

Area North – Community Report

Neighbourhood Governance – *Your Say, Your Way*

**YOUR SAY
YOUR WAY**

Bramingham, Icknield, Limbury, Northwell & Sundon Park

Welcome to the first in our new style reports, which will combine updates from all the agency partners in Area North on Neighbourhood Governance - '**Your Say, Your Way**'.

Neighbourhood Governance (known in Luton as '**Your Say, Your Way**') encourages and assists Luton's communities to shape services and influence change in their neighbourhoods. It is a partnership project that is led by Luton Borough Council with support from key partners such as Bedfordshire Police and NHS Luton, as well as other statutory agencies and community and voluntary groups.

'**Your Say, Your Way**' is a coordinated programme which provides a number of opportunities for local people to get involved. These include:

- **Community Festivals**
- **Communications**
- **Face to Face Surveys**
- **Area Neighbourhood Boards**
- **Community Planning Decision Day events**
- **Budgeting (PB) Decision Day events**



The Neighbourhood Governance – '**Your Say, Your Way**' Team for North Luton can be contacted at Futures House on 01582 54 83 60.



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Area North's Participatory Budgeting (PB) Decision Day – 23rd February 2013

Following great work from all involved in Area North – councillors, staff and volunteers, we had 31 applications for funding from this programme. This was the largest number received and as a result we had to split the day into two sections – morning for Bramingham, Icknield, Limbury and Sundon Park while in the afternoon we had Northwell.

A full report will be presented at the meeting, as the event takes place after this report has to be written! All applicants had to prove how their projects would meet the agreed Area North priorities which are:

1. Employment and Skills (including Social-Community Enterprise)

2. Safety in the Community:

- i. Diversionary activities relating to Anti-Social Behaviour
- ii. Locality Environmental Improvements
- iii. Improving Community Cohesion

3. Community Health and Well Being:

- i. Children and Young People
- ii. Older People
- iii. Environmental Improvements

* These priorities will be renewed via Ward Forums, on an on-going basis throughout the year or if you have any comments please feel free to discuss with your local Councillor at any stage.

Active Luton

Lea Manor Recreation Centre continues to offer extensive sporting opportunities for the whole community. Not only do we have a well equipped gym offering competitive pricing options for all, but also comprehensive swim programme and a recently refurbished floodlit synthetic pitch. For more information, please contact our reception on 01582 59 98 88.



Local Olympic volunteers honoured

Over 50 local volunteers were in attendance at the Inspire Centre for an event in December hosted by the Council, Active Luton and Team Beds & Luton in December to celebrate the efforts made by Luton's Games Makers - Olympic and Paralympic Games volunteers - who helped to ensure that a spectacular summer of sport ran smoothly.



Christmas Party draws the crowds

On Friday 14th December 2012, 150 people from the Area North 50+ community joined invited guests and community volunteers for a wonderful Christmas party organised by the Events Committee and the CDS staff.

The event started with a Carol Service provided by choirs from Wauluds, Whitefield's, Lea Manor and Bramingham schools, Bramingham Signing Stars and The Futures House Heywood House Group. This was followed by a three course Christmas meal – provided by Ian and Tracey from The Bakers Dozen. Dinner entertainment included games; a quiz, a raffle and was accompanied by local entertainer Paula K.

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Lea Manor Youth Centre

School based work – **ASDAN Sessions:**

Youth Workers continue to deliver sessions and discussions on topical issues to Lea Manor High School Year 10 and 11 students. The young people have explored the English Defence League; Bullying and its greater impact due to the internet, mobile phones and social networks.

Harmony in Marsh Farm, a music production workshop in partnership with the eLearning centre and Music Service, continues to develop with support from the Music Service, musicians are supporting our disability group using percussion and guitar. We are aiming to showcase their work at a mini-concert in March 2013.

The Lea Manor Friendship Scheme is a disability project for young people aged 11-25 and runs every Friday evening and as a school holiday provision during the Easter, summer and October breaks. The project also accommodates young volunteers who support the other young people through our programme of activities. We were delighted to win the Luton's Best 'Community Project of the Year' award last month for our summer 2012 project. Both the young people and young volunteers benefit enormously from the project.



Staff and Volunteers receiving our award at the Luton Hoo

Other News

In the New Year as well as continuing and developing our existing projects Lea Manor Youth Centre is looking forward to hosting and supporting Circles of Support and Family Actions Young Carers Group.

Sundon Park Youth Centre

A group for young people with disabilities continues on Monday evenings and all young people have recently completed first aid training.

The Sundon Park Youth Forum meets weekly to discuss local issues affecting the community and have recently delivered assemblies to the students of Lealands. They are also working with UK Youth and Microsoft Youth Hub programme which will allow the members to be trained in becoming IT champions and supporting other young people with IT issues – in particular internet safety and cyber bullying.

Friday night football continues with good attendance and the young people have recently completed their First Aid in Sport qualification.

Partnership working with Lealands High School continues and young people are being trained to become Youth Ambassadors for Health and Relationship advice.

The catering department are supporting a health & wellbeing project to train a group of young people in food hygiene which will enhance their GCSE's.

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Police initiatives seek to build stronger communities

The local Police Team are forging ahead with plans to improve links with all watch schemes in the area. If you want to be involved in either Neighbourhood Watch or Shop Watch, please contact 01582 39 44 27 and your details will be passed onto the Neighbourhood Watch team.

The Police Team are also asking that those persons in the area diagnosed with dementia are referred to them so the police and their partners can offer support on an ongoing basis.

Healthy Workplaces

Public Health is expanding its popular Community Health Champion programme into workplaces. Local businesses in west Luton are being asked to consider the benefits of joining the Workplace Health Champion programme, such as a healthier and more productive workforce and reduced sickness absence, and support one or more of their employees to become a Health Champion for their organisation.

The role comes with a full days training and entails supporting colleagues towards a healthier lifestyle and signposting to local health services. In January, nine employees from Tui Travel Plc were trained. Further training dates are to be announced shortly. If you or your organisation is interested in the Workplace Health Champion programme, please contact workingwell@luton.gov.uk

JOBS, SKILLS & TRAINING FAIR

Wednesday 27th Feb 2013
At Futures House, Marsh Farm, Luton, 10.00am to 4.30pm

This will be an excellent opportunity to find out about:

- Various job vacancies
- Training opportunities
- College courses
- Apprenticeships for those still at school & 16+
- Help and advice on CV, Job Applications, interview skills, job hunting and much more

FREE ADMISSION
please e-mail Ishaq Kazi at:

ishaq@marshfarmfutures.co.uk

or call 01582 51 25 55.

Marsh Farm Futures is pleased to announce that a team from Job Centre Plus (JCP) has moved into Futures House to provide their services to local residents. This is extremely good news for local people and other partners who can now work even closer with JCP.

For Marsh Farm Futures (MFF) it is one more milestone achieved. This was one of the ambitions of MFCDDT (MFF's predecessor) during their operations to bring JCP services on site. We are grateful to JCP managers who have helped to secure this provision at a local level.

Opening hours are:

Monday 9.00 - 4pm

Tuesday 9.00 - 4pm

Wednesday 12.00 - 4pm

Thursday 9.00 - 4pm

Friday 9.00 - 4pm

The services available are Job Seeking Advice with current vacancies displayed for anyone seeking employment, to come and view at a time convenient to them. There will also be weekly motivational Group Information Sessions providing information around the welfare reform and how it will affect individual's financial situation, training opportunities, job seeking advice and assistance, CV provision, Including sign posting and appropriate training.

