

HOUSING & URBAN FORM



HEALTH



JOBS & ENTERPRENEURSHIP



EDUCATION & LIFELONG LEARNING

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

CRIME & COMMUNITY SAFETY



Looking back...
moving forward

A REVIEW OF 2004/05

YOUR VOICE, YOUR PARTNERSHIP

“In the five years since Greets Green Partnership was launched, we’ve funded more than 100 projects aimed at improving the quality of life for local people.

But, how do we know that these projects are what you want and need? The best way is to ask you! Last year, one of the main areas I focused on was how to make it easier for local people to get involved in developing new projects.

We’ve always tried to make the Partnership as transparent as possible so that you can see where we’re investing our money and why we decided to do so. We realised that in trying to make the organisation transparent, we had, in fact, made the project approval process quite complicated which people saw as a barrier to getting involved.

Now we’ve tried to break down these barriers while still making sure that you can see exactly why we make each decision. The result is a much simplified project approval process which includes new monthly ‘Have Your Say’ workshops. These informal workshops enable you to discuss proposed projects before they’re actually approved so that you can really influence how we’re spending our money.

This year’s annual review focuses heavily on the Partnership’s six Theme Leaders because once projects have been approved, they’re the ones who actually make them happen. We have a very detailed business plan which the Theme Leaders have drawn up through consultation with residents and the Theme Leaders need to make sure that they deliver that plan and achieve what you asked us to do.

Did we deliver what we promised last year? Look at each theme section in this annual review to find out! You’ll see that we’ve clearly stated what we said we’d do last year and then looked at whether we did it. We’ve also said what we aim to achieve this year.

We’re keen to see as many of you as possible play a part in developing and shaping our work in the future. This is your Partnership – ensure it makes a real difference to you.”



**ALLY ALLERSON,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



GET INVOLVED IN YOUR PARTNERSHIP

Community Empowerment is at the heart of the Partnership. Our aim is to give everyone in Greet Green the opportunity, skills and confidence to influence our decision making and provide the foundations for lasting change in the area

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

KATHERINE HEWITT, THEME LEADER

“My aim is to see as many of you as possible becoming involved in your local community with help and support from us. There are so many ways to do this thanks to a range of projects we’ve introduced during the past year.

Neighbourhood Groups are now up and running in all areas of Greets Green, where residents meet and discuss local issues such as community safety and environmental improvements. We’ve been looking at how to involve Neighbourhood and Community Representatives in these groups. If each group lets their Neighbourhood and Community Representatives know what the important issues are, they can bring these to the Partnership Board so that something can be done to address them.

The Neighbourhood and Community Representatives now have even more support as we’ve appointed a Board Representative Support Officer who helps them learn new skills and provides guidance where needed.

Plenty of development support has also been given to community groups and organisations through the Digbeth Trust First Steps project which is now coming to an end. The Trust has completed more than 50 support projects with local groups. Local residents and project staff have also been developing the skills they need for community work by following a community development course with Sandwell College in partnership with Newman College.

Communities across Greets Green have also been strengthened this year, thanks to Partnership support. The two Pakistani Steering Groups have moved forward. A Women’s Worker has been appointed and a Men’s Worker is being recruited. The African Caribbean community now has an active steering group. They held two community consultation events last year to identify key issues, which led to the group developing a project to recruit a worker. We also helped the Krishna Community Forum put together a project to develop a community facility. Things are changing - come and get involved!

Katherine joined Greets Green Partnership in 2000 as a Community Regeneration Officer before becoming the Theme Leader for Community Empowerment. She used to be a Community Development Worker on a council estate in Grimsby.

Part of her work in Greets Green is to manage the Community Empowerment Team which includes the Neighbourhood Support Workers at Claypit Lane. The team is ensuring that local people can play an active part in the Partnership’s work.

Another important part of Katherine’s work is leading the team that supports other theme areas across the Partnership by promoting engagement in all aspects of the programme. This is fundamental to everything we do.

GREET'S GREEN EVENTS STEERING GROUP



What does it do? This group of local residents was set up to organise regular fun events for the whole Greet's Green community. Balvinder Paul says: "Since I took early retirement two years ago, I've had time on my hands to do new things. I wanted to do something for the community and when this opportunity arose, it sounded a really good idea."

What difference has it made? They've staged some fantastic events which hundreds of local people of all ages have enjoyed. In 2004 they organised a Summer Fun Day & Olympics on the Rec, a Bonfire & Firework Extravaganza and a Winter Festival complete with line dancing dogs, outdoor skating and loads of entertainment.

Can I join them?

Yes, the Events Steering Group would love to have more members. If you can help with their next community event, call Sam Watts on 0121 553 5963 or 07919 110079.

What we said we'd do:

Establish decision making groups in the eight remaining Greet's Green neighbourhoods.

Create a Support Officer role to lead on the induction and ongoing support of Neighbourhood Representatives.

Appoint a Diversity Officer to focus on offering support to previously under-represented groups and lead on the appointment of new Development Workers within community groups.

Establish an Events Group to co-ordinate two major seasonal community events.

Continue the rolling programme of neighbourhood elections, in order to ensure all communities and neighbourhood interests are represented on the Partnership Board.



What we did do:

We now have nine active neighbourhood groups who meet regularly and discuss local issues.

Jackie Owen was appointed Board Representative Support Officer in December 2004. She's working with all Board members, particularly focusing on supporting Neighbourhood and Community Reps.

Ruphsana Nahar-Qayyum became Diversity Officer last September and has already been working with the two Pakistani Steering Groups, the African Caribbean Steering Group and the Krishna Community Forum. She's also been involving elderly people's groups and asylum seekers.

The new Events Steering Group comprises seven active local residents who have helped us stage four highly successful community events during 2004.

Neighbourhood elections took place in May and June and will continue to be held each year in different areas of Greet's Green.

What we plan to do in 2005/06:

- Look at ways of providing funding to sustain and support community facilities.
- Work on engaging hard to reach groups eg the elderly and the disabled.
- Work with neighbourhood groups to come up with aims, objectives and individual development plans.
- Establish a community groups training programme.
- Relaunch the Community Funds project and provide fundraising support to groups.

If you or your group would like to get more involved in Greet's Green Partnership, call Katherine Hewitt on 0121 533 3185.



MAKING YOUR COMMUNITY SAFER FOR ALL

Our aim is to reduce crime and the fear of crime in Greets Green and create a safe, secure environment by working in partnership with the Police and introducing physical improvements to discourage crime and anti-social behaviour

CRIME & COMMUNITY SAFETY

JOHN PADDOCK, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

“Everyone has the right to feel safe, which is why we’ve been continuing to tackle crime and the fear of crime in Greets Green during the past year. Recorded incidents have reduced and we are seeing real progress in driving down crime levels in the area, but the fear of crime is still high.

I hope the new Police Support Programme, which we’re launching in partnership with West Midlands Police, will help to ease people’s fears. There’ll be a new Crime Fighting Team, specifically dedicated to Greets Green, out and about on your streets, maintaining a high police presence.

Thanks to your feedback, we’ve completed several more small environmental projects through our High Quality Safe Environment Programme, helping to cut anti-social behaviour. Lockable gates have also been put on more tunnel entryways between homes to stop potential intruders getting in. This has been a highly popular solution.

I’m sure you all recognise our Neighbourhood Wardens now and agree they’re doing a great job at taking immediate action and getting results. We are looking at ways to increase the impact that our wardens have in the area in response to the very positive feedback we have received from residents.

Through the Neighbourhood Forums, residents across Greets Green have said that crime and community safety is one of the most important issues to them. I listen to all your comments and concerns and work with lots of different teams, including the Wardens, to try to make Greets Green safer for all.

Finally, I’m delighted to welcome Phil Hartley, our new Crime & Community Safety Theme Leader. His appointment greatly improves our capacity to work even more closely with West Midlands Police and other related agencies.”



New Theme Leader

New Crime & Community Safety Theme Leader, Phil Hartley, is looking forward to continuing the work which has already been done to tackle crime in the Greets Green area.

He’s joined the Partnership from Kings Norton New Deal for Communities where his role of Community Safety Manager has seen him dealing with issues similar to those in Greets Green including crime, the fear of crime, drugs and alcohol misuse and improving the local environment.

Phil will be working closely with the new Greets Green Crime Fighting Team to improve community safety for all local people.

GREET'S GREEN NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS



What do they do? The team of seven Wardens are the eyes, ears and friends of local residents. They're based on the High Street and patrol Greet's Green in pairs so that they're always on the spot to deal with issues such as nuisance, anti-social behaviour and litter. They provide an important link between local residents and lots of local agencies including the police. If you have a matter you want putting right, call the Wardens and they'll take action.

What difference has it made? The list is endless. The Wardens have prompted loads of environmental improvements such as getting abandoned vehicles, graffiti and fly tipping removed. So much help and support have been given to individual residents and community groups. They've helped people of all ages in the community – teaching children how to cross the road safely; organising football tournaments for young people and giving Christmas hampers to the elderly.

How can you contact them?

You can call the Neighbourhood Wardens on 0121 580 4481 or visit them at 380 High Street.

What we said we'd do:

Appoint a Community Safety theme leader to lead on the roll out of our Drugs and Alcohol Strategy.

Work with the 50 young people identified as being most at risk of becoming young offenders through the revised Youth Inclusion Project (YIP).

Launch a new cycle of High Quality Safe Environment projects in partnership with Sandwell Council.

Refine and review the Tradernet Radio Link service and look at possible expansion.



What we did do:

A new Theme Leader, Phil Hartley, has just been appointed. We've been working in partnership with local agencies to develop the Drugs and Alcohol Strategy, which we're introducing with support from Sandwell Drugs and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT).

We continued to fund our YIP initiatives in partnership with Sandwell Council and are now exploring how we can achieve greater impact through joining forces with a West Bromwich wide initiative.

We've completed a range of small environmental schemes to tackle anti-social behaviour, such as opening up overgrown pockets of land.

The project has been established and will be undergoing an audit in 2005 to assess its effectiveness and ensure radios are issued to the areas of greatest need to strengthen the network.

What we plan to do in 2005/06:

- Launch a new Police Support Programme to create more high profile policing in Greets Green with more officers and police vehicles.
- Strengthen the Neighbourhood Wardens project so that action can be taken on even more local problems and issues.
- Introduce a new target hardening initiative to tackle crime in the home.
- Create a strengthened package of support for victims of crime, in particular, domestic violence and young victims of crime.

If there are any community safety issues you'd like to discuss, call Phil Hartley on 0121 532 6885.



LEARNING FOR A LIFETIME

Education & Lifelong Learning have a key role to play in regenerating communities. We are committed to encouraging aspiration, raising achievement and improving life chances for everyone in Greets Green

EDUCATION & LIFELONG LEARNING

ROGER CUNNINGHAM, THEME LEADER

“Education and lifelong learning are all about developing knowledge and skills which will benefit people for the rest of their lives. Therefore, many of the projects we now have underway won't end when the Partnership does, but will continue for the generations to come.

For young children, we've already begun plans for a Children's Centre at Ryders Green Primary School offering childcare, family support and child and family health services. The rebuilding of Guns Village Primary School is well underway and we've funded a new community room at the school so that the local community can come along to events and activities.

Children from all local primary schools have joined in our Vocal Skills project which saw more than 100 parents attending their first concert. As pupils from George Salter High School are also involved, the project is helping to make the move from primary to secondary school as easy as possible for youngsters.

The Greets Green Youth Forum is now bigger and better than ever before with membership growing all the time and the Youth Forum's excellent work throughout the year was recognised by a national New Deal for Communities (NDC) Achievement Award in 2004.

Learning is a lifelong experience and many local people of all ages have already taken advantage of the Community Access Points (CAPs) network of learning we've created throughout Greets Green, along with the Click! Greets Green ICT learning centres. Our Community Learning Workers are busy listening to what you want to learn and then creating opportunities for you to do so.

We've also launched a new Sandwell Adult Education Programme which is offering opportunities to learn skills for employment or just for fun. The choice is yours!

Roger became Theme Leader for Education & Lifelong Learning in 2003. He already knew all the local schools and how to get things done as he'd previously been an adviser for primary schools in West Bromwich.

He was also a head teacher in Birmingham for 18 years. As Theme Leader, he's not just looking at schools but the wider involvement of the whole community in learning.

Roger's aim is to make lasting change, promoting education for all ages and at all stages of life. This means improving the physical quality of local learning centres and investing in the people who will deliver education and learning after the life of the Partnership.

COMMUNITY ACCESS POINTS



What are they? Community Access Points (CAPs) are places where anyone in the community can do some kind of learning. 10 CAPs have been placed in schools and community venues throughout Greets Green and a team of Community Learning Workers are based at the CAPs to encourage local people to use them.

What difference has it made? The Community Learning Workers have created a network of learning throughout Greets Green. They've passed lots of information to residents about local learning activities and when someone wants to learn something which isn't currently available, they work with service providers to set a course up.

How can you contact them?

To find out more or to contact any of the Community Learning Workers, call Project Manager Stinder Johl on 0121 532 6885.

What we said we'd do:

Make the Community Access Points (CAPs) programme a reality.

Create an innovative partnership with DfES and Shireland Language College to bring about major improvements at George Salter High School.

Launch a new adult education programme to build on the highly successful Passport to Learning project.

Launch Vocal Skills – a national singing project. The project will involve all pupils in Years 5 and 6 in local primary schools and Years 7 and 8 at George Salter High School.

Strengthen family learning and home / school links.



What we did do:

A CAPs Project Manager was appointed in June 2004 along with eight Community Learning Workers who have created a network of learning.

The DfES created a federation between Shireland and George Salter as part of a national initiative where successful schools help to support less successful ones. We funded a complete ICT system at George Salter to improve teaching and learning and funded two pastoral managers to support pupils.

A new five year Sandwell Adult Education Programme was launched in September to help reduce the level of adults in Greet's Green with no formal qualifications to 50%.

Vocal Skills has been hugely successful with young people staging a Town Hall concert and singing at the Winter Festival.

The Community Learning Workers have developed home / school links by introducing activities eg a swimming group in response to parents' requests. We funded the Early Years Partnership to offer pre-school activities for mothers and toddlers at Ryders Green and staged almost 50 activities for National Family Learning Week in October.

What we plan to do in 2005/06:

- Continue to support our primary schools to deliver results which are now above the Sandwell average.
- Help to develop the George Salter site as a community hub as part of the Government's Building Schools for the Future project.
- Create an action plan with West Bromwich Town Team to decrease the number of young people who leave school with no identified further education or employment opportunities.
- Develop the CAPs project to create an extended network of our 10 centres which brings educational facilities together under a community umbrella.

To find out more about the learning opportunities available in Greet's Green, call Roger Cunningham on 0121 533 3184.



A HEALTHIER GREET'S GREEN

Our aim is to improve the health, well-being and quality of life of Greets Green residents through the integration of health and social care services that are flexible and responsive to the diverse needs of the community

KATE MASSEY, HEALTH THEME LEADER

“You, the residents of Greets Green are the local experts on health issues because you know what’s needed in your community. We’ve been gaining feedback and views from as many local people and organisations as possible so that we can turn your ideas into health projects.

Our ‘Have a Say Day on Health’ last December was a big success and gave us plenty of ideas. Everyone’s views have been used to decide the six areas we will be focusing on during 2005/06. Thank you to all of you who have been working so closely with us and keeping us on our toes.

A major highlight last year was receiving a national New Deal for Communities (NDC) Achievement Award which recognised our work. Now that we have a strengthened Neighbourhood Health Management team we’ll be able to achieve even more.

Thanks to our Enhanced Nursing Services project, GP practices have more time to offer patients and Greets Green has its own specialists including an occupational therapist who has been helping older people enjoy greater independence, a new social worker, plus a community pharmacist who gives advice on medicines.

We’ve been working with lots of children and families and it’s great news that a new Children’s Centre is coming to Ryders Green Primary School in Greets Green. Make sure you get involved!

We want to enable everyone in Greets Green to live a long, healthy life and have introduced many projects including training residents to become health assessors, looking at healthy eating and staging events such as ‘Live Safely Live Healthy’ for the Over 50s and ‘Dads, Lads and Grandads’ Day’. We believe everyone deserves to be ‘fit for life’.

Kate has worked in the public service sector all her life, including more than 20 years in the health service. She’s worked in Sandwell since 1989 in both hospitals and the community.

She became the Health Theme Leader for Greets Green Partnership in 2003 and also manages services for the local Primary Care Trust (PCT) including supporting GPs, dentists, opticians and pharmacists.

Since becoming Health Theme Leader, Kate’s been building up the Neighbourhood Health Management Team so that local people have a single point of contact for health issues and services.

CHILD HOME SAFETY PROJECT



What does it do? Its aim is to reduce the high number of preventable accidents involving young children in the home. Free home safety equipment such as stair gates and fireguards is offered to anyone with a B70 or B71 postcode who has children under five. Home safety advice is also provided and the project has recently begun working with Halfords to offer free child car seats on a long term loan basis.

What difference has it made? Having received her free home safety equipment, local mum, Lisa Locke thought the project was so vital that she volunteered to join the project Steering Group to help plan its future direction. "I have two children under five and so child safety is very important to me," she says. "I want to help other families stop their children having accidents in the home."

How can I find out more?

Call Child Home Safety Project Development Worker, Flo Reynolds on 0121 525 0556 or visit her at OSCAR on Lodge Road.

What we said we'd do:

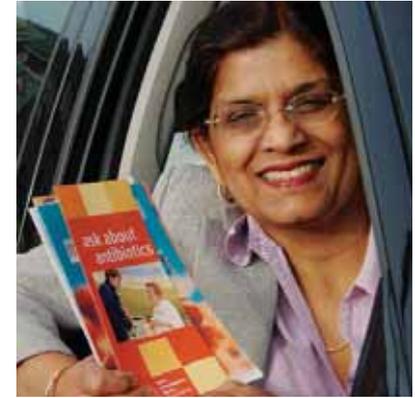
Launch a pilot project to ease GP waiting lists by offering patients with minor ailments an alternative service at local pharmacies.

Appoint a Programme Manager to bring forward the Children and Families Programme for Greet's Green. The Manager will support parents and carers in the health and education of young children.

Extend the Child Home Safety scheme to incorporate additional services.

Develop a new project to support the Level Advance Sickle Cell Support Group in Greet's Green.

Develop closer links between health, sports and leisure to promote greater physical activity.



What we did do:

Care @ the Chemist pilot project began at Dartmouth Medical Centre in Richard Street and four local pharmacies last June and is now being rolled out to other GP practices in Greets Green.

Jenny Mahimbo was appointed in January 2005 as Children and Families Programme Manager in conjunction with the planned Children's Centre for Greets Green.

A new Child Home Safety project started last Autumn, led by Development Worker, Flo Reynolds, based at OSCAR in Lodge Road. 163 local families registered and are benefiting from free child home safety equipment, advice and support.

Level Advance Sickle Cell Self-Help Group members took part in a six week NHS 'Expert Patients' course last September, to work towards the launch of their new project in 2005.

Sport and leisure became part of the Health Theme in 2005 to promote more active lifestyles and tackle problems associated with obesity.

What we plan to do in 2005/06:

- Appoint a Community Food Worker and set up Food Interest Groups (FIGs) to improve access to a healthy diet and make more fruit and vegetables available in local shops.
- Support the building of the new Children's Centre at Ryders Green Primary School.
- Pilot a 'Passport to Health' scheme for older people.
- Stage Healthy Hearts screening events at community venues to tackle heart disease.
- Provide support for teenagers and young parents through the Teenage Pregnancy project which is linked to the Youth Service.
- Launch a 'Fit For Life' project at George Salter High School to encourage healthy living.

If there are any health issues you'd like to discuss, call Kate Massey on 0121 500 1650.



IMPROVING HOMES & LIVES

Our aim is to create a high quality environment in Greets Green with housing to be proud of – fit and affordable for 21st century living

HOUSING & URBAN FORM

IAN JENNINGS AND MARIANNE MONRO, HOUSING & URBAN FORM THEME LEADERS

“What a roller coaster year we’ve had! It’s been full of ups and downs but our Greets Green Housing Plan is now becoming a reality and radical regeneration is beginning to transform the area.

Once we secured major funding from the Urban Living Pathfinder (formerly HMRA) it was full steam ahead! We’re working together with Sandwell Homes, Sandwell Council and the Urban Living Pathfinder on our ambitious Housing Plan and are making major progress very quickly because we have such a strong partnership.

We know that we’re talking about sensitive, life changing issues and have been personally visiting every single resident who lives in the areas that have been earmarked for redevelopment so that we can reduce their concerns. It’s been quite difficult because people are naturally concerned, but when we’ve visited residents they say they feel much more comfortable about what’s going to happen.

We’ve been open and honest about our plans since the start and now people can see that we’re doing what we promised. Many residents living in Claypit Lane and Wattle Road have moved to new homes and residents living in Chapman Street, Edith Street and the surrounding area (known as the Housing Assessment Area or HAA) are beginning to move too.

Now that work has begun on clearing the sites, we’ll be talking to residents about what they want to see developed there for future generations. A big thank you to all of you who’ve shared your thoughts with us. Whether it’s been positive or negative your feedback has been valuable. And thank you to everyone who has persevered with our Housing Plan and given 110% commitment to make it happen.”

Marianne has worked in housing since 1990 and has always been people-facing. She worked in the Neighbourhood Office in the Lyng, advising people about benefits, and with a range of different tenants' and residents' groups, before joining Greets Green Partnership when it began.

She wants residents to get the opportunities to have real control over their lives in terms of housing.

Ian came to the Partnership in May 2004 having been Community Development Officer at Mercian Housing Association and undertaking various roles with Leicester Housing Association.

He wants the Housing Team to make a distinct, visible difference in Greets Green and kickstart a sustainable change.

CASE STUDY:

SUPPORTING RESIDENTS AFFECTED BY CLEARANCE



Name: Mrs Priest.

Where did she live? Mrs Priest had lived in Coppice Street since 2000 when she moved from Dudley. When she found out her home was included in the clearance area, she was very upset. “I was really happy in my home and didn’t want to move,” she says. “I was frightened because I didn’t know where I’d end up or what would happen. It came as a shock to me.”

What happened? “Once I realised why our houses were coming down and the plans to improve the area, I thought it was a good idea. I thought, if I’ve got to move, I just need to get on with it. When I was offered a two bedroom house in the Trident Homes scheme on Wood Lane, I was over the moon. Sandwell Homes and Greets Green Partnership arranged my move for me and it was the easiest move I’ve ever made. The area here is nicer, my house is better. I was always happy in Coppice Street but this is a thousand times better.”

How can I find out more?

Call Greets Green Partnership’s Housing Team on Freephone 0800 073 0798.

What we said we’d do:

Identify four priority sites for redevelopment.

Submit a detailed application for funding from the Urban Living Pathfinder to support the delivery of the Greets Green Housing Plan.

Hold open public meetings to share the decisions on the three public sector sites to be redeveloped, subject to consultation.

Hold drop in sessions for more detailed advice on proposed redevelopments.

Launch a relocation package to support residents living in areas to be redeveloped.

Start negotiations to purchase properties in preparation for the redevelopments that will lead to the ‘new look’ Greets Green.



What we did do:

Four sites have now been identified and the process of preparing these sites is already underway.

£5 million funding has been secured until April 2006 from the Urban Living Pathfinder, a major Government programme for Sandwell and Birmingham, as part of a longer term plan. This has meant we can start to acquire properties in Claypit Lane / Wattle Road, Coppice Street and the Housing Assessment Area (HAA).

We held various meetings, drop in sessions and home visits and fully consulted with the community in the four redevelopment areas.

So that we provide in depth advice relevant to individual circumstances, we are making one to one home visits to every household in the redevelopment areas.

We are now in the final stages of approval for 'Relocation Support' to help residents who are moving.

We are working in partnership with Sandwell Council which is negotiating the purchase of properties. We are enabling the whole process to move as quickly as possible.

What we plan to do in 2005/06:

- Provide ongoing personal support to residents affected by clearance.
- Plan, in detail, the new developments which will be created in the area in consultation with the community. Create a finished vision of what Greets Green will look like when the redevelopment is complete.
- Introduce projects which will improve our private sector housing eg energy efficiency projects.
- Enable all residents to take part in the home maintenance project to give them the skills to maintain and improve their own homes.
- Add value to the improvement work the Council is doing to bring public sector housing to the Decent Homes Standard eg enhancing our open spaces, gardens and car parking.

**If have any housing issues, call
Ian Jennings or Marianne Monro
on Freephone 0800 073 0798.**



GETTING DOWN TO WORK

We are supporting local businesses to create a thriving business community and jobs for local people. By 2010 we want Greet's Green to be a place where people choose to live and work

JOBS & ENTERPRISE

PAT PARKES, JOBS & ENTERPRISE THEME LEADER

“With high unemployment and low household incomes in Greets Green we’ve been working to create job opportunities which offer higher salaries, develop residents’ skills to match these opportunities and provide money advice to households. The aim is to increase household incomes in Greets Green and encourage people to spend more locally and in turn support the development of shops and services in the area.

Sandwell Advice & Moneylink (SAM) was launched to offer affordable loans, support and advice and a specialist Debt Adviser is now based there. SAM has already advised over 100 local residents and many of you have also benefited from the money advice surgeries staged at community organisations. To improve the long term situation for residents, the new Become project was created. Its aim is to make local people more employable and increase the amount they could earn so that they don’t have to rely on income support.

Local young trainees who want to enter the construction industry but don’t have the right qualifications, joined our Young Build & Train project. A total of 27 young people are now being trained on the job. Thirty residents keen to get into retail completed our successful Pilot Retail Training project and 10 of them have already got jobs.

We also supported two local businesses who wanted to create learning centres for their employees and lots of courses are being run to develop skills and improve opportunities. Plus, we helped local traders launch Greets Green Retail Enterprise & Training (GGREAT), the new traders’ association.

When we offered help to local people setting up their own business, 20 residents applied for Start Up Grants and many more have taken advantage of the reduced membership fee to the Black Country Chamber of Commerce we’ve arranged. Our aim is to create a vibrant local economy that will support the transformation of Greets green by encouraging businesses to thrive.”

Pat knows all about the trials and tribulations of being in business because she ran her own company for 15 years.

She then decided to go back to college, completing a post graduate qualification in Human Resources Development while working at Telford Council putting projects together for women returning to work.

Pat’s aim is to make sure that local businesses can develop and grow to ensure that residents have the opportunity to work in them if they wish to. She also wants to see businesses encouraged to move into the area.

'BECOME' – A NEW WAY OF WORKING IN GREETS GREEN



What is 'Become'? The 'Become' group of projects is providing support for people who are unemployed or employed to improve their employment options. The project aims to improve the quality as well as the quantity of the job opportunities available, to raise levels of household incomes and contribute to the growth of the local economy.

What difference has it made? Our qualified advisors work with each individual to look at the whole range of issues that impact on their capacity to get a job and progress to a level that will make a meaningful change to their overall family income. 'Become' does not stop once you are in work. One of the key aims of the project is to support people in work to advance their career prospects and gain the skills needed to progress.

How can I find out more?

Call the 'Become' team on 0121 532 4997 or pop in to see Steps 2 Work on the High Street.

What we said we'd do:

Launch a new jobs and enterprise training programme as a follow on to the Jobs Brokerage project. It will have a more targeted focus on addressing skills gaps in Greets Green and raising family aspirations.

Launch a financial advice project to reduce the dependence on high interest, unsecured borrowing in the area.

Introduce a one-stop business shop to provide support and advice to small businesses in Greets Green.



What we did do:

Completed the Jobs Brokerage project in June 2004 and developed the new five year 'Become' project which was launched in January.

This partnership project with Steps 2 Work and A4e is raising the aspirations of families and looking at the impact work makes on the family.

Launched Sandwell Advice & Moneylink (SAM) with Black Country Housing Association on the High Street in January to offer affordable loans and financial support and advice services to residents.

Opened Greets Green Retail Enterprise & Training (GGREAT) in January to provide help, support and training to local traders and businesses.

What we plan to do in 2005/06:

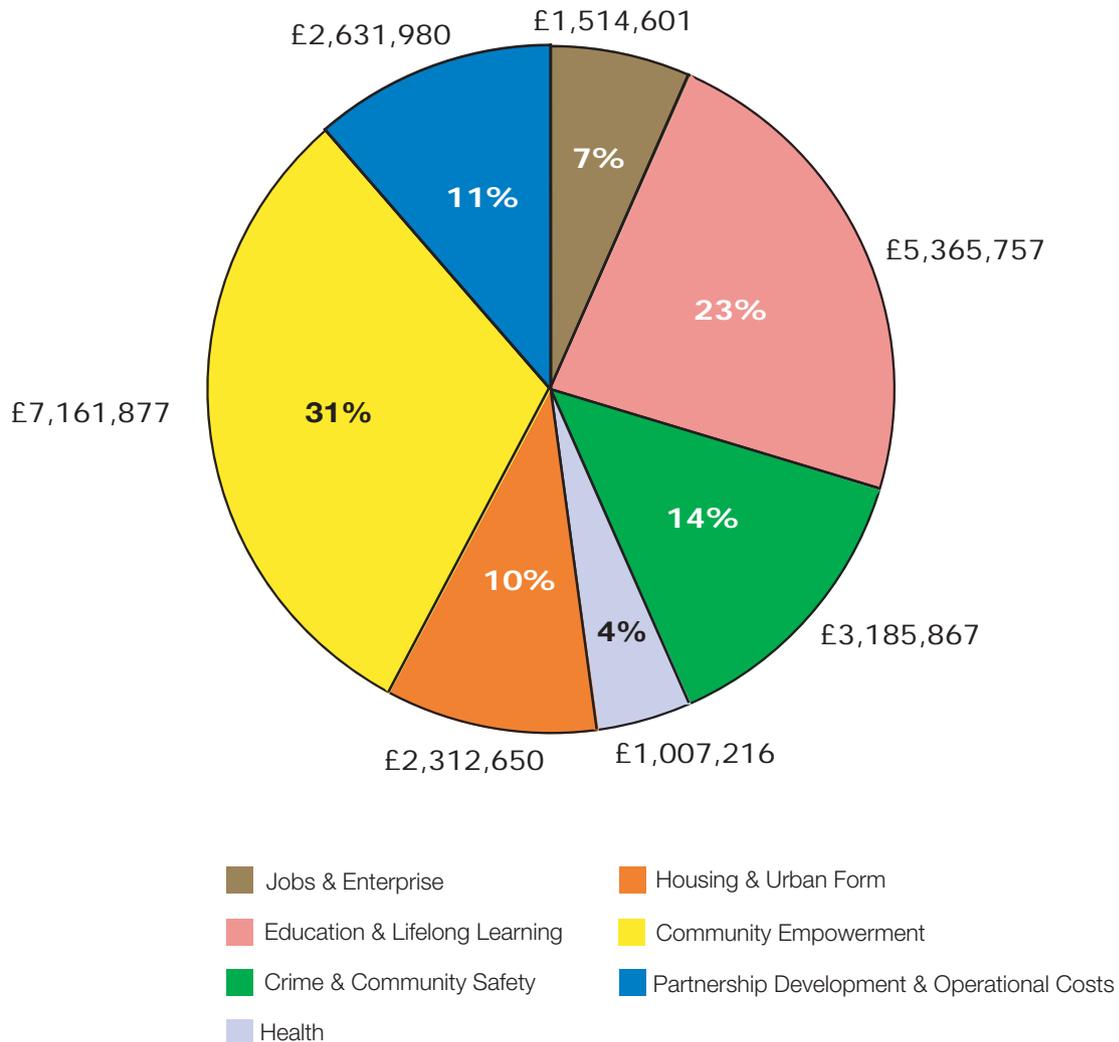
- Complete an economic survey to build a true picture of local businesses and produce the results in a business directory.
- Measure the success of our Building Skills project, which is providing employment opportunities in the construction industry, and share it as best practice with other regeneration programmes.
- Launch a White Goods Recycling Centre in partnership with a major electrical retailer to train local people to repair, refurbish and recycle white goods.
- Set up a business improvement district at Albion Business Park to enhance the area.
- Work with architects to give Carters Green its own personality through a High Street improvement project.

For more information about jobs and enterprise opportunities in Greets Green, call Pat Parkes on 0121 533 3186.

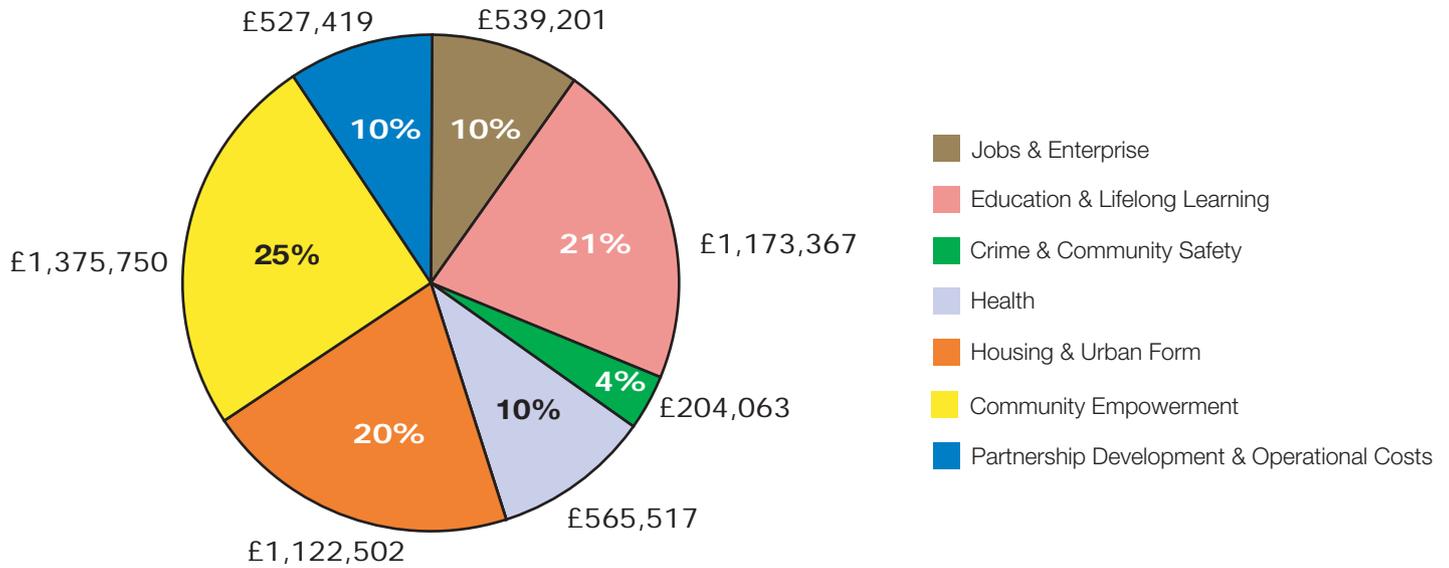
FINANCIAL INFORMATION

What we have spent so far in total

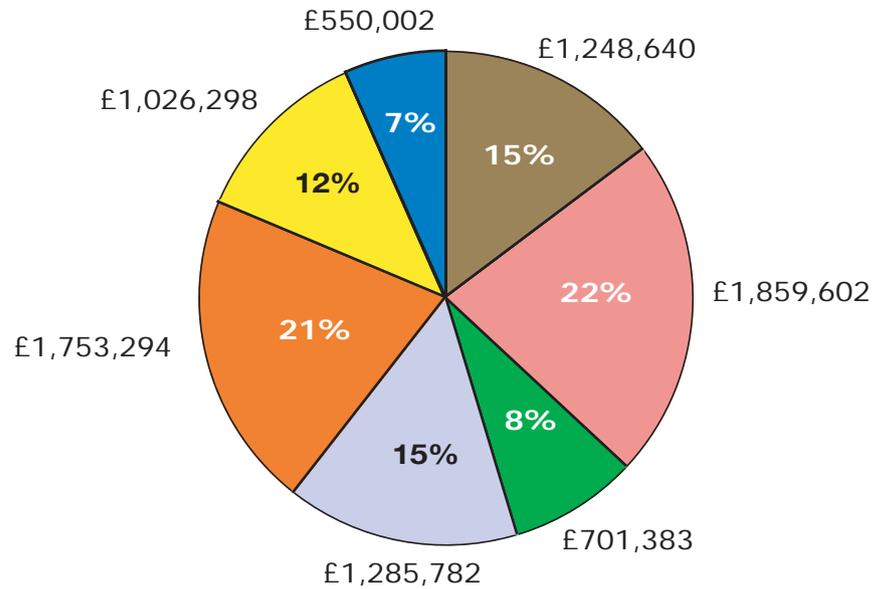
up to 31st March 2005



What we spent during 2004/05



What we will spend in 2005/06



YOUR PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Independent Chair:

Geoffrey Fisher

Neighbourhood Representatives:

Hamblett's South

Jessica Ferguson

*Hamblett's North

Janet Sayce

*Swan Village

Vacant

*Greets Green

Vacant

Carters Green

Frederick Wright

Oak House South

Bev Dudley

*Oak House North

Ann Coll

*West Bromwich Central & Lodge Area

Fajli Bibi

Community Representatives:

African Caribbean

Stan Simms

Bangladeshi

Poli Begum (Deputy, Abdul Kahar)

Indian

Jayesh Patel

Pakistani

Munir Hussain (Deputy, Amraj Khan)

Sikh

Gurbachan Dhinsa (also Vice-Chair, Partnership Board)

Yemeni

Ali Al Osaimi

Young People:

Minah Hoque

Vacant

Local Authority:

Lord King

Councillor Bob Badham

Housing & Urban Form:

Steve Gregory

Education:

Alison Knight

Health:

Geraint Griffiths

Employment:

Vacant

West Midlands Police:

Inspector John Smith

Business Sector:

Brian Murphy

Robert Stokes

Susan Bartleet-Cross

Vacant

Voluntary Sector:

Brenda Taylor

**These seats are up for re-election in June/July 2005. For more information about your Partnership Board Representatives contact Partnership Board Representative Support Officer, Jackie Owen on Freephone 0800 953 0215.*

Greets Green Partnership,
Ground Floor, Court House, 335-337 High Street,
West Bromwich B70 8LU

Freephone 0800 953 0215

Fax: 0121 533 3168

Community Empowerment · Crime & Community Safety · Education & Lifelong Learning · Health · Housing & Urban Form · Jobs & Enterprise

