



ANNUAL REVIEW
2007/08

It's been another exciting year for Greets Green as the Partnership has continued to work with residents to deliver the changes that are improving their quality of life in all kinds of ways.

Many of the projects we have funded are now being picked up and taken on by our partners. In the last year these have included the Greets Green Neighbourhood Police Team and the Active Lifestyles project.

Last year also saw the establishment of our successor body Greets Green Community Enterprises, which is preparing to launch a range of business ventures for the benefit of the area. Not only that, but it will also continue to provide a voice for the community in Greets Green. So keep an eye out for ways to get involved.

This annual review will look back at some of the highlights of last year and give you a snapshot of where we are. However we still have lots of work to do that will make a difference not only in the short term, but also set Greets Green up for an exciting future.



Members of the Community Services Team regularly visit homes in Greets Green as part of the Down Your Street project.

Community Services

Community Services

- Last year's Small Sites programme carried out 15 mini projects across Greets Green all of which were identified by residents themselves at the Neighbourhood Forum meetings. Work included area tidy-ups, bollard installations, resurfacing work, new fencing and even a nature garden at Lodge Primary School.
- We enjoyed great success with our community events including the Summer Fun Day and Christmas Festival, however the visit of the Loving Cup of England, the Women's Food and Fashion Festival and monthly tea dances also proved to be hugely popular.
- We have helped community and voluntary organisations in Greets Green plan for their long-term futures, while our renewed efforts to promote diversity and community cohesion have proved successful.



Rohit Mistry,
Community Services
Theme Leader

“We had an excellent year following a significant team restructure. We completed our household survey which gave us important feedback from the community, while our Neighbourhood Forums and Down Your Street project continued to be successful ways of engaging with the community.”



Award winning Pc Lou Cater of the Greet's Green Neighbourhood Police Team.

Crime & Community Safety

- Crime levels have continued to fall in Greets Green with latest figures revealing reductions in the number of domestic burglaries, vehicle thefts, robberies and incidents of anti-social behaviour.
- PC Lou Carter of the Greets Green Police Crime Fighting Team was named 'Police Woman of the Year' for her partnership work with housing, schools and residents in promoting neighbourhood policing.
- More than 650 burglar alarms were fitted and maintained across Greets Green as part of the Home Protection Scheme.



Phil Hartley,
Crime & Community
Safety Theme Leader

“In the past year the Crime & Community Safety Theme has continued to make progress towards meeting all of its targets by the end of the programme in 2010. There have also been three new neighbourhood watch schemes set up, over 200 alley gates have now been fitted in the area since 2001 and locks have been fitted to more than 1,800 properties.”



Women from Greet's Green enjoyed a healthier lifestyle thanks to our Social Swimmers project.

Health

Health

- A number of very successful Partnership- funded initiatives and projects have been mainstreamed in the last year after having a positive impact in Greets Green. These include the Community Health Forum, New Deal for Healthier Food and the Active Lifestyles Co-ordinator.
- Greets Green residents were serious about improving their lifestyles – thousands signed up to our physical activity sessions or benefited from our healthy eating projects.
- We are continuing to work towards reducing the number of cancer related deaths in Greets Green. The latest figures for the area are now below the average for Sandwell.



Sally Sandel,
Health Theme Leader

“Last year was very important for the Health Theme. Lessons learnt as a result of the Partnership-funded pilot projects have been taken on board and built into future work. We have worked extremely well with Sandwell Primary Care Trust to ensure residents can influence and have access to future services. We’ve also performed well towards hitting our targets by the end of the programme in 2010.”



Adel Ahmed and family who worked closely with the housing team before moving into their new home in Greets Green.

Housing & Urban Form

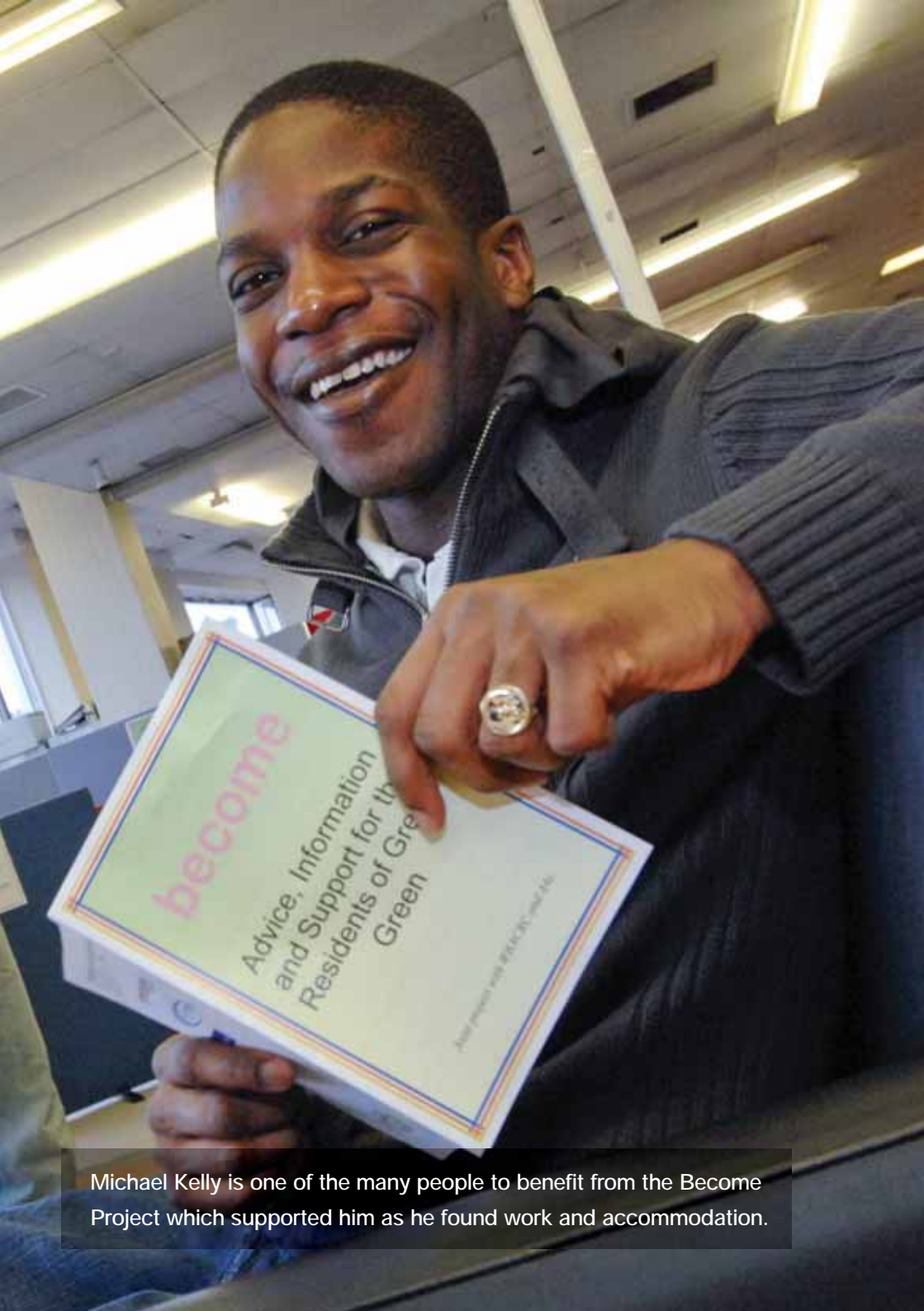
Housing & Urban Form

- More than 78% of public sector homes reached the Decent Homes Standard last year which exceeded our target of 75%.
- Our Sustainable Warmth project was approved and will help us to hit our targets in tackling fuel poverty in Greets Green by installing more than 180 new central heating systems in private sector homes.
- 750 residents in total benefited from our Home Maintenance project which came to an end this year. The project offered a range of practical training, skills development and mentoring around maintenance issues in the home.



Phil Hartley,
Crime & Community
Safety Theme Leader

“Last year highlighted the fact we’re on the way to achieving all our targets by 2010. It also saw the first steps taken to creating a brand new park for Greets Green by extensive clearance work at The Rec and the refurbishment of its children’s Multi Use Games Area.”



Michael Kelly is one of the many people to benefit from the Become Project which supported him as he found work and accommodation.

Jobs & Skills

Jobs & Skills

- 89 previously unemployed Greet's Green residents found jobs – the highest annual figure to date which was more than double the number from the previous year.
- An impressive 479 Greet's Green residents gained a qualification, 43% of which were at a more advanced level (equivalent to GCSE or NVQ Level 2) which is a 10% improvement on the previous year.
- George Salter Collegiate Academy celebrated another great set of GCSE results with 85% of pupils achieving 5 passes at grades A*-C, which exceeds not only the borough average but the national average as well.

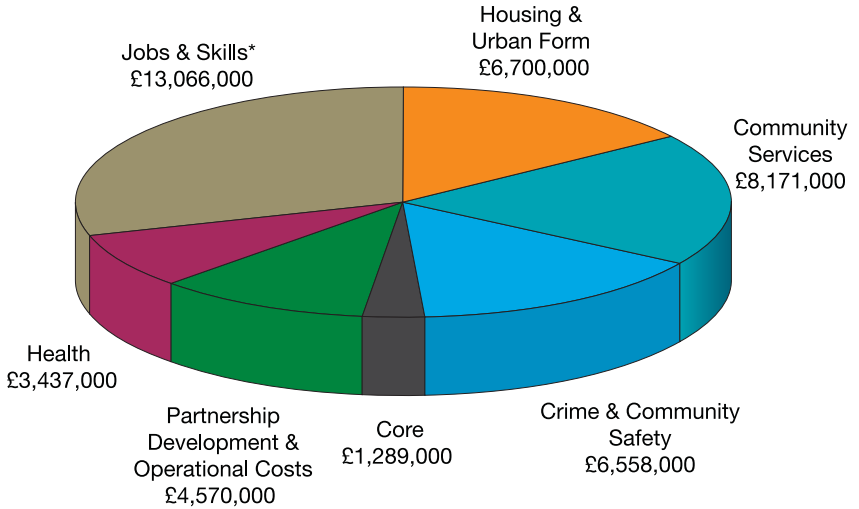


Katherine Hewitt,
Jobs & Skills Theme
Leader

“As well as these key successes, our three employment focused projects (Become, Business Support and Building Skills for the Community) all exceeded their anticipated targets. Meanwhile, we also achieved a lot for young people during the last year which saw the Greet's Green Youth Forum re-established and we gained funding to establish a Young Advisors Scheme.”

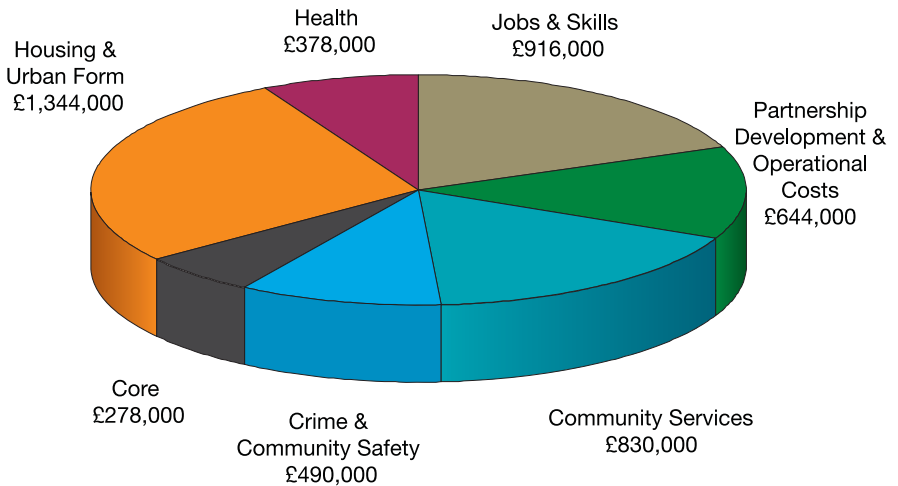
Financial Information

Total spend to 31st March 2008 (Years 1 to 8)



**This includes a capital investment allocation of up to £5 million for Greets Green Community Enterprises.*

This is what we spent during Year 8 (2007/08)



How you can get involved

There are a number of ways for you to get involved with our work at Greet's Green Partnership.

Down Your Street

Down Your Street

Members of the Community Services Team will be coming to visit you soon! They'll put a flyer through your door which you can display if you'd like to discuss any local issues with them.

Greet's Green Youth Forum

Greet's Green Youth Forum

Young people can also have their say about life in Greet's Green. Our Youth Forum is an active organisation that makes a difference in the area and is always on the lookout for new recruits.

Neighbourhood Forum

Neighbourhood Forum

Each month our Neighbourhood Forums allow residents to meet face to face with local service providers such as the Police, Sandwell Homes and Sandwell Council and have their say on a wide range of issues affecting them.

Community Heroes

Community Heroes

The Greet's Green Magazine hands out Community Hero Awards to deserving residents. If you know someone who offers a lot to the community and helps other people then let the Partnership know.

How you can get involved

Police Surgery

Police Surgery

Residents who would like to discuss any police related issues are welcome to attend our regular surgeries which are hosted by members of the Greets Green Police Team.

Sessional Workers

Sessional Workers

Residents can get more involved with the community and earn some extra money by becoming a sessional worker. The workers are available to carry out a range of jobs including assisting at events, conducting surveys and consultations and using language skills to communicate with members of the public.

Volunteering

Volunteering

Greets Green Partnership runs a series of annual events including our Summer and Winter Fun Days. However they can only be a success with the help of volunteers so, to get involved with planning or running an event, don't hesitate to get in touch.

For more information on any of the above please call Greets Green Partnership on freephone

0800 953 0215

Greets Green online

Don't forget you can now keep up to date with the latest news at Greets Green Partnership online. All of our latest press releases, newsletters and magazines are available at www.greetsgreen.sandwell.gov.uk where you can also find contact details and download other important documents including our business plans and annual reviews.



Greets Green Partnership

Court House, 335-337 High Street
West Bromwich B70 8LU
www.greetsgreen.sandwell.gov.uk



freephone
0800 953 0215