



## **Communities First Partnership Update Sketty Park – July 29, 2009**

The Communities First team has made significant progress in Sketty Park. We have worked towards achieving the aims of our work programme. However, during our work, new aims and objectives have become evident. The following document summarises our work:

### **AREA OF WORK: Jobs, Business and Income Generation**

#### **Employment Training and Support**

We have worked with a number of organisations, resulting in weekly advice and support surgeries being set up at the Communities First office, 134 Clyne Court. This service is proving beneficial to local people who are seeking advice on getting into work or training, with money available to support them in doing this.

#### **Financial advice and services within the community**

In working with Citizens Advice Bureau and LASA Credit Union, we are supporting the local provision of money advice surgeries and a local Credit Union facility. We are also working on the possibility of supporting financial management and budgeting skills for 11-16 year olds. Much of this work is in the planning stage; however LASA Credit Union has confirmed their intention to setup a weekly session in Sketty Park, in partnership with Communities First.

### **AREA OF WORK: Education and Training**

#### **Training and Learning Opportunities**

We have spoken to many groups within the community to build up a picture of local training needs and facilitated training for 8 groups in food hygiene earlier this year. We are currently looking to bring learning into the community. We will be working with various providers to offer short taster sessions, in order to establish some local courses.

As part of our environment work, we are looking at establishing training, provided by Sustainable Swansea, in digital photography which links into the local community.

### **AREA OF WORK: Community Safety**

#### **PACT and CSAT**

We have worked with Neighbourhood Policing and our local Police Community Support Officer to support their work in PACT (Partnerships And Communities Together). PACT surgeries take place regularly within the community, as do Communities First surgeries. These surgeries give people the opportunity to, in confidence, discuss their concerns and experiences where they live. Together

with our PCSO, we are working to increase community leadership in the PACT meetings. Youth PACT meetings are being explored with the young people of the area.

### **AREA OF WORK: Children and Young People**

#### **Aged 10 and under**

At our fun day in March, we identified local concern for a lack of provision and facilities for young people aged 10 and under. We have since worked with the local authority in delivering a play session in April, where we saw many people, many of which from ethnic minority backgrounds.

We are now working with the local Play Department to consider opportunities for future provision in Sketty Park, including the funding of future play schemes.

#### **Young people aged 11-25**

We are attending meetings with various partner organisations, including the police and the youth service, on developing opportunities for young people in the Sketty Park area. Some considerations have included youth shelters, youth centres, youth drop-in facilities, youth works and activities. We are also supporting local youth delivery and outreach work.

#### **Youth Action Team**

Work is underway in developing a Youth Action Team, a group of local young people, organised and supported to say what their needs and aspirations are. With the YAT we can work to bring about change and benefit to the young people of Sketty Park. Opportunities looked at so far include youth clubs, perceived youth annoyance, small business enterprises and sports activities.

A part of developing services and a YAT include us running, in partnership with Olchfa and Bishop Gore schools, a consultation questionnaire to ascertain the issues, needs and concerns of 11-16 year old pupils.

#### **Adventure Swansea**

Communities First Sketty Park are organising the inclusion of 200 young people aged 14 to 19, to attend two days of sports, exploration and team building exercises at Port Eynon. Our coordination and lead in the project will allow at least 20 young people to attend from Sketty Park with the remainder coming from 9 other Communities First areas. This project will lead to further opportunities for learning and outdoor activities.

#### **Pirate Week**

As a follow on from our March Fun Day consultation, we are facilitating a 5 day Pirate Week between the 10<sup>th</sup> and the 14<sup>th</sup> of August. Working with a number of organisations, we will be running and supporting many fun activities. This event has a two-fold purpose: 1) provide a local service during the summer holiday period, and 2) continue our consultation work that enable us to inform the future development of services.

## **AREA OF WORK: Health and Well Being**

### **Drugs and Substance Misuse**

Our involvement in the Substance Misuse Action Team, our work with local services, including Housing, and our feedback from the March Fun Day, plus our own local experiences, has increased our awareness of local substance misuse issues. As a result, we are working towards developing further local support for those suffering from substance misuse and associated disturbances.

## **AREA OF WORK: Older People**

Communities First have so far played a role in supporting many local organisations and groups of older people. Together with the 50+ campaign, Hazel Court and other sheltered schemes, we are working to ensure this significant age group has a strong and positive say in the development of their community.

Future activities, that are currently being considered, include intergenerational learning and digital storytelling.

## **AREA OF WORK: The Environment**

### **Local environmental projects**

With Tidy Towns we are working to start a number of community led local environmental improvement projects. Clyne Court and Parry's Field are possible areas for development. Working with local residents we will identify areas to address. It is with other partners, including Keep Wales Tidy and Welsh Wildlife Trust that we look to develop projects.

Sustainable Swansea and Communities First are working on delivering a short digital photography session that will increase skills and learning, raise awareness of local environmental benefits and highlight areas of concern that can be addressed in the future.

Parklands Primary School is particularly supportive of local environmental projects, linked to their school's Eco Council. We hope to support them in developing some of the wildlife area in their surrounding area.

Apart from considering recycling opportunities and local recycling, we plan to coordinate a 'sweepathon' later in the year.

## **AREA OF WORK: Participation**

### **Clyne Court Tenants and Residents Association**

As an open office, we have had a number of local residents calling in to let us know their concerns, to ask questions and to offer their support to the Communities First programme. During some of these visits and in discussion with housing and our local councillors, the desire has been raised to see a Tenants and Residents Association (TRA) set up for Clyne Court blocks. We are meeting with tenants from Clyne Court in August to progress the formation of a TRA.

## **Group Development and Support**

Many of the groups in Sketty Park have had assistance in applying for funding, support, training or guidance. In the short time since the Communities First team has become established, good working relationships have formed with groups. We have started to carry out needs assessments that will help us give effective support to groups and, where necessary, facilitate appropriate training.

## **Local Action Team**

Our work programme includes the target of setting up a Local Action Team that will help carry out community events and activities. We have worked with a number of organisations, including community groups, to organise and deliver our March Fun Day, food hygiene training and the upcoming Pirate Week. From this group, we hope to establish a core membership that will work towards developing and delivering various targeted activities.

## **Communities First Partnership Board**

Considerable progress has been made in building relationships and links with partners and community members. Our initial meeting with the community in July, will be followed by a meeting with organisations and service providers in September. October will see our first combined partnership meeting.

## **Fun Day event**

This Fun Day was the first event delivered by the Sketty Park Communities First team. Organised to allow the team to meet more local residents, introduce the Communities First team and the programme. To gather initial community thoughts on local matters. To identify some local people who have potential interest in Communities First, possibly with skills and experiences to offer the programme.

The event was considered very successful with 200 to 250 people attending. 110 people completed feedback questionnaires. The event ran for 2 and a half hours. People were very much engaged in the activities and the consultation that took place. Issues were identified as a result of this day, potential community partners have been identified and strong links were forged/developed amongst groups.

## **Consultation and surgery sessions**

We have consulted with Sketty Park residents on youth facilities and services, local community groups' work and needs, and general residents concerns and opinions. We have set up the following mechanisms for consultation and feedback: Regular Communities First surgery sessions at Parklands Church, Sketty Park & District Community Centre and Hazel Court; suggestion boxes at the Community Centre, Clyne Court Housing Office, the post office and the Communities First office. Newsletter questionnaires, local events, group needs assessments and our web site also provides methods for consultation. All this information and feedback will guide our work and development.

## Trust Fund

We supported community groups in their applications for the Communities First Trust Fund. £5,000 was designated for Sketty Park from April 2008 until March 2009. We were however able to support groups in securing over £8,000 for the period, even though staff had only come into post just over a month before the deadline had closed. Eleven groups benefited from last year's fund. This year, from April 2009 until March 2010, Sketty Park has been allocated £10,000.

## Service Providers

Communities First has met with service providers and organisations in all aspects of the Vision Framework: Jobs, Business & Income Generation, Education & Training, Community Safety, Children & Young People, Health & Well Being, the Environment. We have raised the profile of Sketty Park amongst the local authority, service providers and organisations. As our Communities First Partnership develops, we will see increased participation from all organisations, giving an increase in services and facilities, appropriate to the needs of the community.

## AREA OF WORK: Information and Research

### Newsletter

We have now produced our first edition of the Sketty Park newsletter, called skettyparg.org. This newsletter is informative, containing interesting and insightful articles from the community. The newsletter will develop over time, according to local input and guidance. The next article is planned for autumn, with one being produced per season.

### Website

Our website, [www.skettypark.org](http://www.skettypark.org), is almost complete. The structure of the site is ready; we will populate the site with data, over time and as work develops. It is an informative and interactive site that will include consultations, reports, local news and articles, and a method for registering enquiries, comments and interest in the work of Communities First and our partners.

### Mapping and Community Profile

We have started work on mapping out the facilities, groups and organisations, and the provision of services within Sketty Park. Our ongoing consultation work within the community, in partnership with groups and organisations, helps to highlight the needs and aspirations. This 'audit work' identifies gaps in provision and associated challenges.



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