



**Area East Board Meeting
Community Development Service (CDS) Report
June 2012**

The Community Development Service (CDS) - Management /Staffing Information:

As we finish / start another year, we in CDS, thought it would useful for you to have an overview of our work for 2011, followed by developments / news from your own area.

Cllr. Bailey has been the Luton Borough Council port-folio holder for The CDS, which is part of the Housing and Community Living Department of the Council, managed by Pam Garraway during this period and all of us in CDS would like to thank her for support and wish her luck in her future plans and welcome Cllr. Roden as our new Port-folio holder.

The CDS comes under the direct line management of Mike McMahon (Head of Housing Strategy & Private Sector) whilst The CDS team is headed up by Sandra Hayes (Community Development Service Manager), supported by an Area Operations manager and three area managers (UDMs) and Centre staff; a Neighbourhood Governance Team (Manager and 3 NG officers - who are working exclusively in Luton West / South/Central on the Neighbourhood Governance Project); 2 Project Managers, Service Support Manager and Admin.

News from The Community Development Service 2011-2012

The Community Development Service (CDS) has always been known for its flexibility and in the changing times we live in this is going to become ever MORE important and that we live up to our acronym – ‘CDS’ which also means “**Can Do Service**” and as can be seen from our list of achievements during the last year, we are definitely a Can Do Service, but one particular item is worthy of mention – The Farley Sports Relief Mile which was undertaken in partnership with the New Horizon’s group and as you can see a good time was had by all – especially Shrek, Donkey & Friends **AND** over £800 raised for Sports Relief !



Volunteering - The LBC Volunteer Programme, has now become embedded as an integral part of CDS's work which has a cross Council focus. The programme aims to increase the number of active volunteers in Luton, bring in new skills, knowledge and experience into LBC and provide additional resource/ support for the respective services in a service enhancing capacity. Some examples of this, which have a direct impact on CDS is the recruiting of volunteers for festivals like the pre Olympic "Love Luton" weekend event and all local community festivals and events or when local businesses like BT, Monarch Airlines etc volunteer to help respond to community priorities and to support community projects, as can be seen from the photos below. However, please remember this is not and cannot be seen as a replacement for paid workers and that the volunteer gets a lot out of the programme too as many of them, who are unemployed at the point of entry, use the scheme as a platform into employment via:

- Structured process of recruitment
- Assessment of their training and development needs
- Appropriate experience in host project
- Mentoring and feedback from host project
- A customised accredited qualification, which provides a tangible record of achievement

With over 200 new and existing volunteers now registered and 30 volunteering opportunities now available, the project is going from strength to strength but it needs your support to continue being successful; you have to continue to help provide the opportunities, mentoring the volunteers and any information needed such as hours completed etc. If you need any further information, please feel free to contact Adam at any time on 548775 or adam.divney@luton.gov.uk



Neighbourhood Governance (Your Say, Your Way) NG is now engaged in testing different elements in three areas – West, South and Central and is on course to move to North and East Luton in 2012-13. Sometimes we forget how well we have progressed with this programme, so attached to this News-note is a copy of an application we recently submitted for a national award.

Festival Time 2012 is almost upon us and as you can see from the calendar it's going to be a VERY busy spring / summer especially around the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, Love Luton and Olympics events.

Sat 26 th May	Saints Festival	Sat 2 nd June	High Town Diamond Jubilee event + Street Party & Mini-Olympics Races
Sun 3 rd June	Farley Festival/ Diamond Jubilee event	Sat 16 th June	South Ward Festival @ Parktown Community Centre
Sat 23 rd June	North Area festival @ Futures Building	Sun 24 th June	Dallow Festival @ Community Centre
Sat 30 th June	Lewsey Festival	Sat 30 th June	Biscot Festival @Denbigh High School

Tues 17 th – 18 th July	Legrave Festival (with Legrave Primary school)		
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Hopefully some of this year's events will be as successful as these pictures show last year's ones were, particularly around the Royal Wedding where staff and centre users entered into the spirit of the occasion and had a good old fashioned 'knees-up'!



Community Centres

Our 12 local community centres continue to be Luton's "best kept" secret with almost 400,000 visits in 2011-12 including visits from the Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg MP, over a hundred Police Officers from India on a fact finding tour in collaboration with Beds Police and lots of children and parents to meet up with Helen Barnett and her team from Active Luton who are actively campaigning to set up an outstanding primary school in the Biscot Ward.

However, some of our Community Centres play a far more important part in the lives of some people as a “place of safety” in times of crises as proven in the lead up and during the EDL/UAF marches in Luton -



What is being delivered as a result? Local and area focussed SCS and action plans



The overall aim of YSYW is to encourage and enable Luton's communities to work as active citizens with LBC and other statutory agencies to shape services and influence change in their neighbourhoods. It does this by empowering individuals and communities to come together to make their own and their communities lives better.

The **YSYW** Team, led by Marek Lubelski, has developed a flexible "Phased" approach to spreading, marketing and in 3 of Luton's 5 Areas, with plans to expand to all areas by 2015.

- This approach –
 - Delivers a local Community Festival in each neighbourhood (Council Ward) with partners which ensure that communities get to know/enjoy/ learn about each other in a social/ informal and fun gathering, while Statutory Agencies have a place to do the same AND consult with all stakeholders.

Encourages Cross Agency Partnership Development based on:

- Area Neighbourhood Board /Action Planning
- Links to Service Planning and Commissioning
- Community Networks/ Single Ward Data Base
- Community Festivals/Neighbourhood Mapping
- Face to Face Surveys/Research & Intelligence
- Develops the evidence base on / for these issues & priorities.
- Community Planning Decision Day events, where local priorities are agreed with Councillors and partners
- Followed by Ward based Participatory Budgeting (PB) Decision Day event, where local funding for community projects to address agreed priorities is decided by citizens voting on an electronic system. Participatory budgeting directly involves local people in making decisions on the spending and priorities for a defined public budget – which in this case is the small local grants for communities from LBC combined with funding from partners – BEDS / Luton Police, NHS, Social Housing, Faith Communities, Luton Airport and Luton Adult Community Learning..

Impacts and Outcomes

- Wider more representative involvement
- Priorities being delivered/ additional resources levered in
- Clear fit with strategic framework
- Improved joint partnership planning
- Reducing duplication
- 20 locally based Community Festivals with an average attendance of 1000
- 15+ Participatory Budgeting Days, with an average of 100 participants including visitors from Norway, as Luton's PB is used as an exemplar of good practise by the National PB Unit
- 75 local projects receiving funding of up to £200,000 (from partnership funding) which was voted on and agreed by their communities and the remaining 25 projects being helped to develop their projects in other ways
- Feed back to community on what has been done or not and the reasons



Finally, positive proof Luton Communities believe in and approve of the Neighbourhood Governance!

RAYNHAM WAY COMMUNITY CENTRE
AREA REPORT
June 2012
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER : SHAMSUZ ZAMAN

EVENTS

Raynham Way Festival/Minilympics Sunday 22nd April 2012 -

The day dawned bright and sunny and miraculously stayed that way for most of the day despite the forecast!

Councillor Diane Moles officially opened the event alongside the pre-school children who sang some songs and then started race proceedings with a chant of "*Let the games begin!*" holding up their home made Olympic Torches. Cllr Moles also entered into the spirit of the day by entering the egg & spoon race!

We had a fabulous day filled with fun and laughter especially at the adult races, which were definitely a highlight of the day. Adults and children alike entered into the spirit of the day by entering all the races, which included egg & spoon, sack, and space hopper races. All winners were rewarded with a medal and a bar of chocolate. As well as the races outside there were Fairground rides, inflatable's, hot & cold food and drink including a licensed bar, several information points including; Police van, Road Safety Team, Inspire Sports Village, and St. John's Ambulance. Inside the Raynham Way Community Centre the stalls and seating area was constantly busy with some nice items on sale including; cakes, sweets, build-a-bear, toys, jewellery and bags. The face painting and raffle stalls were also very well supported. We had a good total attendance of around 400 people on the day.

The day finished with a Tug-of-war competition which proved very competitive especially as the girls and ladies (and maybe a few men!) won against the men!! Our thanks must go to the Area Board committee for their contribution to our funds for this event and ongoing support for other events. We would also like to thank our volunteers who were a great help and support on the day.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Play schemes

On the 6th June 2012 we are taking the Playscheme children down to the UK Carnival Arts Centre to celebrate 'Times Gone By' – we were fortunate to have volunteers to come our Centre where the children made some beautiful works of art, which will be displayed for all to see, plus photos of the special occasion. The following two days that are left will be Arts and Crafts and Fun and Games.

Diamond Jubilee Afternoon Tea Dance – 14th June 2012

We had around 50 in attendance to what was a very enjoyable and successful event to celebrate our Queen and her 60 years of reign. The Union Jacks were out in force on paper chains, napkins, table rolls and mini cupcakes! We all had a lovely afternoon tea of sandwiches and sausage rolls followed by an assortment of cakes including mini cup cakes and a scone with jam and clotted cream. Then came the dancing! Well this lot like to dance! We danced to a wide assortment of music arranged for us by our entertainer, Jane, which included line dancing, ballroom & sequence dancing, a bit of Tina Turner and other modern classics like YMCA, Neil Diamond and even a bit of the Hokey Cokey. There was also a sing -along for those that were unable to dance.

The afternoon was rounded off with a glass of Cava and a toast to the Queen along with a sing-along to 'Land of Hope & Glory and Rule Britannia' whilst waving our union jack napkins!!
A good time was had by all.

GROUPS

Pre-School

This is very well attended and fully subscribed with a waiting list for children to start when a vacancy arrives. The canopy is now completed and we are waiting for a camera to be installed so the Centre Staff can see who is under it at night.

Stay and Play

This is also very well attended on Friday mornings and their hope is to have another session up and running perhaps on a Tuesday afternoon.

Short Mat Bowls

People who come to these 5 sessions really do enjoy themselves and often wish they could have more sessions. A valuable part of retired life for people to come out and mix and make new friends. These sessions are open to anyone who wishes to join.

Zumba Gold - Zumba

Zumba Gold is a new Class and aimed at folk who want a less strenuous form of exercise/dance and is held on a Monday afternoon from 2.30pm to 3.30pm. It is proving to be very popular. The other two Zumba classes, one on a Monday and the other on Wednesday are also well attended.

U3A Table Tennis

We are delighted to report back the great response that we have had from the folk who play Table Tennis about the new tables. Their skill and flair has greatly improved (so we have been told!)

50+ Flexicise

Since this group started in 2006 it has grown year by year and is very popular with the folk that attend it. This group is open to men and women.

Junior Youth Club

From February this year the Youth Club has grown from 37 children to 53 children now in attendance. We have had to turn away children who wanted to attend as we felt that the numbers to the ratio of staff would have been over subscribed. The children who come here are local to the area and come from three different schools.

Line Dancing

Unfortunately we have lost the morning session as the Instructor was not well enough to carry on and there was no one to take his place. The evening Line Dancing session is popular with those who attend but recently a few of the members have suffered major illnesses, so the numbers are low at this time.

Jubilee Club

This group is still very small – but the ones who come really enjoy themselves.

Martial Arts

This group has not attracted any new members lately. They have now produced leaflets to put up in Centres with the hope of attracting new members to the group.

Saheth

The six week Health Course during February and March 2012 was well attended each week by men and women; the average attendance is 16. The course helped to develop new skills and confidence to manage long term health conditions. This group is still very well attended.

Tai Chi

A new Instructor has now taken over from previous on the Friday night session. The Centre is in negotiation with previous instructor to start another group on a Monday night.

Ballet and Tap

This group is going very well for Alison who took on this group independently in February. The group is attracting new children on a regular basis and the month of May was when the children are prepared to take their Ballet and Tap exams. The Centre is open from 8am till 3.30pm with the official exams taking place on Sunday the 27th May, all day. We wish all the children success in passing their exams.

Hula Hoop Class

This is still run on a Monday night and the instructor has the option of taking up the second class again if the group grows. The instructor has produced more leaflets to distribute and attract new membership.

HART HILL ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND **RESPONSIBLE OFFICER – CATHY McSHANE**

Community Development Service(CDS) and colleagues in Children & Learning have been working with Children's Links charity who manage the Hart Hill Adventure Playground (HHAPG) to assess its future status and direction of travel.

The HHAPG has secured funding from the Social Action Fund till March 2013; however the amount is insufficient to cover appropriate salary costs and the upkeep of the facility. CDS is helping to support short term measures to ensure continuity pending future funding applications; an officer from CDS will be working to address Health & Safety, income targets and increased community use of the facility and we have agreed to monitor its progress till September 2012.