



Rotherham East Ward:

How a package of funding was secured to build a hub in the grounds of Badsley Moor Primary School to support both child attainment and community involvement

A key ward priority in Rotherham East is around working with schools on the deprivation indices by supporting work to improve the educational attainment of pupils. As part of this, a project was developed where ward councillors worked with Badsley Moor Primary School and their parents group.

1. Background

Badsley Moor is a large primary school serving a deprived neighbourhood comprising mainly of council properties.

The school undertakes lots of work to engage parents in their children's learning, however space in the building was limited. The Council's Neighbourhoods team met with the school and a project was proposed to build a bespoke space for both education and engaging with local parents and organisations. Here they would be able to deliver:

- Training to get parents back into work or full-time education
- Information and advice sessions, for example on household budgeting
- Drop-in sessions where people can meet councillors and find out more about available services

2. Developing the idea

The Neighbourhoods Team set up a working group comprising the ward councillors and a range of stakeholders, both statutory and community. This included:

- Ward councillors
- Rotherham Council's Strategic Housing and Estate Management teams (the main fundholders)
- Badsley Moor Primary School (Headteacher and School Business Manager)
- Rotherham Council's Building Control (leading the tender process)
- Rotherham Council's Children and Young People's Service's Asset Management team (supporting the project and ensuring the new build is added to their Asset Register)
- Rotherham Council's Neighbourhoods team (linking all the stakeholders together)

The working group met regularly so it could oversee the development and delivery of the project.

The group utilised a range of knowledge and experience from members who had worked on previous projects, such as the council's Building Control and CYPS Asset Management teams. Stakeholders were also able to put forward new ideas that were tailored to local need.

A plan was developed wherein an existing pod structure from another school would be moved to Badsley Moor School. It would then be adapted to meet the specific needs of Badsley Moor for classroom and community events.

The next stage of planning was to secure funding. The Neighbourhoods team identified the Council's Housing Transformation Fund (HTF) as a potential source of



funding. In terms of alignment with the HTF, the project fulfilled the criteria, which included:

- Pioneering, outside scope of day to day
- Supporting other services to achieve wider benefits
- Something which would leave a legacy

The Neighbourhoods team led on writing the bid for funding. It was submitted in 2019/20 and was successful. The amount received from the HTF was £150,000.

The school offered an additional £25,000 of funding. The Neighbourhoods team supported the project by contributing towards several small costs associated with the project.

Partners were engaged throughout the course of the project, both in the working group and in other meetings outside the formal structure.

The Neighbourhoods team helped to coordinate the project and worked closely with all the stakeholders involved.

It was agreed that the Hub would be used to deliver the following:

- School lessons four times a week from 9.15am to 2.45pm, with a teacher and 15 pupils
- A Parents Group to plan events, run coffee mornings etc
- Councillors surgeries will take place at hub, which is a space that is accessible to 5.30pm with existing on-site support

3. Delivering the project

The build began in 2021 and was completed in November 2022. Unfortunately, there were various delays due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

A launch event was held in 2022 to celebrate the completion of the project, taking into consideration the restrictions at the time.

Following this, activities have been taking place at the Hub as agreed by the working group.

The project was ambitious in scope and lessons will be learned in terms of policies, processes and roles.

The Neighbourhoods Team will keep in touch with the school to find out more about how the new space is being used and will support wherever possible.





4. Evaluation

The project is an example of how the Neighbourhoods team was able to draw down a significant amount of funding through working in partnership with other Council teams. The funding secured was over and above existing ward budgets. As a result, this project will leave a long-lasting physical legacy.

Rotherham East ward councillors continue to support the project and have agreed to allocate ward budget funding to furnish the Hub. The school applied for ward funding and from this a total of £7,000 has been allocated from the Rotherham East ward capital budget.

The funding has delivered:

- Internet for the hub
- An interactive whiteboard
- Furnishings - including a table, cupboards and storage

The school have said that the build exceeds their expectations and there has been positive feedback from parents about the hub.



Rotherham West Ward:

How a bin amnesty in Ferham was delivered

Protecting the local environment is a Rotherham West ward priority. As part of this, a bin amnesty was implemented in Ferham.

1. Background

Ferham is a culturally diverse area close to Rotherham town centre. Many of the residents are either non-English speaking or speak English as a second language.

This has meant that some people may find understanding the waste management system difficult.

In the local area, a large number of recycling bins were being filled with general rubbish, which meant that these bins were contaminated. The Council's Waste Management service were unable to empty contaminated bins.

This caused a number of issues for the community:

- A number of bins that had not been emptied due to contamination were left in the street and eventually taken away as abandoned bins
- Some households did not have the correct bins for their property as either their bin had been taken as abandoned, or their bin was taken by another household once it had been emptied
- Some households did not have access to the correct bins
- There was a number of overflowing bins, which led to an increase in flytipping

- This was attracting rats who were causing damage to people's homes and vehicles

A number of residents in the Ferham area had approached local councillors with complaints about the situation.

2. Developing the idea

Rotherham West ward councillors, alongside colleagues in the Neighbourhoods, Waste Management and Environmental Health teams held an initial meeting to discuss the complaints.

A number of potential interventions were raised in the meeting, including:

- **Education:** Ensuring that residents know how to dispose of their waste correctly, ensuring that people understand what type of waste goes in each of the bins, enabling them to be emptied.
- **Audit:** Carrying out an audit of bins in the local area was raised as a possible intervention. This would involve understanding if each household has the correct bins. Following this, any missing or broken bins could be replaced.
- **Emptying all bins:** This would provide each household with a fresh start to dispose of any waste correctly. For households with waste that was piling up, they could be provided with an opportunity to dispose of it.

There was agreement that a bin amnesty should take place during the summer months of 2021, which would give the project team a twelve-week period to put plans into place.

They identified the process to deliver this project. This was important to help ensure any interventions would be successful.



The main stakeholder was local residents who are responsible for disposing of household waste. Other partners who are active in the area who could support us to help deliver this project were also identified. This included RotherFed, Ferham Primary School, local mosques, St Paul's Church, Rotherham Ethnic Minority Alliance (REMA) and Clifton Learning Partnership.

To ensure the project was successful, the team listened to partners who understood the local area.

The Neighbourhoods team spoke to Ferham Community Group and other partners in the area to gather their thoughts and suggestions around our plans for the intervention.

Partners were invited to take part in the planning meetings. Due to the diversity of the area, it was identified that any communications materials would need to be translated into different languages and that a variety of methods would be needed to engage with local residents. This included written and face-to-face communication.

It was important to ensure that local residents understood what was going to be happening and the reasons for this.

3. Delivering the project

Flyers were developed and printed which explained residents would have the opportunity to have all of their household bins emptied and that this would give them the opportunity to start afresh with recycling.

The flyers were translated into community languages by partners at Clifton Learning Partnership.

Staff from the Council and partners organised for a door knock to

take place. The door knock group consisted of Council teams (Neighbourhoods, Environmental Health, Waste Management, Early Help), Ward Councillors, and partners (RotherFed, Clifton Learning Partnership, REMA and volunteers from the Ferham Community Group).

It was important there within this group there were individuals who could converse with households in their first language.

Over 700 homes were visited and team members spoke directly to residents.

Each household was provided with a flyer that contained essential information and they were given information verbally at the same time.

This gave the team the opportunity to ensure people understood what was happening and allowed for residents to ask any questions.

When the properties were visited, an audit of the bins each household had access to was carried out. The team checked whether households had the correct bins, so that new ones could be delivered if bins were missing.

They also explained to people which items go in each bin, as it was important that people knew this.

On the day, an additional bin collection was carried out. The group that took part in the door knock also attended on the intervention day so that they could be available to help and answer any questions that residents had.

Residents were asked to put all their bins out and emptied every bin no matter what was in it. The team checked that every house had its correct allocation of bins, delivering new ones where it was previously identified those that were missing. Where it was not



previously identified that bins were missing, a list was made so that bins could be delivered later.

Alongside emptying the bins RotherFed and Ferham Community Group undertook a community litter pick.



4. Evaluation

A total of 710 households were contacted, ensuring that they had the correct bins, that their bins were fit for use and that residents understood the waste management system.

On the day approximately 2,130 wheelie bins were emptied.

The neighbourhood co-ordinators and Council teams worked with volunteers from Ferham Community Group to deliver the intervention. This ensured they were able to deliver an intervention that was the 'right fit' for the area. Through doing this, it was also possible to further improve the relationship with the local community. Co-producing the intervention with the community was a key contributing factor to the successful delivery.



They were able to identify the need for further intervention, which included a community skip day that took place in January 2022. This allowed residents to dispose of waste that could not be collected by general waste management services.

They also gained a better understanding of the area, local community and the need for ongoing education around disposal of waste and waste management.

Council teams and community partners continue to monitor issues around waste disposal in the area.

A large section of the community is transient in nature, which means education around waste management is something that needs to be ongoing.

Links with Ferham Community group, local voluntary and community sector organisations, and Ferham Primary School are vital for both gathering information and communicating information back to residents.

The neighbourhood co-ordinators and ward councillors will continue to build relationships and work closely these key stakeholders when planning and delivering any further interventions or education programs as their participation is vital to ensure success.



Sitwell Ward:

How a multi-agency clean-up of Whiston Brook was arranged

Ward councillors agreed their Ward Plan priorities for Sitwell is to 'work with partners/agencies to improve and protect the environment, including reducing the incidence, and mitigating the impact, of flooding'. A multi-agency clean-up of Whiston Brook was arranged, which supports this ward priority.

1. Background

Flooding events occurred in Whiston in 2007 and 2019, directly affecting (and even displacing) residents. A number of households were affected by the impacts of the flooding long after flooding events had taken place.

The flood resilience ward priority covered several actions including to 'Support the Environment Agency's offer to arrange a community clean-up of Whiston Brook' (which would improve the flow of water).

Ward councillors, supported by the Council's Neighbourhoods team worked closely with colleagues from the drainage team within the Council, as well as partners from the Environment Agency and Yorkshire Water, to deliver against the priority and these actions.

When it rains heavily, the brook floods and this affects properties in the nearby vicinity. The properties of many residents face onto the brook.

A clean-up of the brook could help to reduce local flooding. By carrying out this work, there was also an opportunity to raise awareness about flooding, the support available and some of the preventative actions residents take.

2. Developing the idea

The Environment Agency proposed the idea of organising a clean-up of Whiston Brook, in partnership with the River Stewardship Company and Rotherham Council. This took place in early 2022.

It was agreed that a multi-agency approach would create the best outcome and it was agreed to also give local volunteers and residents the chance to get involved on the day.

Identifying timescales, key stakeholders and the process for delivery to ensure the intervention would be successful was critical.

Due to various plants growing in the brook during certain times of year, it was agreed towards the end of Summer 2022 would be the best time to do the clean-up.

A multi-agency approach was used and numerous planning meetings took place involving Sitwell councillors, Neighbourhoods and Drainage officers, Yorkshire Water and the Environment Agency.

Site visits were conducted to ensure all correct health and safety procedures were put in place so that the clean-up day could happen.



3. Delivering the project

Once a suitable date had been found, the next step was the engage with the local community to raise awareness of the event.

To encourage residents to get involved, and raise awareness of the event, an article was written and published in Sitwell e-bulletin. This was also shared with Whiston Parish Council.



The Parish Council held their annual Summer Festival in July, so it was agreed for Yorkshire Water, the Environment Agency and the Council to have a stall at this event.

It proved to be the main engagement event with members of the public and had a huge impact on the turn out of the event.

Other efforts were made to ensure local stakeholders and community members were involved. This included:

- face-to-face meetings
- site visits
- a walkabout of the brook
- a stall at the Whiston Summer Festival

The Environment Agency were able to share ideas on other similar projects and discuss what had and hadn't worked previously.

The clean-up day took place on Saturday 23 August 2022. A group of over 30 people including partners, community volunteers, ward councillors, the local MP and members of the Parish Council took part.

The group spent the day tidying and cutting back vegetation, creating new wildlife habitats and improving existing habitats for

wildlife, pulling up invasive species and litter picking around the brook.

After the event, an article was written up by the Council's comms team and sent to the local press.

4. Evaluation

Feedback from ward councillors, partners and local residents was extremely positive. This was something residents and partners were keen to repeat in the future should it be required.

Information was shared about the work that had taken place as part of an article in the Sitwell ward e-bulletin. The work done on the day will help support the flow of water, encourage wildlife and reduce the spread of invasive species such as Himalayan Balsam. As a result, this should help mitigate the impact of flooding in the local area.

Ongoing stakeholder communication with partners regarding flood resilience in Whiston is taking place.

Yorkshire Water and the Environment Agency are following up with those who expressed an interest in being involved in any other initiatives, such as becoming volunteer Flood Wardens.

Ongoing work with the Flood Resilience Group in Whiston has continued, where members of the local community came together to create a flood resilience plan for Whiston.

The group have gained £12,000 of funding from South Yorkshire Community Foundation to support the plan and have so far used this to purchase hydro sacks to be targeted at the most previously affected households.



The clean-up of Whiston Brook supported the Sitwell ward priority around improving and protecting the environment. Along with this, ward councillors have also supported local litter picks in the local area and are also working with the Council's Street Scene to improve the appearance of East Bawtry Road to support the ward priority.





Swinton Rockingham Ward/Kilnhurst and Swinton East ward:

How anti-social behaviour was tackled at Swinton Precinct

The Swinton Precinct is located in the Swinton Rockingham ward but serves residents of the Kilnhurst and Swinton East ward. Both wards have ward priorities that incorporate this piece of work.

1. Background

Swinton Precinct is the major shopping area in the town of Swinton serving residents of both Swinton Rockingham and Kilnhurst and Swinton East wards. The area is also where local residents access public services.

The area will be redeveloped and, because of this there is a lot of open land and a vacant Council building, attracts young people to the area in the evenings. The gathering of young people at this location snowballed into issues of anti-social behaviour and criminal damage to Council-owned properties and to public buses travelling through the locality. The issues were being reported in 2021.

The behaviour was causing distress to users of the area, including residents of the Harrop Garden flats who overlook the Precinct, residents using the Swinton Civic Hall for dance classes in an evening, and Council staff working in the Council buildings. Many people felt that the area was unsafe.

2. Developing the idea

Due to the level of initial concern and the number of different partners needed around the table to discuss the issue, Councillors asked for a meeting which would be separate to the existing Community Action Partnership (CAP) meetings which take place in the individual ward. This was to be established as a task and finish group.

The group was called Swinton Community Issues and a meeting swiftly took place.

This was followed by a stakeholder mapping exercise to identify all the key partners that we needed to attend the meetings and involve.

This included attendees that did not normally attend CAP meetings such as Swinton Academy, the Crime Commissioners Office and voluntary and community sector youth providers such as Swinton Lock Activity Centre.

At the Swinton Community Issues meeting the group came up with some options and methods to tackle the issues that were happening.

Through the planning work that took place, the group understood the importance of encouraging local residents and staff to report all incidents they witness to the Police. This would help to map the issues in the local area.

It is also possible for the Police to allocate increased resource in a specific area, if more reports are received.

To assist with issue mapping exercises, Council teams such as Neighbourhoods, Housing, Asset Management, and the Police worked together to deliver 'Know Who To Call' leaflets. The



leaflets contained information on how to report issues and emergencies and who needs to be contacted.

During this time, they also spoke face-to-face with as many people as possible and encouraged them to report issues. They were able to give people confidence that they were being listened to and appropriate action to resolve the issues was being taken.

3. Delivering the project

Following the meetings, a range of activities were undertaken. Lead agencies were tasked during the meetings.

Patrols: South Yorkshire Police increased their presence in the area and undertook plain clothed operations. The Council's out of hours team also visited the locality.

POP Plan: The Police put a Problem-Orientated Policing Plan (POP) in place for the area.

Walkabout: A multi-agency walkabout was carried out to provide reassurance to residents and businesses. People understood that we were taking the issues seriously. A number of actions were identified and dealt with following the walkabout such as the removal of shrubs and that stopping access to a footpath would prevent people from accessing the libraries windows.

Security staff: The Library team employed security staff to provide reassurance to staff who had concerns. Security staff also provided a visible presence at the library to help deter anti-social behaviour.

Repairs and maintenance: Facilities Management arranged for the Street Scene team to cut back shrubbery around the disused former Customer Service Centre. Fuel was removed that could be set alight and the team replaced broken windows in the Library building. Shrubs were also cut down in front of the library to



remove hiding places and increase the visibility of the library from the main road.

Gates and fencing: Installation of gates and fencing was done by the Housing team to prevent anyone accessing the balcony to the rear of the Harrop Garden Flats.

CCTV: The CAP agreed to relocate an existing Swinton Rockingham ward CCTV camera to outside the former Customer Service Centre. This would help to deter any further attempts to set fires and to assist with observations of the library building. Safer Streets funding from the Crime Commissioners Office was very timely and enabled additional CCTV to be placed on the main road past the library.

Litter pick: The Neighbourhoods team supported Swinton Academy who joined the Swinton Community Focus Group, partners and councillors on a joint litter pick of the precinct. This was a great success. Those passing by gave positive feedback about the initiative. It worked to highlight that there are so many fabulous young people in Swinton that do care about their local community.

School assemblies: Swinton Academy invited officers from the Community Protection Unit to conduct talks on the consequences of young people's actions.



Restorative Justice: The Police successfully identified the person responsible for the breaking of windows at Swinton Library and restorative justice for the individual was considered.

It was also thought that ensuring there are activities for young people in the local area was important. Those who take part in evening activities are less likely to engage in anti-social and criminal behaviour.

Swinton Academy undertook a survey with pupils to identify what activities they would like to get involved in after school. This continues to help providers with funding applications and helps to steer the types of activities that are provided in the area. The Early Help team built relationships with the young people who were gathering in the area.

This resulted in an art project that was undertaken with an artist. A number of pieces of artwork were produced and installed on the Library and Former Customer Service Centre building. The success of this engagement has allowed Early Help to secure support from an outside organisation to continue engagement work once a week. The artwork was launched in November 2021.

Rotherham United Community Trust launched free football sessions at both Dearne Valley College (the closest lit all weather facility) and at Kilnhurst Recreation Ground.

Swinton Lock Activity Centre secured funding for a Youth Club which has been well received by local young people.

4. Evaluation

The partnership working has been hugely successful at combating anti-social and criminal behaviour around Swinton Precinct. Many residents and staff using the area feel much safer and the number of young people hanging around the building site has reduced.

Damage to council buildings has ceased and reports from residents and councillors are now very low. This has led to the Police POP Plan being removed.



The security officer built a good relationship with the young people gathering in the area, which helped to ease some of the issues that were causing distress to staff. Because of this positive work, a security officer is now no longer needed.

No further attempts have been made to set fire to the former Customer Service Centre since the shrubbery has been cut back and CCTV installed.

The relationship between Early Help and Swinton Academy has grown as a result of the partnership working. Early Help are now using the old Youth Club building for their targeted youth work sessions.

The youth provision in Swinton has expanded significantly. This is thanks to Early Help, external providers and after school clubs.



Thurcroft and Wickersley South ward: **How a successful Crime Prevention Day was arranged**

Supporting crime prevention strategies and targeting anti-social behaviour is a ward priority in the Thurcroft and Wickersley South ward. In line with this priority a Crime Prevention Day was held in the ward.

1. Background

Councillors were keen to respond to public concerns raised on social media following a spate of burglaries in a small area.

Thurcroft and Wickersley South Councillors chose to respond to these concerns by hosting a Crime Prevention Day. They invited local residents as well as representatives from South Yorkshire Police and staff from the Council's Housing and Neighbourhoods teams with the intention of bringing partners together to discuss community Concerns.

They also decided to use some of their Community Leadership Funding to purchase some crime prevention packs which they could distribute to people who attended on the day.

2. Developing the idea

The issues were discussed at Ward Briefing and Community Action Partnership meetings. Councillors talked about how they wanted to proceed, as well as how a Crime Prevention Day would be of benefit to the community and to partners.

Once these initial discussions had been held, Councillors and the Neighbourhood Co-ordinator moved on to the main planning stage. This involved identifying timescales, recognising key stakeholders, date/time, and venue.

They discussed who needed to be involved from a stakeholder perspective. The main stakeholders were colleagues from South Yorkshire Police's Neighbourhood Policing Team, the Council's Housing Team, ward councillors, and local residents.

Once key stakeholders had been identified, the councillors and Neighbourhood Co-ordinator looked at how best to engage with them. They decided on a face-to-face event because they felt this would be the most appropriate method as many members of the community were older people who would value face-to-face interaction, as opposed to holding a virtual meeting. It was also felt this would allow an opportunity for South Yorkshire Police and Housing colleagues to talk to as many people as possible by encouraging them to circulate around the different stalls.



3. Delivering the project

An outdoor event was organised at the Bob Mason Recreation Ground, as there were concerns about Covid-19 and other airborne diseases. The event was held in early October 2022. Several gazebos were provided on site to shield people from any adverse weather.



To make residents aware of the event, letters were sent in advance to 200 households in the area affected by the burglaries a week prior to the event to give them time to consider the subject matter and to think of any relevant questions they might wish to ask those present. Free tea and coffee was provided to help keep people warm on the day.

The event took place outside in a car park close to a community building. Around 50 residents attended the event in total.

The Crime Prevention Day followed the following format:

- South Yorkshire Police and Rotherham Council's Housing team set up stalls.

- The Neighbourhoods team set up a stall from where the crime prevention packs, which the councillors had purchased, were distributed from. The packs contained a card defender, bell, personal alarm, purse/bag cables, property marking clip, a bag clip, and stickers.
- Ward councillors adopted a 'floating' role, allowing residents to raise any queries with them.

Concerns about things that were not related to crime and anti-social behaviour were also raised at the event, this included feedback around potholes and uneven pavements. The Neighbourhoods team had anticipated this and had prepared accordingly. They had ensured there was access to a Wi-Fi connection which allowed them to report these issues of behalf of residents.

4. Evaluation

Ward councillors were pleased with the attendance.

All the crime prevention packs purchased were distributed.

Residents were able to share their concerns with partners, as well as pass on relevant intelligence.

At the event, councillors were able to speak with the head of the local Neighbourhood Watch scheme. They were able to make him aware of the Community Leadership Fund, to which he later submitted a successful application.

Councillors plan to hold similar events in future.

Following the day, information was shared in the ward newsletter to celebrate the success of the event and ask residents where they might like future events to take place. Councillors also shared the same information on their social media channels.



Wales Ward:

How the TARA at Peregrine Way Neighbourhood Centre was supported

Work has taken place to support the TARA at Peregrine Way Neighbourhood Centre in the Wales ward.

1. Background

The Peregrine Way Neighbourhood Centre has been a hub of the Harthill community for many years. It has run successfully with the TARA doing an amazing job of putting on activities for the older people living on the estate. This meant residents could meet up for coffee mornings, luncheon club, daytrips, etc. The centre has been key in helping to tackle isolation and mental health issues within the estate.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, the centre closed and it was very hard on the residents that used the facilities and attended the groups. However, it did give the TARA a break from running the sessions. It was during this time they decided to step down from running the community activities when the centre re-opened.

Councillors felt it was important for the centre to re-open and offer activities as it had done before the pandemic, so they set about to find a way to support the TARA and residents.

2. Developing the idea

With the TARA wanting to take a break from running sessions at the neighbourhood centre, there was a fear in the community that the centre was going to close for good if it wasn't being used.

Another concern was that there would no longer activities for local residents to get involved in locally, such as coffee mornings, luncheon clubs and games nights.

After the pandemic subsided and restrictions eased, the Council gave permission to re-open all of the neighbourhood centres. This provided an opportunity for the councillors and Neighbourhood Co-ordinator to start looking for volunteers to run the TARA.

The Neighbourhood Co-ordinator was informed that one of the volunteers that already helped out at the centre had stepped down. This left a large gap in the support available.

Discussions with RotherFed and the Neighbourhood Co-ordinator took place about how they could recruit volunteers to run the neighbourhood centre.

From these conversations, it was decided that a door knock would take place as this was the best way to engage with people. It would also allow them to promote the community centre to residents who may have not used it before.



3. Delivering the project

With the help of RotherFed and the Neighbourhoods team, a door knock took place to see if anyone else would be interested in getting involved with the TARA and the community centre.

The door knocks took place along Peregrine Way and Carver Close – the two streets that paid fees into the community centre.

When residents were spoken to, they were asked a number of questions, including:

- Did you know that there is a Neighbourhood Centre on your doorstep?
- Would you be interested in helping to run the Neighbourhood Centre and become a member of the Tenants and Residents Association?

The Neighbourhood Co-ordinator took notes of the properties and people that were interested in being involved.

The initial doorstep conversations led to a drop-in session at the centre to see what the residents would like to see happen to it.

The drop-in session was jointly arranged by the ward councillors, RotherFed and the Neighbourhoods team. A date and time was set for residents to call in for a coffee, cake and a chat about the centre's future.



The outcome of the drop-in session was very successful as three residents came forward to run the TARA so that the luncheon club, coffee mornings and much more could continue.

4. Evaluation

Work with the new TARA is ongoing. The group is new to dealing with funding applications and arranging events for the community.

On reflection, councillors were pleased that they were able to recruit volunteers and generate new membership for the TARA. More local residents attend now. The lunch clubs are always very close to capacity.

Some members of the group did not always understand some of the conditions of the funding and how it should be spent. The Neighbourhood Co-ordinator and RotherFed were able to guide the group through this process.

Unfortunately, there were some disagreements with the group around how funding should be used. The Neighbourhood Co-ordinator listened to concerns from some members of the group and provided guidance.

RotherFed awarded the group some funding to get them back on their feet with the weekly lunch club and coffee mornings. From there the group has thrived. They have set up an art class each week and a garden club that is thriving. They have managed to pull funding in and now have a float of £10k in the bank to pay for future events and trips for the community.



The Neighbourhood Co-ordinator continues to visit the TARA regularly to provide support and guidance. There was an Annual General Meeting (AGM), which meant that there was an entirely new committee. This has meant that the Neighbourhood Co-ordinator will be continuing to support the new committee and provide guidance. Further engagement will be taking place to explain how funding works and how the TARA can access and use available funding.

The group will still need the support of the community, RotherFed and the Neighbourhoods team as they move forward, which will be offered as and when they need it.



Wath Ward:

How an acquisitive crime community engagement project was developed

A community engagement project took place around acquisitive crime in the Wath ward, which supports the ward priority of addressing crime and anti-social behaviour.

1. Background

South Yorkshire Police analysed data across the county and identified areas of highest demand in terms of crimes.

One such area identified was the 'Dearne Triangle' which spans Rotherham (Swinton and some areas of the Wath ward), Barnsley and Doncaster.

Acquisitive crime was identified as highest demand. The term 'acquisitive crime' relates to crimes in a residential setting such as burglary in a dwelling, personal robbery, theft from a person, and vehicle crime such as the taking from a motor vehicle and the taking of a motor vehicle.

Rotherham Council and neighbouring authorities, in conjunction with South Yorkshire Police, secured Safer Streets Funding (SSF2) from the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner to tackle acquisitive crime. Safer Streets Funding is given to projects that aim to:

- Reduce the fear of crime
- Reduce acquisitive crime
- Ensure local residents could see action being taken in their area

- Improve public relations
- Reduce the fear of crime and to improve residents' perceptions of safety
- Increase awareness of local crime prevention activity

There were a number of outputs from the bid:

- The procurement and deployment of eight CCTV cameras
- Property marking kits that were distributed together with crime prevention advice and information
- The use of Operation Shield branding, with some signs erected in the target areas
- Community engagement work undertaken

Working alongside partners, the Neighbourhood Co-ordinator was tasked with undertaking community engagement around raising awareness of acquisitive crime within the identified area.

The target areas identified in the Wath ward were based on recent crime figures and included part of Wath town centre, Church Street, the lower end of Cemetery Road, and the roads leading to the White Bear estate.

This project supported the Wath ward priority around addressing crime and anti-social behaviour.

2. Developing the idea

After the funding was secured, it was raised at the Community Action Partnership (CAP) meeting - a multi-agency meeting that is chaired by ward councillors. The CAP was set up to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour in the ward using a problem-solving approach. This partnership group was used to agree and plan the SSF2 Community Engagement Project.



Initially, a stakeholder mapping exercise was completed to identify any other partners needed for the project that were not already involved in the CAP meeting. Stakeholders included councillors, South Yorkshire Police, as well as the Council's Housing, Neighbourhoods, and Community Protection teams.

When planning the project and the suitable activities to undertake, the CAP group considered the demographic area identified for the project, the timescales, and the time of year. This was important to help support the delivery of the project. The demographics of the area included mainly council tenants, a significant number of bungalows, older residents and families too.

The CAP Group also gained an understanding of what engagement had previously been successful in the target areas and had conversations with local residents and groups, which helped to shape the project.

Community engagement activities were agreed in principle by the CAP group, and these were presented at a joint SSF2 meeting with South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner to approve. These included:



- Pop-up engagement events
- Sharing promotional materials and target hardening resources
- Engaging with local community groups to help promote Operation Shield and to raise awareness of acquisitive crime

3. Delivering the project

A total of six events were organised in the target areas, of which three were organised in Wath. The activities were organised between January and March 2022.

One of the activities was a community skip. Community skips are very well attended by residents and offer a great opportunity for residents to dispose of unwanted items and clear gardens preventing the Broken Window Theory. This is a theory that if an area is left with visible signs of crime and anti-social behaviour, i.e. broken windows, rubbish in gardens, then this will only encourage further crime and disorder. The skip also offered a great opportunity for partners to engage with residents and highlight the project.

Further pop-up events were organised at the local library and at a popular coffee morning held in a community venue.

A range of different locations were chosen to ensure as many residents as possible were being engaged.

A range of target hardening items were purchased and made available to residents for free at the organised events. This included:

- Purse bell
- Key chains
- Card signal blocker
- Window alarms
- Personal alarms
- TV simulator (when activated at night it simulates lights which look like a tv is on in the property)
- Shed security packs



The Neighbourhood Co-ordinator also made up bags with target hardening freebies, leaflets and a calendar. The bags were hand-delivered to all the bungalows in the identified area. The CAP group wanted to ensure that some of our more vulnerable residents were able to access the information and free items. This also gave them an opportunity to discuss the initiative with residents in a face-to-face setting and for residents to share any concerns.

Three types of leaflets were created and delivered to every property on the identified area. These were:

- Burglary Advice – ‘Don’t be a target for thieves’
- Securing your vehicle
- Keyless car tips – ‘Don’t make Keyless mean Carless’

This ensured that residents who were unable to attend the organised engagement events were still able to access information.

Acquisitive crime advice was also posted on social media and posted on the ward e-bulletins.

A calendar was designed to promote the Police’s Operation Shield campaign – which tied in with the work within this project. The calendar was delivered to all households along with leaflets and flyers promoting the organised events.

The calendar not only promoted the initiative over the next 12 months but provided useful contact details and encouraged residents to report crime and anti-social behaviour.

Along with the calendars, property marking kits were also supplied, along with information on how to report crime and anti-social behaviour.

Following engagement about acquisitive crime and particularly car crime with a local community group, it was suggested for signage to be displayed in public car parks in the area.

The signage would encourage residents to remove valuables from display. South Yorkshire Police provided the artwork for the signs and metals signs were displayed in the local public car parks.

Two local litter picking groups, each covering the two SSF2 locations, were keen to help promote the Operation Shield campaign through word of mouth and wanted to help reduce acquisitive crime through continuing to keep the area clean and tidy.

Both groups were also keen to encourage more residents to get involved in looking after their area. Both groups received new litter picking equipment including hi-visibility vests.

4. Evaluation

Throughout the project, there were informal conversations with residents and groups around how acquisitive crime affects them and how they felt the CAP group could best engage with residents. This did help to shape some of the engagement initiatives, for example the introduction of signs in car parks.

The CAP group received positive feedback from community groups and residents particularly regarding the free target hardening items.

Partners and councillors were kept updated about the project. This project helped address a key priority for the CAP group which was to encourage residents to report any concerns.

South Yorkshire Police provided feedback that the engagement had helped promote Operation Shield. South Yorkshire Police agreed to offer free SmartWater. SmartWater is a traceable liquid



and forensic asset marking system that is applied to items of value to identify thieves and deter theft. The liquid leaves a long-lasting and unique identifier, whose presence is invisible except under an ultraviolet black light.

Referrals were passed onto South Yorkshire Police following engagement. Residents also confirm that they had been offered SmartWater by South Yorkshire Police.

The geographical area that had been identified for funding didn't align to the Rotherham Council ward boundaries. This meant that careful consideration had to be taken when promoting the engagement and initiatives to ensure the right residents were targeted. It did help that the area identified was a manageable size (approximately 800 properties), which allowed the project to be resourced appropriately. This meant that all residents in the targeted area were able to receive information about the initiative and they received an invite to an engagement event.

The time of year in which the project was executed was during the autumn and winter months, which did impact the type of engagement events planned.

The CAP group is continuing to engage with residents in this location which continues to be a priority for the Wath ward. They have been working alongside partners such as FLUX Rotherham.

FLUX Rotherham is an action-research programme designed to engage Rotherham's communities in arts and culture. It is hoped that this partnership will build trust within the community, improve communication and, together with the community, make it a thriving neighbourhood.



South Yorkshire Police


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Wickersley North Ward: **How community concerns around dog fouling were listened and responded to**

Work has taken place to respond to concerns around dog fouling in the Wickersley North ward. This supports the ward priority of ensuring a clean and safe environment and improving our streets and green spaces, so that the community can access and enjoy them.

1. Background

In February 2022, several calls and emails were received which highlighted an issue with dog fouling in some areas of Wickersley North, particularly around paths leading to the ward's primary schools.

Not only was the dog fouling posing a health risk, it also compromised the safety of footpath users by pushing them out into the road. This was especially dangerous for those who use wheelchairs, mobility scooters, or prams/pushchairs.

Consequently, the Neighbourhood Co-ordinator added the issue to the Community Action Partnership (CAP) Action Plan so that possible solutions could be discussed between key partners.

Ward members and other CAP members agreed that it would be a great idea to involve the affected schools.

2. Developing the idea

Initially, the CAP group wanted to gather as much information as possible. They found out what the issue was via reports from local residents.

The Neighbourhoods team listened to the community and gathered as much information as possible. Through the reports, residents were able to inform the CAP group about the specific streets and green spaces.

From this, a list of key locations was drawn up and showed that the locations were typically school routes in Flanderwell and Bramley Sunnyside. The CAP group was concerned that irresponsible dog owners were allowing their dogs to foul on public footpaths and on grassed areas, which were prime locations used by families on the school run.

There was some effort to find out if this was happening at particular times, so that the Dog Warden could be involved, however this was difficult as eyewitnesses at the time of the offence were required.

Residents were asked to feedback on what had been done already in order to establish the next steps.

When residents reported issues, they were asked if they to be contacted and kept up to date about the ongoing work to sort the issue. This included the dates of the planned competition and when the signage would be installed. This was done in line with GDPR guidance.

The CAP group aimed to involve individuals who reported issues as much as possible. By doing this, people who raised the concerns could form part of the solution in some way.



For example, this could be done through gathering further evidence and reporting it to the relevant service.

The next step was to ensure that the information gathered reached the right person in the right service or organisation, such as the Dog Warden and the Council's Street Scene team.

It was important to engage with community partners to understand what assets already exist and to work together to tackle the issue using a multi-agency approach.

A list of key stakeholders was drawn up and this included:

- Elected Members
- Local residents
- Flanderwell Primary School
- Bramley Sunnyside Infant and Junior schools
- Signs Express
- The Council's Neighbourhoods team
- The Council's Community Protection team
- The Council's Street Scene team
- The Council's Communications team
- The Council's Highways team
- Doncaster Council's Kingdom team
- The Dog Warden

Once the key stakeholders had been identified, they were contacted to share ideas and gauge timescales. Ultimately, they decided to launch a ward wide poster/signage campaign design competition.

Realistic timescales and deadlines for the project was also considered during this time as well as costs and expectations.

3. Delivering the project

The Neighbourhoods team contacted Bramley Sunnyside Infant, Bramley Sunnyside Junior, and Flanderwell Primary schools to discuss initial ideas in February 2022.

The Neighbourhood Co-ordinator liaised with key contacts at each school, to ensure that:

- Children would like to be involved
- Teachers and parents/carers would support the project
- Guidance was clear
- The timescales would work for the schools

The CAP group wanted the competition to be guided by them on how long they would need to create their poster designs, to ensure that the children had a positive experience, and were informed and inspired to take part.

As part of this the Neighbourhoods team sent the schools useful links to existing campaigns so they could give some advice to the children when they came to design the posters for the competition.

Throughout the project, ward briefings were used to share information and to provide updates on progress. The Neighbourhoods team also shared the community intelligence that had been gathered as well as the steps that had already been taken.

When funding the project, the Neighbourhood Co-ordinator liaised with ward councillors and agreed a budget to fund the competition (book vouchers for the winners and runners-up), so that young people had an incentive to submit good quality designs. The production of the signage was covered, as well as the installation of the signage.



The designs were judged in May 2022 and the winners in each school were announced in June and July 2022.

Following this, it was then over to the technical teams to design, produce and install the signage across the areas. This work was completed in October. The good partnership work was celebrated and shared within the monthly e-newsletters so that the public were aware that they had been listened to and that action was being taken. It was also a brilliant way of congratulating the children who took part. An article was written and shared on the ward webpage and on Council social media accounts.



4. Evaluation

Working in partnership with internal teams and external bodies, the CAP group was able to deliver a project that was creative, engaging and impactful.

Unfortunately, due to changing timescales for installing the signs, children were not able to be involved with this element of the project. However, schools were kept informed of this and were notified of when the signs would be installed.

Involving schools worked really well and lots of children engaged with the project and produced some imaginative and bold designs.

The feedback so far has been promising. Residents have been pleased that their concerns have been heard and taken seriously, that proactive action has been taken and that there are plans in place to reduce dog fouling in the area on a longer-term basis through the involvement of local schools and poster campaign.

Children who designed the posters were very proud of their work and to see their designs installed across the ward. Children who took part demonstrated their learning on keeping the streets safe and encouraging dog owners to be responsible.

Following the completion of the project, there have not been further complaints of dog fouling in these areas. This can be attributed in part to the positive impact the project has had.

The ward councillors hope that dog owners take note of the signage and the key messages that children have put out there, in order to keep the environment clean and safe for everyone.

Should this issue arise in other areas, the Neighbourhoods team would certainly consider repeating this project and involving relevant schools, groups, or community organisations.