

**YOU SAID
WE'RE DOING**



East Area Board

Neighbourhood Governance

Progress Report: July – November 2014

Date: Thursday 6 November

Name of Chair: Councillor Alan Skepelhorn

Reporting Officer: Gary J. Roberts

(On behalf of the East Luton Partnership Group)

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

Successful community festival

A new successful approach was explored this year when Raynham Way Community Centre joined forces with Ramridge Primary School to deliver the East Luton Community Festival. Staff from the centre along with colleagues from the neighbourhood governance team worked closely with staff and parents from the school to plan June's event.

The sun was out as staff and volunteers descended on the school to set up in the morning of the event and the temperature kept rising as the day went on. Everyone was focused on making this a great event for the local community and things really could not have gone better. The community came along to enjoy an array of stalls, entertainment, dance displays, bungee run, bouncy castles, an obstacle course, gladiator duel, face painting and even a reptile show. The pupils also participated in their version of the world cup, using 'Your Say, Your Way' funding voted for by local residents.



Archery at Hart Hill Adventure Playground

A pilot archery event was organised at the adventure playground in August. The event was inspired by the London 2012 Olympics as it's recognised that the sport is highly valued across many faiths and cultures.

Luton Central Mosque, St Margaret Methodist Church, Beech Hill Methodist and All Saints Church have also come together to trial the sport. As a result the All Saints Church now has their own archery club. Work has also started on a project to attract children on the streets to the sport.

The main aims of the archery projects are to:

- target communities (particularly BME) to be more active and play sport
- promote families and provide opportunities for women to take part
- tackle isolation and promote cohesion
- make Luton a safer place and raise the confidence of people.

The Community Games will be held in Luton in November and Paralympian Champion Danielle Browns is expected to attend.

Powers boost antisocial behaviour fight

Police, councils and housing associations across Bedfordshire are to take advantage of new powers aimed at helping them to fight antisocial behaviour.

The powers came into effect on Monday, 20 October and are made possible following the Government's new Antisocial Behaviour Crime and Police Act 2014.

It was agreed to use the powers in Bedfordshire following a series of dedicated meetings between the police, councils and housing associations who agreed the key benefit of the legislation is that it helps 'put victims first' by making partnership working more effective and enforcement measures easier to implement.

New 'Community Protection Notices' will allow police and local authorities to tackle environmental antisocial behaviour such as noise or fly-tipping and issue fixed penalty tickets to those who breach them.

Local authorities will be able to impose new Public Space Protection Orders to prohibit certain kinds of behaviour, such as drinking and nuisance gatherings, within defined areas. Police and PCSOs will then be able to issue tickets to anyone who breaches them.

Under the legislation any victim who is unhappy with the response to an ongoing problem by police and partners can apply to pull a new "community trigger". The trigger requires partners to meet, review their response and consider what more can be done. Ways to apply the trigger will be advertised via the partners' websites and marketing materials.

For further information contact the antisocial behaviour team on **01582 394485** or email: communitysafety@luton.gcsx.gov.uk



Improving GP services

Luton Clinical Commissioning Group has developed a new way of improving GP services in Luton.

The 31 GP practices have formed four clusters, each containing between seven and nine GP practices, with 40,000 – 60,000 patients. The aim is to deliver better joint-working for more joined-up services to Luton patients.

The development of clusters ensures practices come together and are supported in understanding their role as commissioners and to consider how best to improve the health and social care system.

One of the main functions of this new system is the two-way commissioning dialogue between the CCG and practices. GPs are our front-line clinicians and can help to shape commissioning through their day-to-day experience of health and social care services.



Council partners with CCG

A new partnership between Luton Borough Council and Luton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) will mean that certain services such as complaints handling and communications will be provided by the local authority.

NHS customers can expect a continuing excellent service from this arrangement which represents better value for the tax payer.

Women-only health and fitness programmes



Active Luton's successful 'Me Time' programme is encouraging more and more women to take part in sport and physical activity.

'Me Time' offers a variety of women-only sports and fitness programmes across the town and in various community settings.

Activities are during the day, in the evening and at weekends so that everyone has the opportunity to participate.

As well as the physical activities, the programme also provides links into coaching and mentoring to help

develop local female leaders, mentors and coaches who can then encourage others to take part.

Helen Barnett, Chief Executive of Active Luton, said: "We are very proud of this programme which ensures more local women are able to improve their health and wellbeing by taking part in sport and physical activity.

"There are a number of reasons why participation levels are low amongst women and this is all about working in a variety of community settings to not only make it easier for them to get involved, but also to give them the confidence to take part."

For more information contact Active Luton on 01582 40 02 72 or visit www.activeluton.co.uk



One of many 'Me Time' programmes taking place across Luton. This group has been presented with their learn to swim certificates.



Stronger and safer communities

The Big Iftar



REMEMBERING SREBRENICA



A multicultural event honoured the victims and survivors of the Srebrenica genocide and marked the breaking of the daily fast of Ramadan.

in Europe since the second world war. The event also marked the breaking of the daily fast of Ramadan with a feast prepared by the Chaul End Nursery and friends.



Dignitaries, community leaders, visitors to the town and Luton's citizens came together at the Chaul End Centre in July to honour the victims and survivors of the 1995 Srebrenica genocide - the worst attack on citizens suffered anywhere

This unique event, which brought people from different backgrounds and cultures together, was hosted by Luton in Harmony in association with Luton Borough Council, Bedfordshire Police, Luton Culture and the Remembering Srebrenica charity.

The memorial evening featured welcoming remarks by the Mayor of Luton, Cllr Mohammed Farooq, followed by Communities Minister Stephen Williams who spoke about his recent visit to Bosnia.

Visitors listened to emotional first-hand accounts from the 'Mothers of Srebrenica' survivors of the Bosnian genocide as well as Luton-based survivor of the war, Kelima Dautovic



(Community Centre Development Officer, Luton Culture), who spoke about the generosity of Lutonians and the support she received in the town. Her talk showed everyone both the horrors of war and how we as united communities in Luton can, should and did help.

Live Well Luton

Steps to a healthier you

Weight Management programme

Live Well Luton is currently running a child weight management programme at Barnfield West Academy on Fridays from 5-6:30pm. This is a free 24-week programme for overweight children aged 5-15 years (and their parents and carers). The aim of the programme is to provide the knowledge and support needed to empower families to make healthier lifestyle choices.

For details call 01582 757635 or visit www.livewell-luton.org.uk.



Remembrance Parade

As Luton commemorates the 100th anniversary of the start of World War 1, you may want to join in Luton's Remembrance Parade 2014 in November or help organise some commemorative event yourself.

If you would like to know more about this event or become part of the organising group please email one of the following people:

**Sandra.Hayes@luton.gov.uk,
Ann.Loeffler@luton.gov.uk or
David.Graves@lutonculture.com**

Stronger and safer communities

DON'T WAIT TO
STOP THE HATE



Hate crime update

A Bedfordshire-wide hate crime strategy was launched in May and Luton has its own action plan. One of the main aims of the strategy is to increase reporting of hate crime.

Hate crime is nationally underreported. In fact, some studies estimate that four times as many hate crimes take place than are reported; other organisations put this figure much higher.

Hate crime includes physical attacks to people or property, threats such as offensive letters or phone calls, verbal abuse and mimicking, arson, graffiti, bullying at work or school and more.

These incidents are motivated by prejudice, bigotry or intolerance on the grounds of disability, ethnicity,

gender, race or ethnicity, religion or belief or sexual orientation.

So far in Luton the work on hate crime has resulted in an increase in the number of incidents reported.

Key work on the action plan includes training frontline council staff and groups within the community. Some local businesses have been contacted including bus companies and taxi firms to raise awareness of hate crime and to advise where to report and get support.

There has also been a Bedfordshire-wide communications campaign with new literature available, including an easy read leaflet on reporting hate crime and how victims can get support.

For more information about or if you want to attend a training session contact Laura Chalmers on **01582 394194** or email: laura.chalmers@luton.gcsx.gov.uk



Volunteer scheme continues to shine

The summer months have been a busy time for the Council Volunteer Scheme, which has seen over 4,000 volunteer hours contributed to the local community.

It also saw the hosting of the inaugural Luton Volunteer Awards. More than 200 people attended the event at the University of Bedfordshire which showcased Luton's very best volunteers who stand out for the unpaid work they do in the community.

The event, which was timed to coincide with National Volunteering Week, was organised to recognise, appreciate and thank volunteers for all the good they do in Luton.

Awards were made in 12 categories, recognising the hard work and dedication of Luton's best volunteers which has brought so many benefits to the town and its residents.

A range of local public, private and voluntary organisations came together with the Council to organise the inaugural awards. TUI UK & Ireland was the event's main sponsor, with a number of other organisations stepping in to fund individual award categories.

Other activities have seen pupils at Cheynes Infant School enjoying a revamped local play facility thanks to generous volunteers from TUI UK & Ireland.

Employees from the Luton-based holiday company braved the heat to give the local play area in the nearby Grampian Way Park a much needed makeover.

The project came about after Year 1 pupils at the school wrote to the Council and a local MP expressing their concerns about the condition of the park.

The pupils then liaised with the Council's Parks Service which contacted the authority's volunteering coordinator for assistance in finding an organisation to support the project.

The pupils were then given the opportunity to choose a colour scheme and make suggested improvements to the play area.

If you are a resident or a local business and want to get involved, email us on volunteering@luton.gov.uk or visit www.luton.gov.uk



Economy and environment

Adult Learning update

Luton Adult Learning and the Learning Partnership have provided funding support to 20 local projects which have been supported by the Community Learning Fund during 2013-14.

The fund was launched to support and encourage the voluntary and community sector and other third sector and not-for-profit organisations within Luton to deliver innovative learning which supports disadvantaged adults and addresses key local priorities.

The major fund bidding round is closed for now but the 'Small Grants Fund' will remain open to monthly applications until March 2015. For more information please visit www.lutonacl.ac.uk.

In addition, Luton Adult Learning has worked with the local community

and groups to provide upskilling opportunities in capacity building which includes education and training, bid writing, application workshops and presentation skills to enable them to apply for funding to support group activities and provide learning opportunities.

For more information contact clt@lutonacl.ac.uk or call 01582 49 00 33.



Thanks for talking!

The 'We need to talk' campaign on Luton Borough Council's budget was one of the largest consultations ever undertaken by the authority.

The questions were simple, the answers much less so, and we are currently analysing the mountain of responses received.

Having already saved £72million over the last four years, the Council has to identify further savings of £33million. Residents' suggestions have given Councillors valuable feedback about what they feel is important and which services they would choose to maintain or cut.

The Council would like to thank everyone who filled in an online or paper survey, recorded their views on the special display boards or chatted to Councillors on the sofa in the Mall. Feedback will be provided later this year.

East area update



Coming together to reduce loneliness and social isolation in Luton

Most people understand the emotional pain that loneliness can cause, but evidence shows it can also harm our physical and mental health too. In fact, research reveals that the impact of loneliness and social isolation on early death is equivalent to smoking 15 cigarettes a day.

A project designed to reduce loneliness and help residents feel included in their communities has started in Luton. The aim of the project is to engage with residents and encourage them to find innovative ways of drawing lonely people into community life.

Initially focusing on Stopsley and Biscot, Luton Borough Council is working with volunteers to develop community-led solutions to the problem of loneliness and social isolation.

The idea is for volunteers to look into the nature and extent of loneliness in their areas and work with local organisations and communities to identify solutions to the problem.

We're looking for volunteers for the project so please get in touch if this sounds like something you would like to be involved in.

For more information or to get involved in the project contact Joe Biskupski on 01582 548774 or email: joe.biskupski@luton.gov.uk

Tribute and memorial to James Dyer F.S.A MA

There was a small gathering in October at Inspire: Luton Sports Village for the unveiling of a commemorative stone to celebrate the life of James Dyer and to mark his extensive research into the Stopsley National School which once stood on that site.

Stopsley National School stood on this spot from 1858 to 1912, when it was relocated in the centre of the village and the old building was retained as a meeting hall for the parish. The adjoining School House was occupied until his death.

After occupation by the Civil Defence during World War II, both School and House were demolished in 1956.

The memorial was funded by the East Luton Area Board and can be found on the left hand side of the road as you approach the gates to the crematorium. The stone bears a picture of James and one of the old school.



GreenHouse Mentoring café project

GreenHouse Mentoring (GHM) is an organisation which seeks to help young people to cope better with the stresses and strains of modern day living. They do this by providing quality, trained and screened volunteers to mentor and help these young people to reduce antisocial behaviour, adapt into society and unlock their potential.

GHM were recipients of 'Your Say, Your Way' participatory budgeting funding back in February to upgrade the computer systems they made available for the young people. However, shortly after this was announced, they lost a large proportion of their funding and it was agreed the funding could be allocated to supporting the GHM Café. The Café provides a safe and encouraging environment for all mentoring and training activities provided by GHM and is central to everything they do.

It's 'mind, body and soil' at Colwell Court

Groundwork Trust received 'Your Say, Your Way' participatory budgeting funding to run a project aimed at older people from Colwell Court sheltered housing scheme and day centre. The purpose of the venture is to train, encourage and support them to grow their own vegetables and soft fruit. The project is based on Groundwork's 'mind, body and soil' model.

The residents taking part have noticed physical and mental health benefits from getting involved. The project encourages gentle outdoor exercise and social interaction, which has proven successful.

The gardening tasks have been extremely good for residents who suffer from arthritis or bad joints as it encourages them to do light exercise.

The project has encouraged residents to interact with each other and new friendships have been formed as a result.

One participant commented: "I know we all have aches and pains but my arthritic wrists feel better after doing the gardening – it proves it can help. I do all sorts, like weeding, cutting things back, and harvesting vegetables. I'd never enjoyed gardening in all my life until I did this. Everyone can join in; it's everybody's to share."



Prevention and early intervention update

Between June and August Ashcroft Youth Zone had had more than 300 visits from families, children and young people. The activities were delivered by Ashcroft High School as well as the stronger families and targeted youth service teams. The Targeted Youth Work team are working intensively in the evening and weekends with 12 young people and their families who are some of the most vulnerable residents located in the East Area.

YOUR SAY YOUR WAY

...in East Luton

Your Local Councillors

Crawley Ward

Councillor David Franks	10 Hart Hill Drive Luton LU2 0AX	01582 41 49 25 david.franks@luton.gov.uk
Councillor Mervin Cato	Flat F, 2 Farley Hill Luton LU1 5ER	01582 51 40 87 mervin.cato@luton.gov.uk

Round Green Ward

Councillor Mark Rivers	30 Kingston Road Luton LU2 7SA	07714 13 97 13 mark.rivers@luton.gov.uk
Councillor Yaqub Hanif	30 Leicester Road Luton LU4 8SJ	07714 138716 yaqub.hanif@luton.gov.uk
Councillor Mohammed Zia	121 Argyll Avenue Luton LU3 1EJ	01582 41 58 61 mohammed.zia@luton.gov.uk

Stopsley Ward

Councillor Michael Dolling	125 Old Bedford Road Luton LU3 1LF	01582 42 96 46 michael.dolling@luton.gov.uk
Councillor Jenny Davies	69 Stopsley Way Luton LU2 7UU	01582 44 40 21 jenny.davies@luton.gov.uk

Wigmore Ward

Councillor Diane Moles	12 Nightingale Close Luton LU2 8EZ	01582 72 32 93 diane.moles@luton.gov.uk
Councillor Alan Skepelhorn	15 Lennox Green Luton LU2 8UT	01582 27 18 51 alan.skepelhorn@luton.gov.uk
Councillor Peter Chapman	316 Old Bedford Road Luton LU2 7EJ	01582 48 06 29 peter.chapman@luton.gov.uk

Upcoming events in East Luton

All events at Raynham Way
Community Centre, 66 Eaton
Green Road, LU1 9JE

Christmas Faye

Saturday 29 November 2014,
12-4pm
Santa's grotto ★ Christmas crafts
Tombola ★ Bric-a-brac
Christmas raffle ★ Refreshments
Mulled wine ★ Hot spicy cider
★ and lots more

Community Children's Christmas Party

Saturday 20 December 2014,
1-3pm
■ Tickets £4 each
■ Children's entertainer
■ Grotto
■ Food and drink
■ Christmas gift for every child

50+ Community Christmas Party

Monday 22 December 2014,
4-8pm
■ Tickets: £6 each
■ Entertainer (DJ)
■ Bring your own favourite tippie
■ Buffet
For tickets and further information
contact the centre on
01582 402034

East Luton Local Policing Team

General Contact Telephone: 101

Emergencies Telephone: 999

Email: LPT.luton-east@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 55 87 81** or **01582 54 69 85** or email:

Gary J. Roberts	gary.roberts@luton.gov.uk
Emma Colclough	emma.colclough@luton.gov.uk

Web: www.luton.gov.uk

