

# Sketty Park Communities First Partnership

## Notes of Meeting

<b>Meeting Title:</b>		
Communities First Partnership Meeting		
<b>Meeting No:</b>	<b>Chair:</b>	<b>Minutes taken by:</b>
16	Heather Elphick	Nasir Shahzad
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>		<b>Venue of Meeting:</b>
Tuesday, 8 <sup>th</sup> November 2011 at 1pm		Sketty Park & District Community Centre
<b>1. Attendance:</b>		<b>Apologies:</b>
Barbara Brimfield (Resident), Heather Elphick (Resident), Caz-Williams Barrow (Resident), Rachel Williams (Resident), Julia Mitchell (Community Centre), Maggie Woods (Hanover Parklands), Daniel Marks (Parklands Church), Councillor Paul Meara, Councillor June Stanton, David Stallard (Area Youth Worker), Jason Williams (Communities First), Nasir Shahzad (Communities First), Pam Williams (Hazel Court), Mark Parker (PCSO), Orla Banville (C1st), Andrew Chapman (CRU)		Councillor Mike Day, Councillor Huw Rees, , Councillor Cheryl Philpott, Ivor and Delyth Rees (Residents), Carl Harris (Resident)
<b>Introductions</b>		
<p>Heather Elphick opened the meeting by welcoming and thanking all for attending. Everyone was asked to introduce themselves.</p> <p>It was stressed to start the meeting prompt on time and Heather urged everyone to come 10 minutes early for tea and coffee if they wanted one.</p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true record.</p>		
<b><u>2. Communities First and Group Updates</u></b>		
<p>Jason asked everyone to read through the summary sheet provided and explained that groups and people have contributed to this summary sheet. (Please see attached C1st Summary Report)</p> <p>In addition to the updates from the Summary Report, Jason also informed the Partnership the weekly Credit Union information point, starting from tomorrow 9<sup>th</sup> November between 12 and 1pm which will look to encourage local savings and help raise awareness of the low cost loans offered by Credit Union. 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. Barbara and Maggie will be involved in helping set up accounts and manning the information point on a weekly basis. Everyone was encouraged to attend the first Credit Union launch at Sketty Park. All the relevant information will be available at the launch/weekly session.</p> <p>In relation to the Health &amp; Well-Being programme, Caz offered herself to be involved as a volunteer with projects, as did Rachel in relation to the Children &amp; Young People programme. Orla said that we are in a process of putting together a volunteering policy, with the appropriate systems in place like CRB etc... especially when working with young and vulnerable people. Community volunteering will be worked on. Oral invited Caz to join the Eating Well, Moving Well classes on Wednesday from 12-3pm.</p> <p>No Councillor Update was given.</p>		

## 4. Youth Service Update

David Stallard updated the Partnership that 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.

The Thursday night youth club has grown steadily and now attracts over thirty young people a night with a membership list of more than fifty. Detached street work sessions are continuing every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and also a lunch time drop in at Olchfa School.

Focus has been shifted for this term 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 Online project by helping teach computer skills at the Thursday Basic IT Training sessions.

Youth club opening times have been extended from September 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 75 individuals, having 940 contacts with the same individuals during that period.

In October there was a Multi Activity youth short weekend away to Tregoyd in Brecon which 12 young people attended. It was very a challenging, emotional and intense but overall a successful weekend. The main aims for this project were:

- To strengthen relationships
- A reward for those actively involved in the community.
- To promote working together, team building and participation
- To work intensively with a small number of challenging individuals outside of their peer group

The outcomes of this project were:

- Issues around bullying challenged and resolved
- Able to strengthen relationships with key individuals
- Young people initially not taking part beginning to participate and enjoy activities
- New skills, confidence, friendships and team building.

Positive feedback from young people and workers were received. The Partnership gave its thanks to David for all the good work.

## 5. Communities First – Principles and Model of Clustering

Andrew Chapman (Manager of Communities First across Swansea) said that Communities First is working well in Sketty Park area, all credit to Volunteers, Organisations, Groups and the Partnership Board. Andrew informed the meeting that last year's Annual Monitoring Report was submitted and our rating has been acknowledged as 'Good' compared to the first year which was 'Satisfactory'.

The Communities First Programme was planned for 10 years in deprived area across Wales starting in 2001, whereas the Communities First Programme has been running in Sketty Park for less than 3 years. Sketty Park fell just outside of the top 10% of the most deprived areas in Wales, according to the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2011.

In relation to the current consultation on Communities First: The Future, the Welsh Government wants the discussions to be continued; Partnerships and Stake Holders have been and still are involved in producing the map of clusters formation.

Andrew informed the Partnership that there will be £5million less for the national programme from next year; mainly cuts will be with management staff rather than ground work staff. Staff setup will be different and there will be more targeted initiatives. There is a commitment to continuing existing C1st areas within the cluster arrangements.

Andrew then used a flipchart presentation to go through the current process.

### Key Principals

... for inclusion on the map would be:

- Within top 10% WIMD

- Existing areas

- Target specific areas with specific issues (Like Cockett and LLansamlet).

### Consultation

The Council's Consultation process started on 2<sup>nd</sup> November when everyone received the documents and discussions were held, asking if the principals were right; finally cluster boundaries were looked at. Andrew suggested that if we get the cluster design right then the programme will work.

### Map

A map was shown, demonstrating potential clusters, with Sketty Park clustered with the Castle Ward. Andrew spoke through the details of the map.

It was asked if these changes would affect the funding for the area. Andrew responded that it is unlikely to have this effect, as the main aim is to carry on the work being done at present, plus further work defined within the three themed areas of work for the new Delivery Plan. "Sketty Park's strength is its Partnership, the only weak point is its population size; however, issues based work will need to carry on." Andrew further said that staff structure will be different, but similar faces may be seen.

It was asked if the Clusters office can be managed from Sketty Park and operated from here to the other area. Andrew responded by saying that there will be one big Cluster Partnership and that the Sketty Park Partnership will remain in the area supported by the cluster team and that community engagement support will be there as well.

It was asked if Cockett is perhaps closer to Sketty Park with more common interest than the Town Centre? Jason referred to the previous Partnership meetings where it was stated that we have far less 'natural' links with Townhill and the Partnership felt Sketty Park would benefit more from being linked with the Castle

Ward. Areas of work such as Transport, Employment, Businesses and the BME population made the case for linking with Castle stronger.

It was asked why the Welsh Government was keen to bring in new areas under the current tight economic situation. Andrew replied that there will be targeted projects in the new areas based on specific issues but that they would link in with the Clusters' work programmes.

It was asked if the Welsh Government were rushing things. There was then some discussion regarding the programme in Sketty Park being very young; Andrew replied saying the main focus will be to carry on the good work but the programme needed to change across Wales. There will be a new Cluster Work Programme with 3 themes: 1) Healthy Communities, 2) Prosperous Communities and 3) Learning Communities. It was noted that a lot of the work currently undertaken fits in with these priorities.

It was asked if we will have one Partnership Board combined with the other area or would individual Partnership Boards continue? Andrew replied that Sketty Park Partnership will continue as is. There followed a discussion on how the individual Partnership Boards could work together.

It was felt that there should be an experimental period of inter-working before forming a Cluster Partnership. Jason suggested that someone from Castle and Mike Durke from Townhill could be invited to a future Partnership meeting. This was agreed on as a good idea, however there is now very little time for the Council's Consultation to be completed and this was therefore felt unfeasible

Concerned was raised as to what if Sketty Park got swallowed up and the focus is gone from the area, meaning local enthusiasm will not be there as it is at the moment. The Partnership stated as they have done in the past that they want to maintain a local office. Andrew replied that there will be a level of support from Cluster staff to the Partnerships. The Partnership said they are uncomfortable with the changes and need more guidance; they asked what would happen if Clustering didn't work so effectively?

It was also asked if we are clustered with multiple areas, what would happen with chairs; would they have to fight for positions. Andrew replied by saying there is no guidance available on this at the moment.

Another question was how is the budget going to work? Andrew said that he thinks the regional team will divide out the money to Clusters, each cluster having a lead organisation for employing and delivery of the work. How it will be divided is unknown. More emphasis will be on anti poverty work though.

Jason gave examples of multiple areas working well together under the same Communities First Partnership; as he had seen in Bridgend. David Stallard also spoke of his work which is already divided between Castle and Sketty Park.

Andrew said that the information will be circulated to the people who come to the meeting today and asked the Partnership if they can reply to the questionnaire; if people identify that the Clustering of the area in the map is wrong then it needs to be justified in their response.

Everyone was asked to feedback to Jason by Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2011.

## **Christmas Meeting**

Jason stated the next Partnership meeting agenda will be for the work programme for our six month transitional period from April 2012 to September 2012. It will be a quick 45 minutes meeting followed by a buffet. This will take place in December and the Partnership will be informed of the date and time after confirming availability with the Community Centre.

The Partnership was informed that the Older Person Forum was due in December and Orla will contact the

relevant organisations to agree on suitable dates for running a Christmas event.

### **Any Other Business**

- PACT meeting is on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November, First Cymru will be attending the PACT meeting as well.
- The Partnership was informed about the Craft Fair on 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2pm at Hazel Court. Any money raised will go to the Community Groups.
- A table top sale is on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November from 10am to 2pm at the Community Centre.
- Nasir to email leaflet/flyer for events/activities to Pam for distribution in Hazel Court

### **8. Date of next meeting**

**Now confirmed to be 12<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm, until 8pm (buffet will be provided so come hungry)**