



## Communities First Report Sketty Park – March 2010 (revised 24/03/2010)

Since July of last year there have been four Communities First partnership meetings. These meetings have had a focus on agreeing ways forward in relation to issues, concerns and needs identified within the community of Sketty Park. Progress has been very good with strong support from organisations and the community.

2010 gives us an opportunity to build on the good partnership work so far experienced, by developing the Communities First Partnership further, establishing a mission statement and a structure for the partnership, creating training opportunities and promoting local services that meet the needs of local people.

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

Working Links continues to provide a valuable service to the local area, giving support for those that need help in finding work. Tina Smith runs her surgery out of the Communities First office and has since starting seen 24 people attend her sessions.

Citizen Advice Bureau (CAB) will be running money management and budgeting sessions at Parklands Primary School during March. Grand as they sound, they will give a basic guide to money, spending and saving, all aimed at a level suitable for primary school children. CAB has also discussed the possibility of helping to run a similar programme aimed at adults within the community.

LASA Credit Union will be following the school sessions by providing a local BIFI savings club for children. They can also give money management advice and will be working with Communities First and local people to set up a Credit Union in Sketty Park.

Swansea Working Gateway, a new initiative set up in partnership with Communities First, the local authority and employment organisations will be running mid 2010. The programme will run in Communities First areas to bring an increased level of support for people who want to get into employment and aims to bring a more coordinated level of work amongst employment agencies.

We continue to work to bring a local no fee Cash Point (ATM) facility within the community and are working to identify the most suitable and feasible area for this to be installed in.

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

We have carried out a very successful training information day with 22 people attending. Training and good practice visits have been organised in the following:

Bookkeeping, Protection of Vulnerable Adults, Committee Skills, Organising a Community Event, Sustainable Fundraising, Cultural Diversity Training, Child Protection Awareness, First Aid Training,

Basic Food Hygiene; and a number of visits to other Communities First Partnerships and community projects.

The digital photography group continues to be successful and its members are looking to expand their learning into IT and computers. We are therefore seeking to establish a facility for local IT training to take place.

Café Convo at Parklands Church has started and will be looking to develop support for ethnic groups, possibly through ESOL courses – English for Speakers of Other Languages. During the Café Convo sessions they make two computers, with free Internet access, available for local use.

Communities First is able to give the opportunity to members of the community, with an interest in community work, to take up an NOCN course in Community Development. This course will be delivered by SCVS in Swansea and paid for by Communities First, in support of the partnerships aims to develop community development skills within its members.

#### AREA OF WORK: Community Safety

PACT panels continue to be the main area for focus, in relation to community safety. The increase in police presence over the last six months to combat issues relating to substance misuse within the area has proved effective in increasing a general sense of wellbeing, based on the feedback given to Communities First staff.

The PACT priorities at the last meeting were as follows:

- Road Safety Issues at Parkway Shops. Summary: Uneven paving slabs at the front of the shops at Parkway causing a danger to pedestrians.
- Rowdy/Nuisance Neighbours at Gwent Grove & The Spinney, Sketty Park. Summary: Anti Social Behaviour from neighbours living on Gwent Grove & The Spinney, Sketty Park.
- Speeding along Gower Road. Summary: Speeding vehicles on Gower Road heading down towards Sketty.
- The next PACT meeting is planned for 22/04/2010 at Sketty Park Community Centre; 7pm.

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

Excellent work is taking place with Doodles Events to develop local provision for 0-14 year olds. This group started after the Pirate Week event of last year and is currently going from strength to strength with local people driving the whole programme forward. The group has made plans to deliver 7 events during 2010. 5 play sessions for 0-14 year olds were delivered to date; many with the support of the council's Play Team.

The Pirate week was very successful with an average of 90 attending per day during the course of the week. A number of activities have developed on from this including Doodle Events committee.

Strong partnership work continues to develop with police, councillors, churches, youth service and schools. Our focus has until now been to look at the provision, facilities and resources available to local young people (11-25 year olds). Possibilities considered so far include Multi Use Games Area (MUGA), out of school sports and recreation area and a local increase on youth worker provision. We are keen to involve local community members in these Youth Provision meetings.

We held an initial meeting to develop a Youth Action Team with nine total attendees. Various factor prevented a greater number from attending which limited the workshops we could actually do on the day. Following this meeting, we made plans for a number of activities to take place that will develop this group further.

Within the last few months, we were successful in a Communities First and Youth Service bid for additional youth work within the area. This amounted to additional posts for two part time workers over the next two years in Sketty Park. One post will have a strategic view on youth provision within Sketty Park.

A Youth Day delivered in February had 43 young people attend; good considering the cold weather and flurries of sleet and snow. On the day we had a bungee run, a bucking bronco, fruit smoothies and fruit kebabs; ball sports, three dance sessions and a skate boarding park. This was a successful event with organisations demonstrating some excellent partnership work.

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

Discussions with the Substance Misuse Action Team (SMAT) on possible focus for outreach work within the area. SMAT have agreed to deliver a presentation to the partnership during 2010 with the hope to raise awareness of the services that are currently active. Also to indentify how we can support their work in addressing the issues locally. This meeting will be a good opportunity to discuss residents concerns and hopes in relation to this difficult area.

#### AREA OF WORK: The Environment

Clyne Court residents are soon having the benefit of a new recycling facility at the back of the flats later this year. The Residents Association have worked hard to develop their organisation and amongst much of the good work so far, they have secured through Tidy Towns this new Recycling facility.

Work continues with the digital photography group in identifying areas for incorporating into a 'green map' of Sketty Park.

We have identified a number of potential areas for development within Sketty Park and will be pursuing possibilities with relevant organisations over the coming months. Keep Wales Tidy has been very supportive in the plans to develop the local environment group and Welsh Wildlife Trust has also agreed to provide support for local development work.

#### AREA OF WORK: Participation

Many opportunities have been made available for community member input into local plans and projects. Clyne Courts Residents Association is developing with a core group of people eager to see improvements and change. Local young people have provided support and feedback through various activities. Newsletters, surgery sessions, local office and our work with groups have all increased opportunities for community input that will direct the work of Communities First and partners.

Considerable progress has been made in building relationships and links with partners and community members. The Communities First partnership has been a priority for developing a local forum, which will drive changes and benefits. Doodles Events and the Digital Photography group also have developed very well over the last few months and will no doubt be a driving force in bringing local activities and services into the area.

Training has been made organised with a total of 9 groups in Sketty Park already showing an interest in attending, funded through Communities First. This work and the ongoing support to develop structures, aims and objectives, not forgetting support in obtaining funding, has helped strengthen the groups over the months. The various partnership and networking opportunities made available to groups through Communities First has clearly increased a sense of 'being in it together'. This helps build community spirit and identity and it is our intention to continue our focus on this work, to celebrate the immense benefit and resource local people and community groups prove to be.

The Communities First Trust Fund for 2009 saw £9658.99 awarded. 7 groups applied altogether. £10,000 is available for this year so please contact the Communities First team for support in applying for this funding.

Communities First has met with a number of different service providers, many of which are now a significant part of the ongoing partnership work. This work, with the very positive support from local councillors has ensured a strong start for Sketty Park's Communities First programme. Even though national press and reports give a very critical view of the programme across Wales, there is very strong evidence of the exceptional work that communities, organisations and volunteers can do on the ground.

#### AREA OF WORK: Information and Communications:

We have produced two editions of the Sketty Park newsletter, called [skettyparg.org](http://skettyparg.org). The newsletter will develop over time, according to local input and guidance. The next article is planned for late April and we are now looking to produce two large issues per year with smaller bulletins produce on a regular basis.

Our website, [www.skettypark.org](http://www.skettypark.org), is running and contains information, reports and dates for upcoming activities and events over the coming months. The site is update generally after each newsletter and partnership meeting.



Jason Williams  
Communities First Coordinator for Sketty Park

