

YATE AND DODINGTON

PRIORITY NEIGHBOURHOODS COMMUNITY LEAD GROUP

Annual Report
2012/13
(Produced
September
2013)



Chairs Statement

The last year has seen a lot of progress on the priorities agreed by the group. It was agreed that although a lot was already being done this was not being communicated to those in the community that it would benefit. By using local people, groups and organisations to spearhead working sub groups on Employment and Education, Healthy Lifestyles and Communication it is hoped that the initiatives agreed and progressed will be more sustainable and more specific the areas issues.

As more information is being gathered the work is being adapted and co-ordinated accordingly.

Next year will be an interesting time as we analyse the results from this year and plan further initiatives for the future.

Martin Monk,
Chair Yate and Dodington CLG

1. Introduction

The Yate and Dodington Priority Neighbourhood Lead Group is composed of a diverse range of representatives from such areas as public sector agencies, the local business community, voluntary groups and local councillors and is led jointly by Yate Town Council and Dodington Parish Council.

Yate and Dodington have a varied history dating back many hundreds of years, and have both undergone fundamental changes in the last half century with the building of new developments from the 1960's onwards, they now have a combined population of well over 30,000 residents. The area is continuing to change and develop rapidly with the opening of new health centres, library, and shops in recent years as well as the innovative Armadillo – Yate's Youth Venue and Café.



2. Progress

During the year 2012/13 the group has made significant progress on its identified themes of Employment and Education; Healthy Lifestyles; Communication and Crime.

Sub groups for each theme were set up to investigate the issues and propose action plans via the Administration Group which were then endorsed by the main CLG. Reports are included below from each the theme group leads as well as from some of the voluntary community groups who have been working along side them.

Reports from CLG Sub groups

1. Employment and Education
2. Communication
3. Healthy Lifestyles
 - a. Healthy Eating
 - b. Reach and Friendship Clubs
 - c. Active Travel and Walking
 - d. NHS Health Checks
 - e. Reducing tobacco usage
 - f. Group Programme and GP Links
 - g. Other Updates
 - h. New Initiatives
 - i. Dodington Football Coaching
 - j. Dodington Parish Council Playscheme
 - k. Wild Walk full report
 - l. Big Pull Full Report
4. Other Groups Reports
 - a. Jacobs Well Group
 - b. Yate Food Bank
5. Community Safety

1. Employment and Education

Ways Onto Work (WOW) @ Yate is a young persons work hub that is being piloted by the Yate and Dodington Education and Employment sub group. This provides a one-stop shop of information for young people seeking training and employment opportunities.

According to the Office of National Statistics, in April 2012 the proportion of young (aged 18-24) Job Seekers Allowance claimants in Yate and Dodington were higher than both the district and national averages. Furthermore, between April 2008 and April 2012 the number of 'young claimants' had increased by 65, which equated to a 433% increase.

As a result of this dramatic rise the Yate and Dodington Priority Neighbourhood Action Plan identified youth unemployment as a particular issue. The action was for 'better provision to assist people in getting jobs as well as training'.

Red Door Coaching and Training, and Merlin Housing Society, agreed to co-ordinate local action to address this issue. They decided to organise and facilitate a workshop with a number of organisations who provide services to young people, or training and employment services. This included Job Centre Plus, KTS Training, and South Gloucestershire Youth Service.

The aim of this workshop was to establish what is already happening to help young people into employment or training, and explore any gaps in provision.



After much discussion, those attending the workshop agreed that there were a number of services and organisations already helping young people into employment and training. Therefore the group decided to explore the potential for establishing a local young person's work hub, which would bring all the information that is available of support providers into one location.

This idea gained momentum with subsequent planning meetings involving other organisations keen to be involved in this sub group. Finally, dates were set for three pilot work hubs, taking place at The Armadillo Youth Café, in Yate town centre, on the first Thursday of July, August and September.

The pilot work hub events are three hour drop-in sessions and feature a number of training and education providers. Each provider has a stall and an expert on hand to promote their service and advice on what options exist. These include CITB Construction Skills, Princes Trust, KTS Training, Get on Track, Stroud and South Gloucestershire College, Pursuit Training, the Volunteer Centre, and the council's sustainable transport team. Also, a CV writing workshop is held to provide advice and useful tips when making job application.

The sub group plan to review the three pilot sessions once they have all taken place. This will determine whether to continue the work hub or deliver alternative initiatives that will support young people accessing training and employment.

David Triggles-Wells, 29 August 2013

2. Communication

The new web page on My Yate is now live complete with logo and can be found by going to https://www.myyate.co.uk/about_yate/priority_neighbourhoods. Information can be loaded onto the page by contacting either Claire Jaggard or Paul Davenport. The purpose of the page is to enable groups and organisations operating within the Priority neighbourhood areas to be able to promote events, services, and general information pertinent to the Priority Neighbourhoods. Organisations that are providing one off events or services such as training are also eligible to submit information.

There is no limit as such to what can go onto the page but information is read prior to uploading to ensure that unsuitable, discriminatory, or offensive information is placed on the page.

The page went live from August the 5th 2013 and there is already interest from local communities and organisations. The page is also being promoted through established networks such as electronic bulletins, word of mouth, and written formats. It is hoped that the page will also be promoted through the Yate & Sodbury Gazette but this still needs to be discussed with other interested parties. Promotion of the page also highlights that the page can be accessed from local libraries for those who do not have access to their own information technology.

Work still needs to be done to promote the page to younger people via youth clubs, and local youth organisations. The reality is that young people will more likely access the page via technology such as mobile phones, blackberries, and iPads.

The page will only be as good as the information provided and we hope that a wide range of information will be submitted to place on the page, and people are to be encouraged to provide a web link directly to their own websites rather than providing large amounts of information. This in effect means that by using the page people living and working within the Priority Neighbourhoods will be able to access further and more complex pieces of information via the internet using these links.

The page is the result of partnership working between Claire Jaggard of my Yate and the Priority Neighbourhood working group. The group would like to thank Claire for her on-going support and enthusiasm.

Paul Davenport, CVS

3. Health and Wellbeing (including Active Lifestyles)

a. Healthy Eating

SGC officer and Jacobs Well Group are now in discussion on how best to proceed.

b. Reach and Friendship Clubs

St Nicholas Family Centre received additional funding to ensure continuation of Friendship club. Further publicity has been undertaken recently to promote those in the area. There are currently no REACH courses in Yate but we are promoting to health professionals and making enquiries about suitable venues in Yate.

c. Active Travel and Walking;

- Very successful 'Walk A Day' programme commencing with the May festival in Yate attracting 150 people
- Recruited participants to a 12 week wellbeing programme (nutrition, healthy recipes; visiting Yate fruit and veg stall and a short local walk – potential to progress onto Walk 2 Health
- Wild4Life Family Wild Walk (May 2013) engaged 100 people (all local families) in a day of wildlife walks, pond dipping and minibeast safaris on Yate Common. Pre event assembly at Abbotswood Primary very successful as outreach to engage these families. *See report below*
- Walking to Health (Active Travel) Project to coordinate and deliver activity with St Nix Youth Centre June & July 2013.
- Improvements in Jubilee Gardens to encourage walking to and from the shopping centre.
- Event in Jubilee Gardens (nr Lidl) to launch the Yate Walking Festival and plant a community meadow. Community Spaces/Yate & Dodington In Bloom/Community Active Travel Officer
- Improvements in Jubilee Gardens to encourage walking to and from the shopping centre
- Yate & Dodington In Bloom/Community Spaces improvements to Yate station.
- The Big Pull – new 'green gym' community engagement project to involve local people in removal of (pulling up!) invasive plant Himalayan Balsam along the

Frome Valley Walkway near Cranleigh Court. (May-July 2013 and annually).
See report below

- d. NHS Health Checks;** All general practices serving the Yate PN area have participated in delivering the Health checks programme
- e. Reducing tobacco Usage;** Clinics have been run regarding Stopping Smoking at all general practices and pharmacies serving the Yate PN area and additionally at the Fire Station on Wednesdays. 'Stoptober 2012', the national campaign delivered a road show event in Yate shopping centre in September 2012, the road show generated the largest number of leads in South West region from this activity. (The road show will be replicated on 25th Sept 2013 with the addition of themed drop in sessions).
- f. Group Programmes & GP Link;**
- The Drug and Alcohol Team commissions two GP's with special interest (GPSI) in drugs and alcohol to facilitate discussions with GP's as well as produce regular newsletters highlighting Drug and Alcohol issues.
 - Yearly GP education event in Yate specifically
 - Maintain relationships through recovery brokers who attend the surgeries and ensure that clients are having three way discussions with their GP.
 - Annual pharmacy education evening is conducted and provided by the DAAT.

Alcohol project worker facilitated an 'Identification and Brief Advice' (IBA) training session with 8 gym instructors at the Yate Leisure Centre (May) in partnership with Public Health South Gloucestershire. Project worker will be providing IBA training sessions for practice nurses to raise the alcohol section of the NHS Health Checks –

g. Other Updates

- **Active Family Club;** Planned AFC in September 2013. St. Nix youth club received funding to run an Active Family Club; they are working in partnership with us.
- **Mind Map/Art Project;** No update available
- **Jacobs Wells Sustainable Travel Fund Bid;** This has been successful and £50,000 has been reserved for the South Yate area, further consultations are now being undertaken.
- **Table Tennis;** Friendship clubs potential link via ETTA.
- **Abbotswood Apple Day Sunday 19th October;** partnership between Wild4life, Jacobs well, St Nics family centre and church (all welcome to get involved).
- **Bat Walk (13th September Kingsgate Park); update to follow**
- **Pippin Project** (Abbotswood School – Jan 2014); Funded arts and education workshops for Abbotswood school including planting of a new orchard in school grounds.
- **Special Needs Playscheme** (Dodington Parish Hall); facilitated by Children's Playlink with a grant of **£1,500 from** Dodington PC.
- **Open Access Summer Playscheme (Abbotswood Primary School);** fully financed by Dodington PC and foc to the 64 participants who attend it. Aimed at

children between the ages of 5 to 11, sessions ran from Monday to Friday between 9.30am and 1.15pm.

- **Wild4life Play Funding;** will this year be used in another PN where no funded provision is currently available and no other W4L input has yet been delivered.

h. New Initiatives

- **StreetGames;** SGlos Community Sport developing a multi-sport programme for 11-19years to increase participation in sport. Other outcomes include distraction activity for ASB issues, provide alternative to Youth Centre activity. Becky Loaring (SGC) actively recruiting coaches. Programme to be rolled out across S.Glos following September pilot (Cadbury Heath). To run alongside sports leadership programmes for young people, incorporating existing local clubs and involving local coaches. Coaches will be trained and signpost to other 'healthy' programmes / interventions. Yate programme Spring 2014.
- **Athletics;** 'Run,Jump,Throw' programme in Yate during June, June and August (various locations including Kingsgate Park, Yate Shopping Centre Chipping Sodbury Fair, the Dodington Playscheme and the Festival of Youth Sport at YOSC).
- **Rugby League World Cup;** Various community based programmes culminating in USA v Cook Islands fixture on 30th October. World Cup Trophy Tour in Yate on 6th August including cheerleading / street dance, libraries 'Try Reading' and 'Rugby Readers' initiatives.

New Exercise SG Project; group activities for positive mental health, funded by an Everybody's Business grant; one of the groups is at Yate Leisure Centre

Rob Stirzaker- Healthy Lifestyles

i. Dodington Football Coaching

Dodington Parish Council has been providing free football tournaments for children between the ages of 7 and 11 during the school holidays. The tournaments are run at the Queen Elizabeth II playing fields at Kelston Close, Yate. The football tournaments are delivered by the professional sports coaching company 'Sports Heroes' and are run on the Tuesday and Thursday of each week. Children are invited to attend from the following schools - Raysfield Junior School, Woodlands Primary School, The Ridge School, Abbotswood Primary School and Wellesley Primary School.

Numbers attending so far this year have been –

12th February - 62 children

14th February - 61 children

2nd April - 55 children

4th April - 52 children



The idea is to provide free activities to children to increase their fitness and help them to live a healthy life. The tournaments also encourage team play, and the children meet others from schools other than their own. Both boys and girls take part.

j. Dodington Parish Council Playscheme

The playscheme ran for two weeks at Abbotswood Primary School - weeks commencing 5th and 12th August. Dodington Council pays for the playscheme and it

is completely free to the children that attend.

Aimed at children between the ages of 5 to 11, sessions ran from Monday to Friday between 9.30am and 1.15pm. Activities included snooker, facepainting, junk model making, cookie baking, table games, talent contest, bracelet making, painting, hamma bead models, outside sport such as football, cricket and meeting up with friends along with visits from Zoo to You, Avon Fire and Rescue and the Police. The children are encouraged to mix with children from other schools.

We can accommodate 64 children at each session and they are admitted on a first come first served basis and it was fully subscribed on most days.

Dodington PC

k. Wild Walk – Full Report

A wonderful end to the Walk a Day festival.

Wild walk info and key feedback quotes summarised below:

- 55 children under 16 and 46 adults (probably more as these were just the ones I registered!) – total 101
- 3 children with disabilities (2 with autism and 1 with cerebral palsy and limited mobility who had a wonderful time getting muddy and looking for tadpoles)
- Approx 5 over 60
- 4 young carers (age 13-16) – group based at St Nics family centre (I visited them a month ago with info)
- 1 looked after child age 9 with his foster carer who attended a nature play training session I ran last week
- 90% PN residents

Nearly all local (Yate) apart from one Kingswood resident and one family of 4 from Acton Turville – heard about it through local parent and toddler facebook group. Majority were families from Abbotswood and Tyndale primaries which is fabulous as both schools are in the heart of the Yate and Dodington PN areas – postcodes are available if more specifics are required and it is calculated approx 90% plus PN residents which is fantastic and probably higher.

How did you hear about this event?

26 ‘family’ groups registered in total of differing sizes and of those each group heard about the event in the following ways:

Jubilee gardens event	1
Vicky Howes Yate Parent and toddler Facebook group (spelling maybe wrong?)	3
Wild4life outreach assembly at Abbotswood school and bookbag flyer	11
Poster at Tyndale school	2
Jacobs Well church group (via Jacqui Ward PN group email of Walk a Day programme)	2
Passing by on the day site	4
Poster in Doddington parish hall	1
SGC website	2
Direct officer approach – young carers group and foster carer	2

Written feedback and quotes:

21 completed feedback cards and 100% ticked smiley face re ‘how much did you enjoy this event?’

Lots of quotes saying how much event was enjoyed including:

Magic – superbly organised and advertised. Loved it!! Our new favourite place. Did not even know about the place. I will take the kids regularly from school to enjoy on sunny days like these

I loved spending time with my girls – we had a great few hours

Good to see kids and adults enjoying nature

Brilliantly organised – great learning event – more of the same please!’

We loved the fun, fresh air and freedom. More events please!

I liked having fun in the pond and the forest

Great family activities

I liked joining with other families, looking at wildlife. Brilliant event for families – can you do it again?

Staff were really lovely and knowledgeable

I enjoyed all of it. I really enjoyed pond dipping and I saw lots of my friends

I really enjoyed seeing kids be able to run and be happy. Lovely idea. Thank you ☺

Rowena Kenny, SGC

1. The Big Pull

Himalayan Balsam is a non native invasive plant which is rapidly invading the banks of our rivers and streams, smothering native plants and causing erosion and flooding. Along the River Frome, balsam has spread upstream as far as the margins of Goose Green Community Nature Area, Yate. The South Gloucestershire Council Wild4Life project and Avon Invasive Weeds project organised the Big Pull 2013 to co-ordinate efforts along the Frome Valley Walkway to stop balsam spreading into the nature area and further upstream. 8 Big Pull community work days involving 103 people were run during the summer to clear Himalayan Balsam from the Frome Valley Walkway. In total a 675m stretch of the walkway was cleared which is a fantastic achievement for the first year of the campaign.

Written feedback from volunteers included:

'Great morning - something very therapeutic about pulling up that balsam! What a Fab way to spend a sunny Saturday morning!'

'Nice to meet new people and meet old friends! Thanks for organising such a great event! Thanks also for the humungous flapjacks ☐ and drinks – these were a real treat.'

'What a Fab way to spend a sunny Saturday morning! We learnt a bit about invasive plants and had a good clean up of the area!'

We are keen to build on this great start to the project and would love to hear from further groups and individuals interested in being involved in summer 2014.



Rowena Kenny, SGC

4. Other Groups Reports

a. Jacobs Well Group

We have talked to all the shops about the bins, funded by donations, and have agreed where to put the fourth bin. They are now being ordered and hopefully will be fitted end of Oct or Nov weather providing.

We have met with the tree surgeon and landscape advisor. We are going to draw up two or three options and consult with shops etc to get their opinion on the best way forward to manage the green environs in front of the shops. Everyone is agreed for the shrubs to come out.

The owner from Chipping Sodbury glass is mowing the grass infrequently as he doesn't contribute money, this may be a good method of moving forward.

We are very supportive of the proposed Community Consultation and will try to assist as much as we can.

The plans for the Apple day are moving on fast. We also have been thinking of doing something at Christmas with the schools to make baubles and are investigating if it would be possible to decorate and light up a tree in the shopping centre.

Also we would like to have another community clean up day in the spring as it went so well last year.



b. Yate Foodbank

Foodbank has been very busy this year and by the end of August we had fed twice as many people as for the whole of 2012. The school holidays were particularly busy with a lot of low income families struggling to find the extra meals for children who were receiving free school meals.



Robert Vernon, Yate Food Bank

5. Rising levels of Crime in the South Yate Area

ID Partners initiative was used to formulate a multi agency approach to investigating the issues which has proved successful. Many avenues of approach were taken by a number of Agencies which included the Police, SGC Environmental Services and SGC ASB team. A local Beat Surgery was established and on site meetings arranged with local residents to review the problems. Crime statistics have shown a marked improvement recently.

It was proposed that to help establish better liaison with the young people in the PN areas that 2 PCSO's are given training to become football coaches and they will then attend both St Nix's and Dodington sessions to work with the young people.

Future Plans

Active Family Club

There will be a series of focussed courses beginning at the end of September and again in January using the Active Family Club formula to promote easy ways to lead a healthier life. Such as learning to enjoy a new sport; try other new family activities; find out about nutrition and healthy eating. These will be incorporated into the junior programme at St Nix's Youth Centre and involve families as well the young people themselves.

There will also be courses tailored to both the older age group covering the same topics but being more relevant to their needs and interests, and to the young people in the junior age group who do not have parents willing to participate in the Active Families club.

Monitoring and tracking of those attending the course will be undertaken and the results reported back to the Priority Neighbourhood Group.



Community Plans

It was agreed at a recent Abbotswood Action meeting to form a Steering Group of residents to undertake a Community Plan for the area so enabling more in depth understanding of local perspectives, issues and aspirations. It is hoped that this will not only provide evidence to attract future funding but also stimulate more involvement local people in local issues. If this pilot is successful a similar undertaking will be investigated in the Cranleigh Court area.

Health and Active Lifestyles Promotion Events

Investigations are also underway to stage a Health and Active Lifestyles event in both areas early next year to promote what is available to residents locally.

Abbotswood Environs

Jacobs Well Group voluntary group are also consulting local people on further development of the environs around Abbotswood Shopping Centre and are working in conjunction with Celia Davis from SGC to consult and implement measures to assist with sustainable transport. £50,000 has been earmarked from the LSTF for this work.

Pippin project.

Pippin project at Abbotswood School to commence in October a summary of what this project covers is given below:

The Pippin Project will give young children an opportunity to engage directly with the environment and the countryside. They will do this through the research and creative planning they will undertake prior to planting their community orchard. Through this the participants will learn about the heritage and significance of Britain's orchards and the wide variety of apple varieties in Britain and within their own county including those that have died out.

Summary

There has been significant progress in the last year with initiatives on all the themes being undertaken by a diverse range of local agencies and groups. Reviews are also carried out on a regular basis to ensure that the work is both productive and sustainable. It is felt that the approach of the Community Lead Group in supporting local groups and actions to become involved with and complement the main stream initiatives will have sustainable long term success and that there are a number of exciting initiatives planned for 2013/14