



## **Communities First Summary Report Sketty Park – November 2011**

*Most of the time at our recent partnership meetings has been taken up with the Future of Communities First consultation. Of course without getting this sorted, all the other work we do can become insignificant. This is still an ongoing matter and we will be able to continue at least until September 2012, once the transitional funding application is accepted by the Welsh Government. The transitional funding application form was submitted at the end of October and we will keep everybody informed and updated on its progress.*

*Thank you for your support, especially the ongoing support of our local councillors. I hope we can rely on your continued support into 2012. In the meantime, we are still working hard on ongoing and future projects with some of our work updates detailed below.*

*Thank you,*

**Heather Elphick**

*Sketty Park Communities First Chairperson*

### **Jobs, Business and Income Generation**

*The Max Your Money week took place in October with two activities taking place in Sketty Park. The first event, a Cyber Surgery where people could find information and support in shopping online, reducing bills and carrying out personal financial health checks, took place with 5 people attending in total. The second event was a very successful swap shop with a total of 29 people registering on the day. The Clyne Court Residents Association and the 'I Love Sketty Park' committee plan to continue swap shops during the coming months; so watch this space.*

*November 9<sup>th</sup> will see the launch of a weekly Credit Union information point. We look to encourage local savings and help raise awareness of the low cost loans offered by Credit Union. Currently there are a number of other easy access loan providers operating in Swansea, often with crippling interest rates. Access to LASA Credit Union's facilities will also bring the benefit of opportunities to purchase electrical items for Christmas through the Co-op, save for Christmas hampers in the future and importantly, get free support and advice on managing your money.*

## **Education and Training**

*Sketty Park Online - We are now approaching the end of our second month of scheduled timetables and are looking forward to the month ahead. During September and October we worked with the community in five different venues across the Sketty Park area, including...*

- *Parklands Church*
- *Hazel Court*
- *Hanover Parklands*
- *Sketty Park Community Centre*
- *Laugharne Court*

*The Drop-in Sessions have proven to be a great success, with about four or five people attending on average. People had the chance to pop in and use our Wifi and Internet facilities free of charge. It is a great opportunity for those to continue training and sharpen their I.T. skills with the assistance of our volunteers. For instance, many have used these sessions to practice their skills on emailing, internet shopping, digital photography – and even crafting Christmas cards in preparation for the festive period!*

*We welcome anyone into our Drop-in Sessions and they do not need to sign up and people can stay for as long as they want. We will continue to run these sessions during the “Time Out” Coffee Afternoon in Parklands Church on a Monday afternoon. We are also introducing new drop-in sessions at Hanover Parklands and the Communities First Office in Clyne Court during November and December.*

*A total of 26 people have completed a course in ‘Basic I.T. Training’ during the first two months, and trained on basic skills ranging from mouse and keyboard techniques, to backing up work onto a memory stick. This has proven to be a great opportunity for people to familiarise themselves with computers and how the desk-top or ‘front screen’ operates.*

*The timetable for November has now been circulated and we will be offering computer sessions on some new topics including Internet for Beginners. In the month ahead we are also holding sessions in Olchfa Comprehensive School for the first time since the start of the project, and look forward to helping the community work together to inspire, encourage and support as many people as possible to get online.*

*Kevin Hedges – Sketty Park Online*

## **Health and Well Being**

*A new five week course has started in the Community Centre run in partnership with the Council’s Healthy Directions team. It is based on the nationwide Change for Life Campaign and consists of practical cookery sessions combined with learning key messages for Moving More and Eating Well. There is an opportunity to run a ten week course of physical activity sessions following this course. The course is well attended with 15 people signed up for 12 places. The aim of the course is to pass on the knowledge learned by the attendees to the community and groups with which they are involved.*

## **Communities First Trust Fund (CFTF)**

The Communities First Trust Fund of £10,000 was made available to groups working in or for the community of Sketty Park. A number of applications are pending and the deadline for submitting complete applications is November 30<sup>th</sup>. Previous bids must be complete before resubmitting.

*Those who have applied, or are in the process of applying are noted below:*

*Photography Group – equipment and software*

*Doodles - Halloween and Christmas parties, and a Pantomime Trip.*

*Community Centre - IT Resources and equipment*

*Swansea Disability Forum – information not available*

*Clyne Court Residents Association – equipment and consumable/marketing costs*

*I Love Sketty Park - 2012 Annual Community Celebration Event*

*Parklands Church – Timeout Cafe*

*The above bids, if all submitted, may exceed the allocated amount for Sketty Park. However there usually are additional funds from other areas by way of under-spend and the likelihood is that all applications will therefore still be able to receive funds.*

## **Community Safety – Safer Sketty Park**

*We held three Community Safety consultation events in October and have so far received and continued with. The initiative was launched on the 12<sup>th</sup> of October outside Parkland Primary School with 141 residents completing a survey. A week later at Clyne Court Flats we had 71 attend, followed by 37 responding outside Parklands Church on the 27<sup>th</sup> October. Since this date we have received a further 25 responses.*

*We will use the information from the questionnaires to act on the most common concerns by working with the police, council, fire and rescue service and other relevant organisations. Once all the questionnaires have been completed, initiatives and actions will take place, based on residents' views and concerns. A subsequent survey will be carried out to ascertain what difference the response has made. Although the data is still being processed, early indications suggest respondents are made up of one third male and two thirds female. The priorities so far look to be as follows:*

*When asked if people feel safe within the community, 89% stated they felt either very safe or fairly safe. 6% stated they felt very unsafe or fairly unsafe and 5% didn't feel one way or the other.*

*When asked how confident people felt that the council and police handled local issues well, 75% were either Very confident or confident, 11% were not confident or very unconfident. With the remaining 14% neither confident nor unconfident.*

*Issues in order of priority are:*

*1) Road Crossings, 2) Speeding Traffic, 3) Parking, 4) Poor Pavements and 5) Substance Misuse*

*Please note that the above data is only an indication as only two thirds of the survey has so far been looked at. A report will be produced giving a more accurate and fuller picture within the next couple of weeks.*

## **Community Cohesion**

*Please note that Gill Gregory, Chair of the I Love Sketty Park group, will be submitting a report to be included in the mail out of updates.*

*The Twm Path held in October, although very well organised and enjoyed by those present, was unfortunately not very well attended. The group has since held their first Annual General Meeting at which the officers were re-elected and more members signed up. The group are to have a table at the upcoming Table Top Sale in the Community Centre on Nov 12<sup>th</sup> to raise funds for the project and will continue to raise funds with events and activities in addition to making a Communities First Trust Fund bid this month. Their intention is still to hold an annual community celebration day but the timing of this will be affected by how much funds they raise.*

## **Children and Young People**

***Doodles*** - *Here at Doodles Events we've been busy spreading the community spirit over the past few months and we have lots more in the pipeline to follow.*

*Throughout the Summer we planned and organised a series of 3 play events in Parrys Field. For 3 Wednesdays during the school holidays the families of Sketty Park descended on the field with picnics and sun cream. Doodles supplied plenty of toys and fun & games for the children of all ages with free water and squash on request and a tuck shop should they need a sugar boost!!! The events were all well attended with an average of 45 children per session. The most popular day proved to be 'water day' in which we covered the mounds with polythene sheets, added a splash of water and let the children slide down over and over, much to their amusement!*

*Summer also included a 2 day taster session in Clyne Woods kindly provided by Forest Fun. 48 children aged 5-11 were invited to build dens, toast marshmallows and learn about survival and safety in the woods by professionals. This proved to be a popular event with some children signing up to continue this activity.*

*Doodles also trial ran a Saturday morning play club in The Community Centre but unfortunately these were unsuccessful in their numbers so we decided to discontinue them.*

*September had no activities but the Doodles team were busy planning more Autumn and Winter fun for the children.*

*Recently Doodles held the annual Halloween party for the community. The venue was provided free of charge by Marilyn who runs the Sketty Park Sports and Social Club. Doodles provided a DJ, a balloon modelling entertainer and prizes for the best dressed witches and ghosts. Tickets were priced at £1pp with each group asked to provide a plate of party food. This is a plan that we have continued in each party as it keeps costs down and is a successful approach to partying with community spirit. 250 tickets were sold with room for many more who turned up and paid on the door. All in all, this is one of our most successful events and generates funds for the children with profit for the one event in excess of £350. This will hopefully replicated at the Christmas Party which is booked and planned for December 10<sup>th</sup> 2011.*

*Doodles has also been successful once again in our application to participate in the Swansea Christmas Parade (20<sup>th</sup> November). Each Saturday morning The Doodles group and some*

extra volunteers have been attending workshops in Morriston where we have been designing and building our float with the theme of 'A Muppets Christmas Carol'. Last year we accepted a cheque from the Lord Mayor of Swansea for £500 as the winning entry. This year we hope to continue our winning streak. All members of the community are invited to take part and enjoy the fun.

Summer was application time and we have been successful in a Communities First Trust Fund grant to take families on a trip. In continuing the Christmas and Community Spirit, we have bought 49 tickets to the pantomime in Swansea Grand Theatre on December 17<sup>th</sup>. At present we are allocating tickets on a loyalty scheme taken from the registers kept from previous events.

While we try to generate as much funding as we can, we also accept help from external resources. Funding this year has covered the DJ and entertainment for both the Halloween and Christmas Parties, the aforementioned Pantomime trip, and storage boxes for the cupboard in the Community Centre so that all toys and play equipment can be stored away safely and neatly. The play Team which provides funding for play equipment has not been needed but they have provided us with insurance for all events.

Doodles hopes to help in any way over the future development of Parry's Field and we are very much looking forward to getting the children of Sketty Park and their families involved on all planning stages (should the proposed development go ahead).

Emma Gregory – Chair for Doodles

#### **Communities First Sketty Park – Youth Work update – David Stallard**

During the past fourteen months we have been busy initiating projects and initiatives that have enabled us to build relationships with young people and develop partnerships within the local community. Our Thursday night youth club has grown steadily and now attracts over thirty young people a night with a membership list of more than fifty. We have continued to reach out with our detached streetwork sessions every Monday, Wednesday and Friday and with our lunch time drop in at Olchfa School.

This term we have shifted our focus towards participation and the theme for our projects has been 'Getting Involved'. With the introduction of a time banking initiative young people have been given the opportunity to volunteer and bank their time. Time banking credits can be used to gain places on trips and other activities and provide rewards to those young people who become active participants within their community. Over the summer and into this term young people have attended a litter picking morning, volunteered for a garden project and helped out with the 'Sketty Park On Line Project' by helping to teach computer skills at the Thursday basic IT training sessions.

In September we extended the youth club opening times to offer younger members an exclusive session before the main session starts at 6pm. The younger session for eleven to fourteen year olds has been very successful attracting a whole new group of young people from Sketty Park. The facilities at the youth club have also been developed to offer the young people a healthy eating café, pool and table tennis, a games console, crafts area, computer access and a scheduled activity each week.

In the three months from June to August 2011 the youth work team worked with seventy five individuals having 940 contacts with the same individuals during that period.

## Older Persons

*In July this year a second Older Persons Forum was held which was very well attended. It consisted of a performance from Hazel Court Choir, tea and refreshments, an interactive quiz and a display and demonstrations of information technology from the Sketty Park Online Project. This event was well publicised with an article in the Evening Post and resulted in a good uptake of the computer learning sessions.*

*The next steps in relation to this group are to organise in partnership with the community residences and complexes a Christmas Older Persons Forum which was specifically requested during the last one. We will also be using the Forum to keep older people updated with activities and initiatives in the area, including the community safety work done to date.*

## The Environment

*The Environmental Action Team first met during the summer when they took a trip to Penlan to visit the environmental work done there and also to the Swansea Community Farm in Ffirestfach. At the end of the day there was a workshop where they came up with three priorities to work on. These were to: (a) develop Parry's Park into a community park with play facilities for older children; (b) promote grow your own food, recycling and other environmental issues; (c) organise community clean up and litter pick days along with dressing up the entrances to Sketty Park. The group needs to meet again with relevant organisations to develop its work plan.*

*In relation to priority (a) Parry's Park some work has already been done, namely a meeting was held between this group, groups working with children and young people and the Council's Parks department as well as Groundwork Wales. The action points arising from this meeting were to develop a Friends of Parry's Field Steering Group to lead the development with the active support of Groundwork and Parks as well as Communities First and local Councillors. Prior to promoting widely this group Orla Banville undertook a survey of neighbouring residences to gauge their feelings since the last consultation which had been done in 2010. During this survey it became apparent that there were some concerns and barriers. This project has now temporarily been put on hold in light of the time scales to which we are currently able to commit. A letter will be sent out to all who have expressed their support and willingness to be involved explaining this.*

## 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** - spend to date £5,485.79

**Premises** - spend to date £ 11,913.61

**Community Events** - spend to date £ 1,700.50

**Consultation & Communications** - spend to date £ 3,954.60

