Victoria Ward Notes



Notes of VWP meeting @ Greenbank, Stranton - 14th July 2022

Next Victoria Ward Partnership meeting – 9.30 (-11, latest) Thursday 27th September @ Salaam Centre



Notes of discussions are organised into the six themes that emerged from the spring 2022 community consultation – these consisted of 50 interviews with residents through door knocking & street contacts. Additionally, circa 450 adults & children attended community events over the preceding 12 months.

VCS organisations: Graham Alton & Stephanie Bailey-Minton (Changing Futures North East); Tom Cook, Sheila Hope & Fiona Cook (Salaam Centre – Big League CIC) Sharon Cook (Hartlepool Carers); Shaun Haque (Hartlepool Huskies); Julian Penton (notes & facilitation – Hartlepower VCS Development Team);

Hartlepool Borough Council: Penny Thompson (HBC Head of Housing & Hardship); Scott Campbell (Service Manager for Education, Employment & Skills); Sarah McCluskey & Caitlin Connor (HBC Youth Service); John-Paul White (HBC Energy Efficiency Manager)

Apologies: Laura Blackett (Team leader – Victoria Community Support Team); Sue Leather (HBC – Public Health); Paula Carroll (Senior Sport and Physical Activity Coordinator); Leigh Keeble (Head of Community Hubs & Wellbeing)



Theme 1 - younger children

These are requested and very popular - with children & parents - as seen by the last year's sequence of family fun events.

- ·Kids Cabin to provide street-based sessions for young people - update from HBC's Paula Carroll.
- ·Summertime Summerhill picnics planned
- contact Steph/Rachael
- •Still struggling to work out who to contact in Lynnfield school to organise access to the field.
- ·Salaam Centre keen to develop work pertaining to child safeguarding and child exploitation.
- •Free swims available? Penny to contact Hartlepool Borough Council's Head of Service Ian Gardiner.
- ·Salaam Centre increasing activities see community assets section below.

Theme 2 - communications

The perennial issue of how to convey info about events etc.

- Juli is preparing a first Victoria newsletter.
- •NB Victoria ward Facebook page are you using?
- •These minutes being reformatted to a more newsletter style – of possible future use for sharing with residents?



Theme 3 - older children/adolescents

Parents' concern – too much time being spent online (gaming/social media). Older children/adolescents feedback – don't feel particularly safe going outside; low confidence/social anxiety – would prefer structured, organised activities in own neighbourhood. Refugee & asylum seeker girls/adolescents (16 & 18) looking for older girls/children sports club – rounders, basketball, bench-ball

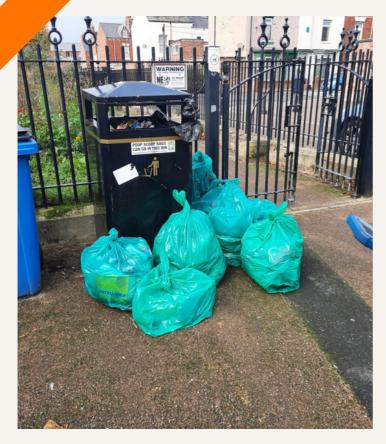
- ·Sarah (McCluskey) is organising youth outreach consultation events over the summer events being held in Thornton Street linear park on 1st & 22nd August; youth worker Caitlin (Connor) leading.
- ·Shaun (Haque) reported on Hartlepool Huskies (basketball club) activities for young people of all age groups which now are delivered across the town.
- •Funding available from the Police & Crime Commissioner's Office re. violence reduction youth & adults funding pots.





Theme 4 - the social & physical environment

Scruffiness, litter and worse remain a problem for residents - e.g. the outdoor Family Fun events have required the prior removal of canine excrement. Antisocial behaviour and antisocial/aggressive attitudes ·Housing: Penny working to reorganise HBC's currently fragmented housing services; Penny also connecting with the VCS community housing group to look at possible synergies; as previously stated, the exploitative, shoddy practices of a minority of private landlords can heap pressure on tenants and their neighbours/neighbourhood. Progress on landlord licensing? The soon to be reestablished Hartlepool Housing Partnership will become a town-wide. multi-sectoral forum in which such issues can be aired and, addressed.



•The former Northern Textiles building (at the Hart Lane/Raby Road traffic lights) has been acquired by One CIC for conversion to 11 flats & community café – aimed at singl person occupancy.
•Energy efficiency: John-Paul White reported that funding is available for around 200 homes occupied by "vulnerable" people, town-wide, for fitting of solar panels, air source heat pumps, insulation, energy efficiency surveys. Around 150 off-gas and 50 gas supplied properties are sought – with around £10K per property available.

Theme 5 - community assets, connection & neighbourliness

People keen to get to know neighbours and feel connected to their community.

- •Refugee and asylum seekers are keen to learn conversational English they suggest sharing food as the best means.
- ·Salaam Centre are building up the activities offered from the Centre:
- o Monday: Free food available from 2pm; informal English conversation, reading & writing (children's and adult's sessions); Ukraine support & social group
- o Tuesday: Free music lessons (guitar, drums etc.)
- o Wednesday: Free food from 11am (women only); Red Cross refugee & asylum seeker advice & support session; women's social group; children's autism support group
- o Thursday: informal conversational English
- o Friday: Happy Parenting drop-in; food/toiletries donations & free collection
- o Sunday: Jazz band; Dan's Man Club (male mental health support through music); Plus: Hall hire for parties, weddings etc.; Monthly adults autism support group
- •Zeba Alam's ethnic minorities women's group meeting in the Central Hub should be contacted and connected back to the Salaam Centre
- •The forthcoming Learning for Inclusion adult learning budget (£0.5 million annually) has considerable flexibility in which "learning" will be understood in the widest sense there may well be opportunities with this. E.g. training of parents to assist with children's play



Theme 6 - Hartlepool strengths & positive feedback

House prices, beaches, access to green space (apart from very locally); sense of community



Theme 7 - Partnership development

Joining up contributors around shared outcomes

·Reconnect Zeba with the Salaam Centre
·Whilst Lynnfield school have been
helpful – the issue of finding a
consistent, reliable contact to field
requests for use of the school field
remains a challenge. For want of such a
contact we are in danger of losing a
programme of sports and children's
activities – the Kicks programme – that
will also pay the school for use of the
field

·How to involve residents in the Partnership?