

Chesterfield Borough Community Assemblies

Putting Our Communities First

Annual Report 2013/14



ARE WE ACCESSIBLE TO YOU?

If not, ask us

- ✓ We want everyone to be able to understand us.
- ✓ We want everyone to be able to read our written materials.
- ✓ We aim to provide what you need for you to read, talk, and write to us.

On request we will provide free:

- ✓ Language interpreters, including for British Sign Language.
- ✓ Translations of written materials into other languages.
- ✓ Materials in braille, large print, on tape, in Easy Read.

Please contact us:

Telephone: 01246 345247

Fax: 01246 345252

Text: 07960 910264

Email: enquiries@chesterfield.gov.uk

Contents

Introduction	4
Community Assembly Meetings	5
Community Chairing	6
Social Media	7
Our Partners	7
Workshops	7
Action Planning	10
Community Assembly Newsletters	10
Feedback	10
Funding	11
Community Assembly Handbook	15
Community Development Activities	15
Looking Forward to 2014/15	20
Further Information	20
Appendix 'A' – Community Chairs	21
Appendix 'B' – Community Chest	29
Appendix 'C' – Schools' Workshops	32

INTRODUCTION FROM COUNCILLOR SHARON BLANK, EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CUSTOMERS AND COMMUNITIES

Welcome to Chesterfield Borough Council's Community Assemblies Annual Report for 2013/2014. The report highlights the work we have been doing over the past year to promote the Community Assemblies and also via our community development programme.

Community Assemblies are a new initiative in Chesterfield Borough, which we want the whole community to be part of. Together we want to create a successful partnership to help shape the future of our neighbourhoods.

Together we will:

- Assist communities to identify local issues and implement to local solutions.
- Give a voice to communities via a wide range of methods.
- Build stronger more cohesive communities.
- Work to make Chesterfield Borough an excellent place to live, work, visit and learn.
- Encourage, inspire and enable people to be more active citizens.

We are proud of our achievements during the past year, and our continued promotion of Community Assemblies. We believe we are making a real difference to the quality of life of our residents.

We are particularly pleased to highlight and share with you within this report:

- the success of the first four Community Assembly meetings;
- the relationship we have built with partner agencies and their commitment and attendance at the Community Assembly meetings;
- the development and introduction of Community Charing at our Community Assemblies;
- the many groups that have been awarded funding from our Minor Grants Programme and Community Chest; and
- the new community development activity that has commenced in the Borough.

1.0 **COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY MEETINGS**

1.1 There are four Community Assembly areas in Chesterfield Borough. Anyone who lives or works in each area is encouraged to get involved. The meetings take place four times a year (September, November, March and June). They are a chance for members of our community to attend meetings to:

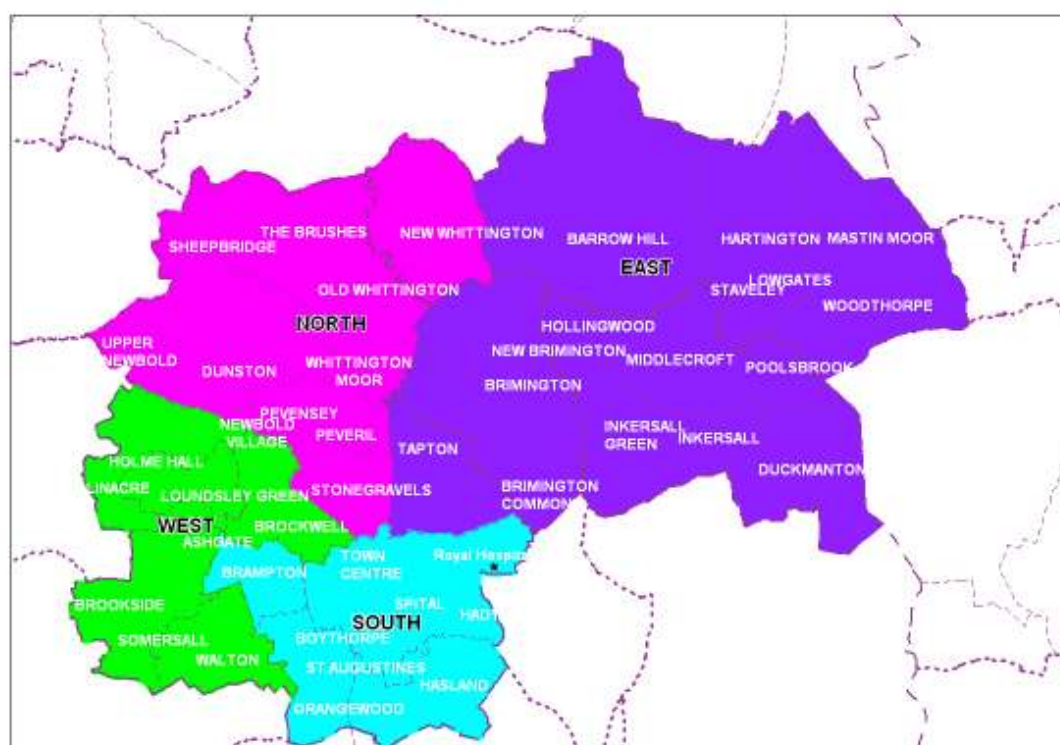
- Discuss and share what matters to them
- Work together to shape the future of their area
- Find out what is happening in their area
- Consider how funding available to their area is spent

South Assembly (Chesterfield Town Centre, Brampton, Boythorpe, St. Augustines, Grangewood, Hasland, Hady and Spital)

East Assembly (Tapton, Brimington, Brimington Common, Inkersall, Duckmanton, Poolsbrook, Middlecroft, Hollingwood, Barrow Hill, Hartington, Staveley, Lowgates, Mastin Moor and Woodthorpe)

North Assembly (Stonegravels, Peveril, Pevensey, Dunston, Upper Newbold, Whittington Moore, Old Whittington, New Whittington and Sheepbridge)

West Assembly (Walton, Somersall, Brookside, Ashgate, Loundsley Green, Linacre, Holme Hall, Newbold Village, Peveril, Taptan, Brimington Common, Duckmanton, Brimington, Inkersall, Inkersall Green, Middlecroft, Poolsbrook, New Brimington, Hollingwood, Staveley, Lowgates, Woodthorpe, Mastin Moor, Hartington, Barrow Hill)



1.2 Attendance at the meetings (12 standard assembly meetings) varied during 2013/14. The highest attendance figure was 63 in the East at the November meeting and the lowest was 23 at in the North for the first meeting in September. The average attendance figure for 2013/14 was 38 people.

1.3 Along with regular agenda items including updates and question and answer opportunities from partner agencies and participatory budgeting items, during 2013/14 we held a number of activities, workshops and presentations at the assembly meetings including:

- What makes your area special
- Your health matters
- Neighbourhood Watch
- Counter terrorism
- Scrutiny – Aiming for the best
- Chesterfield Borough Council priorities and financial challenges
- Community Chairing

Further details on these activities are highlighted throughout this report.

1.4 In October we held our first special assembly meeting to focus on the proposed developments at the former Avenue Coking plant site (just over the South border in North East Derbyshire). The meeting was extremely vibrant with approximately 70 people attending including Toby Perkins MP and Natascha Engel MP, DCC and CBC elected members and over 45 members of the public. Feedback on the night was excellent and there were several phone calls and e-mails after the event from members of the public thanking CBC for hosting the meeting.

2.0 COMMUNITY CHAIRING

2.1 Community Chairing was a key change from the Community Forum model to the new assemblies. During 2013/14 the assembly meetings were chaired by Chesterfield Borough Council Heads of Service while preparations were made for the election of community chairs in June 2014.

2.2 During 2013/14 we held briefing sessions on community chairing, provided training to anyone interested in potentially chairing assembly meetings in the future and/or wanted to gain confidence in chairing other community meetings. We welcomed applications for community chairing from residents within the particular assembly area they would serve, elected members for each area or statutory agency/third party employees with a strong link to the area.

2.3 Potential chairs and vice chairs were supported every step of the way to the June 2014 chair elections including assistance with their personal statements. Elections were held at the June 2014 assembly meetings and we now have eight enthusiastic new community chairs and vice chairs to help us to develop the assemblies further during 2014/15 and beyond. Photos of our new Chairs/Vice-Chairs along with their personal statements can be found at Appendix 'A'.

3.0 SOCIAL MEDIA

- 3.1 The Community Assemblies have a growing social media presence. People who are unable to attend the meetings and/or who want regular updates in-between the meetings can access both our Twitter and Facebook pages. We currently have 100 Twitter followers and 37 likes/friends on Facebook.

4.0 OUR PARTNERS

- 4.1 Since we launched the Community Assemblies we have been really pleased with the commitment of partner agencies both at the meetings and for the community development programme outside of the meetings. At every Community Assembly meeting a Police Inspector from 'C' Division attends to update meeting on local police matters and statistics. He also regularly asks local PCSOs, PC's and sergeants to attend to give an overview of crime and anti-social behaviour in each area and answer and action questions and concerns.
- 4.2 We are also grateful for the support of Derbyshire County Council (Public Health). They have allocated four of their officers to work with the assemblies to promote health and wellbeing in our Borough. They also update members of the public on local health matters and the County's Locality Plan at each meeting.
- 4.3 Chesterfield College have also effectively engaged with assemblies and send an Engagement Officer to each community assembly meeting and provide two-way feedback to the college and its students.
- 4.4 During 2013/14 our partners have made a fantastic contribution to this new engagement model and there are lots of opportunities planned for 2014/15 to develop these relationships further.

5.0 WORKSHOPS

- 5.1 Emphasis at the 2013/14 Community Assembly meetings were on workshops, information sharing, community action and guest speakers. At the first Community Assembly meeting in September 2013 we set the scene for future meetings by working together on a workshop entitled "What You Like About Where You Live". Lively interactive discussions took place. Here are some of the key findings:

East

- Good community spirit
- Rural
- Accessibility to town centre, Staveley and M1
- Country feel yet close to Town Centre
- Poolsbrook Country Park
- Proactive involvement from police
- Easy access to shopping

West

- Good neighbours
- Access to Peak District
- Local community activities e.g. Inkerman Buzz, Chatsworth Road Festival
- Real ale pubs
- Relative low levels of crime
- Good schools
- Places to eat and drink

North

- Community spirit
- Clean and tidy
- Safe area
- Good access to green space
- Good transport links
- Good amenities
- Community policing
- Football Club

South

- Hospital/health facilities
- Good SNT in the area
- Vibrant market and shops
- Proact Stadium
- College
- Good transport access
- Convenient access to Town Centre
- Still have a sense of identity

5.2 Information from this workshop undertaken with the assemblies and local schools which included – what you like about where you live, what you dislike formed the basis for the action plans we developed for each area. Full details of the workshop can be found at: <http://www.chesterfield.gov.uk/Assembly-Activities-1167.html>

5.3 At the November 2013 meeting, DCC (Public Health) worked with the assembly on “What Health and Wellbeing Meant to You”. We talked about some of the things you felt contributed to health and wellbeing in each area and also how health and wellbeing could be improved. Here are some of the key findings:

How Health and Wellbeing Can be Improved

- Healthy Eating
- Armchair Exercises
- Retain Green Open Spaces
- Need Community Gardens
- Better Youth Activities
- Gardening Clubs
- Mental health/elderly programmes to reduce isolation
- More intergenerational activities to improve community cohesion
- Getting people out of cars and onto streets walking and cycling
- Getting people active

Things that Contribute to Health and Wellbeing in Your Area

- Poolsbrook Country Park
- Bowling Club
- Mastin Moor Walking Group
- GP Referral Scheme
- Healthy Living Centre
- Snow Wardens
- Holmebrook Valley Country Park
- Volunteering work in the community
- Access to fresh food i.e. market
- Queen's Park
- Allotments
- Eastwood Park
- Easy access to town
- Farmers market at St. Thomas'

5.4 March 2014 saw the Scrutiny and Policy Officer and Overview of Scrutiny Committee Chairs visit the Assemblies to deliver a presentation on their role at the Council and in the community. The assemblies looked at priority issues for Scrutiny consideration using the "issues for change" agenda already draw up by each Assembly area in September. The priorities identified were:

- Community development for people of all ages
- Dealing more effectively with dog fouling
- Litter and streetscene issues
- Protection and green spaces and verges
- Parking and roads issues
- Public service agencies working better together, and on community safety.

5.5 It was decided that the first two priorities for Scrutiny would be dog fouling and building communities and that the other priorities would be considered at a future Scrutiny meeting.

6.0 ACTION PLANNING

6.1 Each Community Assembly area has produced an action plan based on a range of community engagement activity with residents, local schools and colleges, elected members and partner agencies. The purpose of the action plan is to try to capture the area's priorities and issues and formulate specific activities to address these issues. It can be used as evidence by the Council and partners of needs and concerns of specific communities. It is also a guide as to spending priorities for the two assembly grant programmes Minor Grants and in particular the Community Chest. The assembly action plans can be found at this link: <http://www.chesterfield.gov.uk/Community-Assembly-Action-Plans-1404.html>

7.0 COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY NEWSLETTERS

7.1 Instead of formal minutes, Community Assembly newsletters are produced for each area. They are sent by email or post to attendees of the assemblies and are also available via social media and our website. Each newsletter includes an update from the previous meeting, columns written by the Police and Public Health, but also community information about events and activities happening in each area.



8.0 FEEDBACK

8.1 On the whole feedback from the Community Assembly meetings has been very positive with the majority of attendees agreeing that the meetings will help to improve communications between residents and the Council, that assemblies will keep them informed about local issues and that the meetings will enable them to raise issues of concern.

The most common reasons for attending Community Assembly meetings were to meet other members of the community, to help improve their local area and to find out what's going on in the area.

Venue choice has been the key issue of concern during 2013/14. Other feedback included suggestions for workshop items and guest speakers including Spirepride, Dementia Awareness, transport issues, representatives from key community organisations, Queen's Park Sports Centre project.

9.0 FUNDING

9.1 There are two Chesterfield Borough Council grant programmes which support the aims and priorities of the assemblies – Minor Grants and the larger Community Chest programme. Both grant programmes employ a variety of participatory budgeting techniques to enable the community to get involved in funding decisions and learn more about the challenges of allocating limited funding pots at a time of great demand.

9.2 Minor Grants

For 2013/14 £3,000 was awarded to each Community Assembly area to support small local projects. The maximum award was £500 per project. Please note that in future years this funding will be reduced to £1,500 per assembly area and a maximum award of £200 per project due to the introduction of the Community Chest grant programme.

There are four opportunities per annum to apply for Community Assembly Minor Grants. Applications are discussed with CBC ward members for the assembly area who can then choose to endorse an application to go forward to the next Community Assembly meeting for a community vote.

During 2013/14 29 community projects were supported via the minor grants scheme. Many of these projects were match funded from a variety of other funding sources including partner agencies so from a Community Assembly contribution of £9,507 approximately £40,000 was available for community projects.

The grants were used to fund a variety of projects including:

- Diversionary activities for children and young people
- War memorial improvements
- Older peoples clubs and activities
- Supporting local clubs for children and young people including sports clubs, guides and brownies
- Toddler groups
- Allotments and community gardens improvements
- Community celebrations, galas and events

Minor Grant Case Study 1 - Staveley Seniors Forum

The Staveley Seniors Forum were awarded £400 from the Minor Grants fund in March 2014. Derbyshire County Council (Public Health) also provided some funding from their Health and Wellbeing budget.

This group aims to improve the health and wellbeing of the older people of Staveley. The funding was used to provide opportunities for physical activities and social interaction at the weekly sessions of Staveley Seniors Social and Activity Group for residents aged 55+ at the Healthy Living Centre. Activities include chair based exercise, bocchia, indoor curling, seated yoga, qui gung, health walks, line dancing, first aid and a Christmas social.

As a member of the Staveley Seniors you are also entitled to one session swimming, in the gym and sauna each week. Members are charged £2 per week. Here are some of the things the Staveley Seniors members told us:

- It's good comradeship and fun
- It can be very competitive at times
- Great exercise but not too energetic
- It gets you out of the house when you live on your own
- Good company
- We cheer each other on (sometimes through gritted teeth!)



Minor Grant Case Study 2 – Buzy Beez Craft Group

The Buzy Beez were awarded £200 from the Minor Grants fund in March 2014.

The aims of the organisation are to share ideas and knowledge – with social interaction within the group and the community. They aim to support people who experience loneliness and lack of confidence due to physical or mental illness. They are open all year round for continuing support. They applied for funding to help towards new sewing machines, overlockers, threads and fabrics. They meet on a Monday at Staveley and Barrow Hill Community Rooms from 10am – 12.00 noon.

When we visited the group we found ladies who were extremely friendly and full of personality who obviously enjoy the session very much and get lots of friendship and companionship from attending.



Minor Grant Case Study 3 – Whittington Youth Group

The Youth Group were awarded £300 from the Minor Grants fund in November 2013.

Approximately 80 children attend the group every week for a range of activities including crafts, group games and the group provides a safe place for children to have fun and socialise.

When we visited the group it was a particularly noisy session as they were having a disco. All the children looked like they were having lots of fun. The group is run by volunteer parents who do a remarkable job with all the children who attend. Their commitment, patience and enthusiasm is infectious.



9.3 Community Chest

As part of the Community Assemblies initiative and our Vision for Chesterfield Borough “Putting Our Communities First” we set up a grant fund to support Community Assembly priorities called the Community Chest. £40,000 is available from Chesterfield Borough Council during 2014/15 and we hope that this money can be used to maximise match funding opportunities from other funding streams. The funding will be awarded to facilitate projects, services and activities that improve the overall quality of life and wellbeing of residents in Chesterfield Borough, in line with the priorities for each Community Assembly area and the Council’s Corporate Plan priorities. Funding will also be directed towards areas of the Borough with specific needs for example health inequalities and deprivation issues.

Registered charities and community and voluntary groups that are based within Chesterfield Borough or have a strong link to the Borough that meet the funding conditions can apply for funding. In addition applications from Chesterfield Borough and partner agencies in exceptional circumstances may qualify for funding if they can demonstrate high levels of community involvement and that the proposed activities meet identified community needs.

The minimum grant award from the Community Chest is £1,000 per project and the maximum is £5,000 per project. There are two opportunities per annum to apply for Community Chest funding. Each tranche will be £20,000 in grant funding. Money not awarded in the first tranche will be carried forward onto the second tranche for the year. Any Community Chest money not awarded at the end of the second tranche will be retained by Chesterfield Borough Council.

A rigorous decision making procedure has been developed to oversee the funding applications. This comprises of:

- Initial checks on all applications received to ensure they meet the funding terms and conditions and criteria (Policy Team)
- Community Assembly Sub-Groups for each area – made up of members of the public and CBC Members who give their thoughts on the applications received and make recommendations to the final decision making panel
- A meeting is held with CBC Partners (DCC, Police and Links) who also give their views and make recommendations
- The Executive Member and Assistant Executive Members for Customers and Communities also review the applications and make recommendations
- The final decision rests with the Leader of the Council, Deputy Leader of the Council and Leader of the Opposition

We are particularly proud of this move towards participatory budgeting for our two funding streams and our vision is to develop this further over the next

year. By using this process to make decisions about community grants it increases transparency, accountability, understanding and social inclusion in local government affairs and involves local people in making decisions on the spending and priorities.

26 applications for funding to the Community Chest were received. If we had funded them all it would have cost nearly £80,000 but there was only £20,000 available for this round of funding.

Recipients of this first tranche of Community Chest, including the amount of funding received, can be found at Appendix 'A'. A further evaluation of these applications will be made available in the 2014/2015 Annual Report.

10.0 COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY HANDBOOK

10.1 We developed a handbook for the Community Assemblies which includes key information about the assemblies including – what assemblies are, its membership, who can attend meetings, how the meetings work, what happens between the meetings, how we promote assemblies, each area's action plans, our key partners and funding.

11.0 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY

11.1 Schools

We were very keen to work closely with young people in our communities to find out “What They Like About Where They Live” and we wrote to all primary and secondary schools in Chesterfield asking if we could visit them to meet with their School Council to carry out a similar workshop as the one we did with the Community Assemblies in September. We wanted to ask them what they think about the area they live in, what they think of transport, lighting and roads, also their thoughts on leisure, recreation and green spaces and community safety and the police.

Twelve schools took part in this activity during 2013/14 and at Appendix 'C' you will find the results of these workshops.

11.2 Financial Inclusion



Financial Inclusion is about having access to appropriate financial services and products and also having the skills, knowledge and confidence to make sound financial decisions. We worked with DCC and a range of other partner agencies to develop a financial inclusion pilot to start to tackle these issues.

Poolsbrook was chosen for our March 2014 pilot due to research suggesting that this area had significant financial inclusion challenges. This project took an outreach approach in one of our most deprived areas. It had a 3 step approach as follows:

Week 1 - a leaflet was posted through all the doors asking questions that may trigger an agency response, e.g. are you in debt, do you need help finding employment, do you need affordable credit, can you afford to heat your home, would you like help to improve your health and do you have children?

Week 2 – Staff knocked on doors asking if residents need help with any of these issues and if so, appointments were made for the following week.

Week 3 – Staff were available at the Poolsbrook Welfare Centre to provide advice to those with appointments. Residents could be seen in the centre or in their homes.

We had the following agencies on board to provide information and help to residents:

Affordable Warmth
Credit Union
Citizens Advice Bureau
Derbyshire Unemployed Workers Centre
Health Trainer
Job Centre Plus

207 properties were targeted, 16 households taking advantage of the help and advice available to them. We had requests for assistance from the Citizens Advice Bureau, Health Promotion Advisor, Affordable Warmth, CBC's Housing Services, Department of Work and Pensions, Credit Union, Law Centre and Derbyshire Unemployed Workers Centre.

This pilot will now be rolled out to other areas with specific financial inclusion challenges. The next location chosen is Barrow Hill where we hope to work with the families of over 500 properties in the village.

11.3 Intergenerational Poppy Project

July 2014 marks the centennial anniversary of the start of the First World War and we are jointly working with Chesterfield Borough Council's Environmental Services and Derbyshire County Council to make preparations to commemorate this event by inviting local schools to take part in an intergenerational project about the conflict. It is intended that school groups will be provided with an information pack about the soldiers, sailors and airmen that never returned from the conflict and who now rest in the town's four main cemeteries (Boythorpe, Brimington, Spital and Staveley). To help the children to commemorate the conflict each child will be given a small pack of indigenous wildflower seeds (poppies, cornflowers etc) to scatter in an area, if practical, at school, or in their garden at home. The chosen area would become, in time, a lasting peaceful memorial to a lost generation. This will support the Council's approach to conserving the local environment and hopefully compliment the school's curriculum in local history, geography and biodiversity.



11.4 McGregor's Pond

We are working with a local angling club to apply for funding from Viridor's Landfill Communities Fund. This is a private scheme that enables Landfill Operators to voluntarily donate a percentage of their Landfill Tax liability to Environmental Bodies. The Environmental Body is then able to award this donation to eligible projects within 10 miles of qualifying landfill sites. Essentially, the aim of the scheme is to enhance the environment of communities living in the vicinity of landfill sites.

Bank protection works is needed at McGregor's Pond in order to prevent the River Rother overflowing its banks, flooding paths and washing the fish stock out of the ponds.

McGregor's Pond lies on the outskirts of an area of multiple deprivation and is the only publicly accessible semi-natural area within walking distance of the

residents of Rother ward. The pond is also well-used by employees of businesses located on the adjacent industrial estate for lunch time exercise and informal recreation. The pond supports a thriving angling club with a diverse membership from the local community.

The project will deliver flood protection from the River Rother, vital to securing the future of the site for angling, wildlife and public access to nature. The proposed works would also improve public access around the pond through the provision of surfaced paths, culverts and disabled angling pegs. The design of path culverts and flood defences will assist in retaining the fish stock present within the pond.



11.5 Armed Forces Community Covenant

We work with all Derbyshire Districts and Derbyshire County Council to promote the Derbyshire Armed Forces Community Covenant and serve on the partnership panel.

The partnership assesses applications for endorsement to the Ministry of Defence for funding through the Community Covenant Grant Scheme. £30 million has been made available from 2011 – 2015 to help communities undertake projects that promote greater understanding between the military and civilian populations.

Chesterfield has been successful with two applications during 2013/14 – Chesterfield Volunteer Centre received £10,000 for an oral history project called “Through Their Eyes”, and Staveley Armed Forces and Veterans Association received £2,500 for the two day armed forces awareness event in July. We hope there will be many more successful applications in the Borough during 2014/15.

Armed Forces Community Covenant – Case Study

The “Through Their Eyes” project presents a written and oral history of people who have been involved in conflict either directly as a service personnel or indirectly as someone who was affected by the actions of conflict.

The project will culminate in a published book and a website with film and audio clips on to make them more accessible to the people of Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire. It is hoped the website can be used as a learning tool for local schools and they intend to promote it widely upon completion.

So far they have interviewed 8 people and given talks to around 90 people about the project. They are also involved in the monthly ex-services hub which meet at the Proact Stadium every month where they have given information to approximately 120 people over the past 4 months.

They are meeting quite a few challenges whilst working on this project, namely some ex-service personnel, particularly those who have seen active service recently are somewhat reluctant to talk, also for some service personnel who are currently still in service there is an issue around data protection which means they cannot film them. They are looking at ways of telling these peoples stories via a pseudonym - and they are currently working with a local regiment on this. Also many WWII veterans seem quite coy about revealing all and many do not want to be filmed.

So although a little behind schedule at the moment they still feel this project is working towards a launch date for early 2015 for both website and book.

11.6 Whitecotes Healthy Eating Project

Working with Councillor Keith Miles, Derbyshire County Council and Chesterfield Borough Council’s Environmental Services we ran a successful “Can You Taste It Session” with young people who attend the Whitecotes youth sessions at Whitecotes School.

Using activote, our electronic voting system, we compiled a tasting quiz for the young people to try different foods and to try to guess the ingredients. Most of the attendees tried foods they had never had before and all of them seemed to really enjoy the event. We also had a prize draw and gave the winners family swim vouchers for our local sports centres. The young people were also invited to the Town Hall for tea and to meet with the Mayor and Mayoress for a tour around both Parlours and the Council Chamber.



12.0 LOOKING FORWARD TO 2014/15

12.1 We have lots of plans for 2014/15 to further develop the Community Assemblies and associated Community Development programme including:

- Working with our new Community Chairs and Vice Chairs to improve the Assembly meetings and get active in the community.
- Building on the Assembly partnership agenda.
- Advising and promoting Community and Voluntary sector groups and activities.
- Assisting groups with funding applications and how to create sustainable services and projects.
- Working with the community and partner agencies on Community Litter Picking Schemes.
- Building case studies of successful community activity to inspire others.
- Work with the community and Chesterfield College on Litter Picks for the four assembly areas.
- Asset mapping exercises with the assemblies on “what is in my area”.
- Rolling out the Financial Inclusion projects to other areas of the Borough.
- Completing two rounds of Community Chest funding with participatory budgeting.

13.0 FURTHER INFORMATION

If you have any comments on our Community Assemblies Annual Report or would like to request further information please contact:

Wendy Blunt

Community Development Worker

Tel: 01246 345344

E-mail: wendy.blunt@chesterfield.gov.uk

You may wish to follow Community Assemblies on Facebook or on Twitter so you can find out more about the assemblies activities and events, you could take part in online discussions, surveys etc. or have e-mail updates.



@CBCAssemblies



ChesterfieldCommunityAssemblies

Community Assembly (South)

Chair



Barbara Arrandale

Barbara Arrandale (63), retired teacher:

On retirement, in 2003, we moved to Chesterfield, a town we have come to love living in. Retirement has given me the opportunity to become engaged in local community matters. I am passionate about community involvement and very keen to encourage participation of all so that community decisions are made, or at the very least influenced, by residents.

The demise of the Community Forums was a cause for concern but the newly created Community Assemblies will, hopefully, help to re-establish the role of the community in community matters. A key factor to the success of community involvement is communication. Residents need to know what is going on and what their input can be in influencing decisions. To achieve this, much effort must be made to publicise meetings and events so that the widest possible audience is included. There is a responsibility on the individual to engage in the process but the importance of timely, well placed posters; notices etc. to publicise meetings etc. lies with administrators.

I am delighted that we now have a dedicated Community Development Worker. This position is vital to the well-being of the Community Assembly model and, I am sure, will help lead to the success of Community Assemblies which must be for the benefit of us all.

Community Assembly (South)

Vice-Chair



Ian Edmundson

I have lived in the Birdholme area of Chesterfield for nine years and love it here.

I retired seven years ago from my job as a technical sales engineer for a European semiconductor component manufacturer, having originally trained as an electronics engineer. I am divorced with three adult children and two grandchildren.

I am a member of the Surgery@Wheatbridge Patient Participation Group and maintain their web site. In addition to the Community Assembly (and previous Community Forum) I attend the South Area Health and Wellbeing Group, the Holmebrook and Rother Safer Neighbourhood Forum, the Equality and Diversity Forum and have trained as a Walking for Health walk leader. I am a member of Senior Spireites Walking Football Club, ExSpirees over 60's Football Club and Chesterfield Chess Club.

I believe it is important for the chair to ensure that all attendees have a fair chance to be heard and to control the meeting so it runs to time. They must also ensure that feedback from the assembly meeting is fed back to the council.

Community Assembly (North)

Chair



Kate Caulfield

I would welcome the opportunity to serve in the role of Community Assembly (North) Chair.

Throughout my career and the voluntary organisations I have worked with I have led meetings of varied nature from community stakeholder meetings on a major service restructure to deciding which songs would form my choir's programme. By ensuring that everyone is aware of all relevant information and remain focused on the required decision, I have ensured that all participants are able to voice their opinions while ensuring fair and productive discussions and agreed actions.

I have lived in and around Chesterfield all my life and have a keen awareness of the issues which affect our Town and it's communities. I have always been involved in voluntary work and supported community initiatives. I believe I could add value to the work of the Community Assemblies and I know that in addition to my experience I will bring enthusiasm and dedication.

Community Assembly (North)

Joint Vice-Chair



Gordon McLaren

I was born in Chesterfield and brought up on Pevensey Estate, living there until I left school to join the army.

Returning to Chesterfield after nine years as a cartographic draughtsman with the Royal Engineers, I have worked in the NHS and for the Royal Mail.

Following a year as a full-time carer for my father, who eventually succumbed to Alzheimer's disease, I found employment as a security guard; a job which I continue to work part-time.

In recent years I have been involved as an active tenant representative working with the Housing Service, looking at ways of improving housing services the Council provides for me and my fellow tenants. This involvement has raised my awareness of the importance of local people participating in shaping the future for Chesterfield, its neighbourhoods and citizens.

The roles of Community Chair and Vice-Chair, undertaken by residents, will represent a clear demonstration of commitment to the principle of genuine partnership working involving local people.

I believe the knowledge, skills and confidence I have gained through "getting involved" would assist me as Chair (if selected) in making a positive contribution to the success of the Assembly.

Community Assembly (North)

Joint Vice-Chair



Michael Crossley

I have lived in Chesterfield since being born at Inkersall. I have lived in Dunston for the last 8 years and I enjoy the wildlife I can see beyond my back garden to the garden centre.

I hold the position of chairperson of Dora (dedicated organisation raising awareness (mental health)). I am passionate about campaigning for people who have physical and mental health conditions.

I have served on the committee of Chesterfield Timebank since 2009 and enjoy meeting members who exchange their skills and time.

I am a qualified football referee and I feel the transferable skills of good time management, impartiality, fairness, decision making, respect and clear thinking are important in the role of chair/vice chair.

I would like to be considered for this role, I like meeting new people, having good working relationships, building community spirit and making positive change in my local area.

Community Assembly (East)

Chair



Jack Carrington

I am asking the meeting to support my nomination as Chairperson for the next year. I have spent 50 years serving on various committees and held numerous positions.

Up to my retirement I had worked 34 years in the Coal Industry being employed at Markham No 4 and No 2, Glapwell Drift and Ireland Collieries.

Whilst working at Ireland Colliery I served as the NUM delegate for 9 years. During this time I formed the Ireland Colliery Sports and Social Club and from its inception I served 22 years as secretary until it closed. Upon joining the staff at Ireland Colliery I served as Chairperson to the NACODS Union and as a Committee Member.

I have been associated with Inkersall Scout Group for the past 34 years and have held positions as Group Scout Leader, Scout Leader and Treasurer and I am still actively involved as Trustee and helper.

In 1987 I joined the Chesterfield Canal Trust Committee and served as Treasurer for 11 years and I am now an Honorary Life member.

In 2007 I received the Staveley Town Council Good Citizens Award and in 2011 was awarded Peak FM Lifetime Achievement Award.

My hobbies are fishing, playing card games in local whist and solo groups and allotment gardening. I have been Treasurer and fundraiser for Inkersall Allotments for the past 6 years.

If I am elected I promise to serve you with impartiality and be fair to all.

Community Assembly (West)

Chair



Shirley Niblock

I have lived on Ashgate Road for 32 years so I am very familiar with the majority of the area covered. I am secretary to Friends of the Inkerman and am the Community Co-coordinator for the Chatsworth Road Festival. Both these organisations are helping to improve the facilities either within the park or with shopping, eating, drinking and entertainment within the Assembly boundaries. I have also been a West Ward Councillor for the last three years.

I have had experience of Chairing several organisations including Chesterfield Dance Teams, the Tsumeb Association and the Twinning Forum. I was the last Chair of Walton and West Community Forum – so I have knowledge of the roles and responsibilities that come with this appointment.

I am used to working with different organisations such as Social Services, Child Protection and the Police and I have also worked with many departments in the Town Hall and Derbyshire County Council during my 34 years of teaching experience. My last post was as Deputy Head of Hady Primary School.

I bring to the role commitment and enthusiasm and a strong desire to help our Community by helping and meeting all the different groups that work within it, for our health, well being and enjoyment. Not forgetting fun and humour too.

I have attended the Briefing and Training on being a Community Chair.

Community Assembly (West)

Vice-Chair



Joye Dobbs

First let me introduce myself. I have lived in Chesterfield for 13 and a half years, all of these in Holmehall, and during the past six years have been involved with tenant participation, representing Holmehall, Loundsley Green and Green Farm. At some of these meetings I have taken on the position of Chair. During these years, I was for some time, secretary of The East Midlands Tenant Participation Forum, which encompasses councils and housing associations from the entire East Midlands.

I am passionate about residents, whether they are home owners or tenants having their say in their environment, and if elected as your Chair/Vice-chair (I am intending to stand for both positions), I will do all in my power to ensure that your voices are heard, helping to set agendas that are aimed at and mirror your concerns.

I promise to be approachable, and not just a figurehead sitting at the top table during meetings. Residents will be my top priority, which will be shown by 100% attendance at all meetings relating to our West Community.

Community Chest Recipients – First Tranche

Group	Amount of Funding Awarded	Funding Will Be Used for ...
Chesterfield Pubwatch – Pubwatch Expansion	£500	<p>The Pubwatch project has a proven track record in reducing the affects of anti-social behaviour related to the night-time economy. Pubwatch are requesting funding to enable them to expand the current project into the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hasland (South Assembly) • Brimington (East Assembly) • Whittington Moor (North Assembly) • Chatsworth Road (South and West Assembly)
Church on the Bus	£500	<p>This project started about 10 years ago to help homeless and vulnerable adults within the Borough. Due to the current welfare changes there has been an increase in services. The money has been requested to help fund Art Therapy materials – this gets clients talking about their problems, engages with them, gets to know their qualities, builds confidence and trust.</p>
Sight Support Derbyshire – Chesterfield Youth Group	£570	<p>This Chesterfield youth group meetings twice a month where young people with a visual impairment aged 8 – 19 can meet together. There are currently 8 young people being supported by the group but Sight Support Derbyshire want to reach out to more young people and increase the numbers to 10 – 15 within the next year.</p> <p>Sessions are varied and include sporting and dance taster sessions, computer games, film nights (with audio transcription).</p>
Chesterfield Canal Trust – Volunteering Project	£1,200	<p>Chesterfield Canal Trust has over 1500 members – last year they contributed over 20,000 hours of volunteer time to the restoration and promotion of the canal. A number of knowledge and skills gaps for the volunteers which need to be addressed to restore and enhance the canal. The gaps are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental awareness for volunteers engaged in land based activities including scrub bashing, plantation thinning etc. • Health and Safety awareness for restoration volunteers.

Group	Amount of Funding Awarded	Funding Will Be Used for ...
Derbyshire Police – Gamezone	£1,000	To provide Gamezone sessions and discos during peak periods of anti-social behaviour during the summer. This will be four, two hour sessions including a variety of gaming opportunities, a disco and refreshments. These sessions in the past have attracted over 40 young people per night.
Sporting Futures – Diversionary Activities in Staveley	£2,500	This project will provide a range of diversionary activities for young people in the Staveley and Brimington area on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday evenings. The sessions will include one multi-sport, one football and one dance session per week from June 2014 to May 2015.
Barrow Hill Community Group – Tea Room	£1,000	To develop a tea room facility for the Barrow Hill community. This will be based at the Methodist Church.
Brimington Village Circle	£750	Plants and compost for summer bedding in the planters on the village green and village centres. Also initial outlay for summer market 2014 e.g. brass band, church hall booking and stalls.
Staveley Seniors	£1,000	This is an extension for an existing project. The project provides a series of activities aimed at 55+ including swimming, chair based exercise, indoor bowls, tai chi, line dancing and yoga based at the Healthy Living Centre in Staveley. The funding will allow extension from one hour to two hours per week.
Staveley King George V Bowling Club	£550	This request forms part of a long running development project. King George V bowling club have in recent years via substantial external funding, erected a security fence, developed a new pavilion and shelters and developed junior bowls. The bid to the Community Chest is for equipment for the new pavilion and some equipment to assist bowlers e.g. bowls equipment for disabled and bowls for fun and games.
Hunloke Community Garden	£1,900	The request is for a patio area to adjoin the meeting room/kitchen area to enable groups a space to enjoy the garden and have refreshments.

Group	Amount of Funding Awarded	Funding Will Be Used for ...
Rother Community Sports Action Group	£1,000	<p>The project provides a range of sporting activities for children and young people aged between 6 and 18 during the summer holidays. By working in partnership with Sporting Futures it also enables young people to develop volunteering and leadership skills.</p> <p>Approximately 50 young people will take part in the activities.</p>
Chatsworth Road Festival	£1,650	<p>This has been an annual festival since 2011. The festival helps to support Chatsworth Road as a destination for independent, specialist shopping. The Community Chest will fund designing and printing the green spaces and industrial heritage walk leaflets and a community archaeology project.</p>
Loundsley Green Community Trust	£1,000	<p>Part of a larger project to improve facilities at the Loundsley Green Community Centre. This particular aspect of the project which the Community Chest was asked to fund is replacement of internal doors between the main hall and entrance hall to improve disability and buggy access.</p>
Chesterfield Barbarians	£1,000	<p>The club based at Walton Dam in the West Assembly area has around 180 members mainly from Walton, Somersall, Ashgate, Brampton and Newbold.</p> <p>At the moment the club have a portakabin building for training and refreshment needs but no shower facilities which area a requirement of the Derbyshire Premier and County Cricket league.</p> <p>The club have an opportunity to acquire a “modular building” from Midland Canoe Club, this will provide a significant improvement to welfare facilities including the required showers.</p>

Schools Workshop

North

Highfield Hall Primary School

New Whittington Primary School

What Do you Like About Where You Live?

- Beautiful scenery
- Canal
- Chesterfield Football Club
- Crooked Spire
- Friendly neighbourhood
- Fun activities
- Good town
- Good views
- Healthy environment
- It's quiet and peaceful

- Lots of friends
- Lots of nature/parks
- Market Hall
- Museum
- Nice small area
- Pavements well looked after
- Play outside (feel safe)
- Schools
- Well looked after

What Do you Think Needs Improving?

- 20 mph speed limit sign near school
- Dog Poo on South Street
- Dumped rubbish out of car windows
- Graffiti at Stand Road Park and other parks
- Hatched lines near to school to stop people from parking
- More traffic lights near to Wheatsheaf Pub

- Nettles on the pavement near school
- People are writing on the walls
- People not cleaning up after their dogs
- Refuse lorries leaving litter and not pulling in to let you pass
- Rubbish at the side of the road
- Rubbish on Brearley Park
- Lots of people smoking

Could YOU do anything to make the area a better place to live?

- Pick up litter

- Pick up dog poo

- Recycle

- Use bins provided

South

Hasland Junior School

William Rhodes Primary School

Whitecotes Junior School

Parkside Community School

What Do you Like About Where You Live?

- Activities – hobbies
- Being close to friends
- Being near the park
- Churches
- Cinema
- Clean area
- Community
- Crooked Spire
- Debenhams
- Dog trails
- Entertainment – Queen’s Park
- Feeling safe
- Flowers in Eastwood Park
- Football stadium
- Friendly
- Good education
- Good jobs
- Good wildlife
- Green Places
- Town is near
- Trees/flowers
- Woods
- Youth Clubs
- Hospital

- I can see the annexe from where I live
- It’s close to school
- Local gathering points
- Local transport
- Lots of places to go
- Love the environment
- Neighbours
- Nice scenery
- Not much litter
- Park
- Peaceful
- Places are looked after
- Places in walking distance
- Places to eat
- Places to hang around with friends
- Police station nearby
- Poundshop and Poundstretcher
- Queens’ Park
- Restaurants/fast food (McDonalds, KFC etc)
- Ripper Hipper
- Shops
- Spire Estate
- Sports Centre

What Do you Think Needs Improving?

- Anti-social behaviour
- Cleaner toilets at QP
- Dog poo on the streets
- Dogs need to be on their leads
- Games in the park need to be safe
- Graffiti on park
- Homeless shelters
- Langer Lane
- Less vandalism
- Litter
- More boats on QP lake
- More bus stops
- More cafes
- More local shops
- More public areas
- More public bins
- More sporting facilities
- Need more facilities for teens
- Need more LED street lights
- Need to respect neighbours
- New improved parks
- New parks on new housing estates
- Parking spaces for schools
- Path from Hobby Craft to The Range
- People swearing near kids
- Places for teens to meet
- Public toilets
- Queen's Park astro to be cheap and affordable
- Rubbish in the park
- Teenagers on street corners
- Teenagers snapping the new trees
- The football barrier (Eastwood Park)
- The tennis court net in Eastwood Park
- The traffic lights (don't like them)
- Too many ASBOs
- Too many busy roads
- Would like a spray paint area

Could YOU do anything to make the area a better place to live?

- Bigger parking signs, stop signs, traffic lights
- Certain areas to have posters saying NO SMOKING
- Clean up your own litter
- Do something with the land near B&Q
- Dogs on leads signs
- Don't litter
- Don't throw cigarettes on floor
- Grow your own fruit and vegetables
- Litter picking
- Make your own compost
- More CCTV cameras
- More recycling bins
- More speed cameras
- No vandalism
- Pick up dog poo
- Pick up glass
- Pick up litter
- Place more bins around the parks and streets
- Plant trees
- Protest for youth clubs
- Respect public parks
- Send letters to Council about a skatepark
- Set a better example
- Show kids how to be safe on the roads
- Show little kids how to act
- Work with community to make Chesterfield a better place

East

Inkersall Primary School

Netherthorpe School

What Do you Like About Where You Live?

- BMX track – Ringwood
- Canal
- Family
- Football pitches
- Friends to play with
- Good facilities
- Good school
- Healthy Living Centre
- Library
- Lots of woods to walk in
- Not too much pollution
- Open spaces

- Organisations – Cadets
- Park near to the school
- Places to play football
- Public buses
- Public footpaths
- Quiet
- Restaurants
- Scenery
- Springwell Club
- Swimming
- The woods – Inkersall
- Walking distance to shops

What Do you Think Needs Improving?

- BMX track in Brimington
- Cars ruining grass
- Dog waste
- Drugs
- Gangs
- Less graffiti on railway
- Less people smoking
- Less vandalism – bus stop glass, bins
- Litter and leaves

- More bins
- More control of younger people
- Need more car parks
- Park near Fan Road
- Parking – come out of school
- Polluted Doe Lea
- Pot holes
- Shops closing down
- Stop young smokers
- Vandalism on parks

Could YOU do anything to make the area a better place to live?

- Be involved in more projects
- Care for pets
- Cigarettes in bins
- Dogs controlled
- Don't drop litter

- Repair pot holes properly
- Respect people
- Teach road safety
- Try to tidy up my street

West

Holme Hall Junior School

Ashgate Croft School

Brookfield Community School

St. Mary's RC Primary School

What Do you Like About Where You Live?

- Bowling
- Chesterfield FC
- Christmas Lights Switch on
- Close to family & friends
- Close to shops
- Countryside
- Crooked Spire
- Feel safe
- Fields, paths, parks
- Food and drink
- Funfair at Queen's Park
- Garden
- Good neighbours
- Green spaces
- Happy atmosphere
- I like going to the park and playing out with my friends
- I like my garden and going to the park
- I like the co-op and the shops
- Inkerman Park
- Likes taking my dog a walk in the countryside
- Live near school
- Local shops
- Lots of places to go
- Market
- Neighbours
- Not much traffic
- Outside school activities
- Park at Chester Street
- Parks
- Places for people to play
- Quiet
- Rivers
- School field
- Schools
- Shops
- Tesco

What Do you Think Needs Improving?

- Broken bits on the park at Loundsley Green
- Broken glass on the park (Brushfield)
- Damage to cars
- Dog poo (Holmebrook Valley Park)
- Dogs in parks
- Football nets at Somersall Park and Inkerman
- Graffiti
- Grass needs cutting on the park (Brushfield)

- Less litter
- Litter in hedges
- Lots of traffic
- Make drivers slow down
- More public toilets (Somersall Park)
- Noisy neighbours
- People need to be more helpful
- Smaller Tescos
- Too much digging the roads up
- Youth Clubs

Could YOU do anything to make the area a better place to live?

- Clean the football nets
- Clear up broken glass
- Don't drop litter
- Don't hurt each other
- Lead by example

- Litter pick
- More trees
- Pick up dog mess
- Volunteering