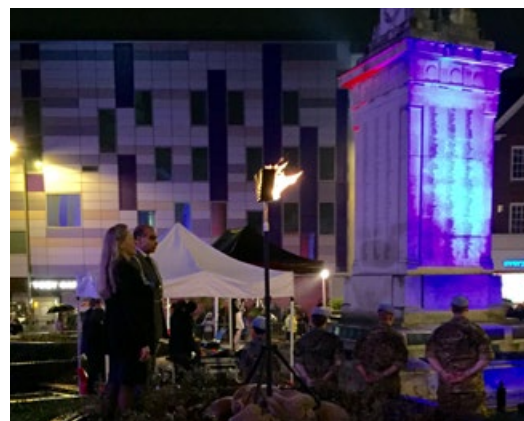
Jazz singer Konni Deppe, accompanied by guitarist Nils Solberg, and Ukulele band Ukie Toones got people swaying and tapping their toes with their performances. And children and young people from Tina's School of Dance and The Hat Factory based Street Dance Productions showcased their amazing dance talents.

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](https://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](http://www.activeluton.gov.uk) and [www.fightklub.co.uk](http://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](mailto: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.

# North area updates



## The Job Club

The Job Club continues to run on Tuesdays 9.30am – 1.00pm. The club is for members of the community who are searching for jobs, creating CVs, or want general advice and support on applying for a job. The club has seen an increase in young people looking for support with their applications for apprenticeships and to date one young person has been successful and has secured employment.



## Ladies Only Class

A Ladies only exercise class will be begin at Futures House on Thursday evenings from 7-8pm. The class will cost £2 per person and already 20 people have expressed an interest in attending. The class is part of a wider project to encourage local people to engage in activities that will improve their health and well being.

**For information on any of the projects above, please contact Cathy McShane, Community & Youth Involvement Manager, Tel: 01582 586133 or email [cathy@marshfarmfutures.co.uk](mailto:cathy@marshfarmfutures.co.uk)**



## Futures Young Voice

Futures Young Voice continues to encourage new people to join the current sessions. They are also planning to introduce a number of new summer sessions including streetdance, sports sessions and workshops (including youth awareness days).

The weekly youth drop in session continues to run on a Monday evening at Lea Manor Youth Zone from 6.30 – 8.30pm. The session, which is supported by Futures Young Voice, caters for 14-16 year olds and has recently seen a significant increase in attendance.

## SEMLEP Chief speaks to business owners at Futures House

Futures House in Marsh Farm welcomed business men and women from across the counties to listen to guest speaker Daniel Mouawad, CEO of SEMLEP, who spoke about funding opportunities and how to access business support.

The event, hosted by Marsh Farm Futures and organised by Programme Manager Ishaq Kazi, was well attended by over 40 people from local organisations and businesses. Attendees also heard from Marsh Farm Futures CEO Mohammed Rafi, Martin Blower from A plan insurance, and Chair of the Futures Business Voice, Richard Cooper.

Ishaq said; "We've had a fantastic response to this event. As part of our long term commitment to support the business sector, we will continue to promote Luton's entrepreneurs and we'll be hosting business networking events every quarter."

Daniel Mouawad, guest speaker at the event, commented; "I am very pleased to be here again at Marsh Farm Futures and can recognise the tremendous achievement which has taken place over the last two years. I will continue to support Marsh Farm Futures in their efforts to help residents improve their economic wellbeing. SEMLEP has ambitious infrastructure plans for the area and we are engaging the business and the voluntary sector to help achieve these plans".

Mohammed Rafi, CEO of Marsh Farm Futures said of the event; "We are very keen to be part of the initiatives being delivered by SEMLEP. We are particularly excited to be able to support Marsh Farm residents who are in the early stage of considering self-employment/starting a business and also those who have recently started trading".

**Contact: Ishaq Kazi Marsh Farm Futures Tel: 01582 512555  
Mobile: 07968512803 E: [ishaq@marshfarmfutures.co.uk](mailto:ishaq@marshfarmfutures.co.uk)**



## Staff are settling in well to their new roles in North Luton following a restructure within Luton Culture's community centres.

Staff recently supported 22 groups in securing funding for projects to benefit the local community. Next they'll organise a programme of 11 day trips over the summer. Details of the trips and bookings will be made available at the end of June.

Staff are working with Marsh Farm Futures to support a community voice project and a summer holidays playscheme. A Junior Youth club will be launched this September for kids aged 7-11, after the team secured funding last year.

The centre has also become home to the Manor Scouts who meet twice a week. The centre will begin hosting a pole fitness class from 1st July and another exercise class started on June 4th.

# YOUR SAY YOUR WAY

...in North Luton

## Your Local Councillors

### Bramingham

Cllr. Gilbert Campbell	Gilbert.Campbell@luton.gov.uk
Cllr. John Young	John.Young@luton.gov.uk

### Icknield

Cllr. Mike Garrett	Michael.Garrett@luton.gov.uk
Cllr. Jeff Petts	Jeffery.Petts@luton.gov.uk

### Limbury

Cllr. Steve Lewis	Stephen.Lewis@luton.gov.uk
Cllr. Jennifer Rowlands	Jennifer.Rowlands@luton.gov.uk

### Northwell

Cllr. Roy Davis	Roy.Davis@luton.gov.uk
Cllr. Don Worthing	Don.Worthing@luton.gov.uk

### Sundon Park

Cllr. Fiona Green	Fiona.Green@luton.gov.uk
Cllr. Anna Pedersen	Anna.Pedersen@luton.gov.uk



### Upcoming community events in North Luton

#### Area North Festival

Following the success of 2014 Area North Festival, the 2015 Area North Festival is planned for 8th August 12–4pm.

If you're interested in volunteering, helping to organise the event or having a stall, please contact [cathy@marshfarmfutures.co.uk](mailto:cathy@marshfarmfutures.co.uk) or [Jo.Oliver@luton.gov.uk](mailto:Jo.Oliver@luton.gov.uk).

### Luton North and West Local Policing Team

Futures House, The Moakes, Luton LU3 3QB

Call: 101 for non emergencies

Email: [LPT.CommunityLuton-North&West@Bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:LPT.CommunityLuton-North&West@Bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk)

Web: [www.bedfordshire.police.uk](http://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 75 or email:

[CathyMcShane@luton.gov.uk](mailto:CathyMcShane@luton.gov.uk)

[Rizvan.Bashir@lutonculture.com](mailto:Rizvan.Bashir@lutonculture.com)

[Joanne.Oliver@lutonculture.com](mailto:Joanne.Oliver@lutonculture.com)

