



Communities First Report Sketty Park – January 2011

A happy new year to you all; I hope you had a very good Christmas break. The Communities First team are now finally fully functioning as a full team. Orla, our Development Worker is settling in well, working hard on all the tasks ahead of us this year. We do have a very busy year ahead and this will be our last year under the current funding for the Communities First programme. Of course, that doesn't mean the programme will necessarily end at March 2012; we will have to await the government's decisions on that.

In the meantime, we will work hard to serve the community of Sketty Park and help as many local people as possible to become involved in activities and work that will influence the local services this community receives, for the better. Whatever happens with the programme as a whole, the Communities First Partnership - you lot, the groups and initiatives that are running and the hard work taking place, will all continue. Of course, the community will have a say in the programme's future and a strong partnership with a strong work programme, running into next year, will ensure Sketty Park is well placed to continue its community development.

It is very encouraging, and humbling, to see the high levels of commitment from partnership members: the community, organisations and local services. This is helping us to develop some exciting initiatives over the coming months, including the IT Collaboration programme, Safer Routes into Communities and the I Love Sketty Park programme amongst others.

AREA OF WORK: Jobs, Business and Income Generation

Links with Swansea Workways Gateway has been minimal over the Christmas period with no referrals made to them for support into employment or learning. We are keen to focus on this work during the coming months, hopefully with Swansea Workway Gateway's in promoting the service locally. We also plan to link employment support into our IT Collaboration project with some local employment support training run as a short course; maybe with CV workshops.

The IT Consortium partnership work is moving rapidly forward and we intend to submit a bid by February for the IT project to start by the middle of this year. If successful, this bid will enable us to employ a local tutor/coordinator to deliver IT training and courses using IT, to the community of Sketty Park. Please contact us on 284740 to register your interest in any learning. Evidence of a healthy demand for local learning will help increase our chance of a successful bid.

The Max Your Money project that took place in November saw 14 people being referred to various support services for help with benefits and ways to reduce household heating costs. Referrals were for CAB, HEES, Winter Fuel Payments, Child Tax Credit, Council Tax, DLA Care and Attendance, Income Related ESA, Cold Weather Payments, Mobility Allowance and energy saving.

The second stage of this Max your Money work will involve LASA Credit Union working with Communities First during February and March to promote their local savings and loans. Please contact us to find out more.

AREA OF WORK: Education and Training

The Sketty Park and District Community centre will be visiting another community's training and IT facility to consider how they run facilities. This is planned within January and will help inform our IT Collaboration work here.

IT training at Parkland School is currently ongoing from 2.15 until 3.15pm on a Friday. This programme will definitely be able to continue if the IT Collaboration bid is successful. We are very keen to know from anyone who has interest in learning through the use of computers so please do contact us on 284740.

Communities First Partnership training is currently being organised across Swansea in a programme for all partnerships to attend. We are still awaiting confirmation of a start dates. I will of course update you as soon as we have the date, in order to book people up for this. This training will help the partnership focus on its development and structure and will help raise awareness of the influence a Communities First partnership has.

Communities First Trust Fund (CFTF)

Of the £10,000 Communities First Trust Fund money for Sketty Park, the current status is as follows: Approved - £ £7,184.19; Remaining - £ £2,815.81

There is still funding available in the CFTF and we encourage further applications. Note that applications above the £10,000 barrier of available funds will still be considered, once all other areas have completed their applications. Often money is not spent in other areas and can therefore be made available to our area. Please note the deadline for applications is 31 January 2011

AREA OF WORK: Community Safety

The Safer Sketty Park initiative is still to be scheduled in, with the Community Regeneration Unit and the Safer Swansea Partnership. Updates will be given at the next partnership meeting, once dates have been finalised.

One PACT priority remains: Rowdy/Nuisance Neighbours; in particular at Aneurin Close. The Next PACT meeting is on the 13th of January at Sketty Park Community Centre starting at 7PM. All members of the community are welcome to attend and highlight concerns or issues they have by bringing it to the attention of the Police, Councillors and other Multi Agency Partners.

On the 2nd of February, there will be a Community Safety Workshop held, in connection with Community Cohesion. Information is provided separately to this report and those interested in attending are asked to contact us on 284740 to book a place. The workshop will be followed by lunch.

AREA OF WORK: Children and Young People

The new Outcomes Fund Youth Workers are busy supporting the young people of Sketty Park. They have recently opened a 'youth drop in' at Sketty Park Community Centre which is currently open one evening a week and are hoping to link in with the IT Collaboration bid to provide computer and Internet access at this youth drop in with plans to provide long term support to assist with their school work, completing projects or looking for training and employment opportunities.

AREA OF WORK: The Environment

The Safer Routes into Communities workshop will now take place on the 31st of January at 6.30 in the Sketty Park and District Community Centre. Please do attend to help us map out the issues within Sketty Park, regarding access to facilities buildings, shops, schools and all routes within and around the community. Full information on the process was given at our last meeting and will be repeated at the meeting on the 31st, followed by the workshop. Please

call 284740 to confirm your attendance. This work will help us put a bid together to apply for funds to improve local access and routes.

Financial

The following details a summary of our main operational budgets for the year. For further details, or to discuss this with us, call in to our office at 134 Clyne Court where we will very happy to go through full details

Training - £5,272.50 spend to date.

There will be £3-4k underspend on this budget with some of this absorbed by partnership visits.

Premises - £12,563.81 spend to date.

There will be a saving of approximately £17.5k by the end of this financial year, after £3.5k has been vired into Community Events, mainly to support the Community Cohesion: I love Sketty Park programme.

Community Events - £2,071.30 spend to date.

An overspend on this budget will result by the end of the financial year, with approximately £3.5k vired from Premises.

Consultation & Communications - £2,204.00

This spending is to budget.

Translation Costs - £494.65 spend to date.

This spending is to budget.

By the end of this year we anticipate a saving of approximately £48k. However, requests are being placed with the Welsh Assembly to transfer some of the funds to carry out feasibility training in relation to youth provision and children's playgrounds. If this is successful we are likely to spend between £6k and £10k of this money.



Jason Williams
Communities First Coordinator for Sketty Park

