



West Cheltenham Partnership

Annual Report 2021-22

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Again it's been a difficult year for us in Hesters Way but we have fared better than some. The most significant and fundamental change has been taking control of the Community Resource Centres. The courts verified the final agreement and from March 8th 2022 despite our efforts to ensure a smooth and amicable hand over. The newly renamed West Cheltenham Partnership now has a facilities management role..

Since March we have invested lots of time and money in improving the facilities which continue to offer community, medical and nursery services to West Cheltenham. We have been able to continue our sports and arts projects for young people and to add solar panels to the Hesters Way Centre and LED lighting to both premises. The Community Pantry has now been open for over a year and is providing an invaluable service to individuals families in greatest need.

We are pleased to announce once new directors to the fold. Janice Hamilton is vicar of West Cheltenham and has already shown her community credentials by getting stuck in to a host of grassroots community activities.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Pantry Project
- Solar Panels and LED installation providing CRCs with green energy
- Hesters Way Neighbourhood Development Plan
- Summer Sports Coaching Project
- NHS Wellbeing Project
- Tree planting in Fiddlers Green

The new name West Cheltenham Partnership reflects our desire to support and influence the exciting Golden Valley project. With a collaborative approach we can ensure local residents benefit from good jobs and new homes whilst also addressing the perils of climate change.

COMMUNITY PANTRY

The West Cheltenham Community Pantry opened in November 2021 thanks to grants from The Barnwood Trust, National Benevolent Charity, Severn Trent and CBC. Invaluable help was also received from Cheltenham Community Food Network and The Trussell Trust, Family Space and CCP



The pantry is a membership scheme supporting individuals and families in the local community who are struggling to pay for their weekly shop. It offers donated and in-date waste food to members who will pay a weekly fee of £3.50 and be able to shop for approximately £15 worth of non-perishable and fresh food plus household items. Members will also benefit from additional services including benefits guidance, debt advice and mental health support all invaluable in this cost of living crisis



Heartfelt thanks to pantry manager, Ami Walker and volunteers Noel and Jake for all their hard work and dedication.

TREE PLANTING PROJECT



HWP teamed up with CPRE Gloucestershire, Cotswolds and Vale Ash Dieback Forum and Cheltenham Borough Council to plant 250 trees in Fiddlers Green Park to replace ash trees lost or likely to be lost to ash dieback. Funding for this project was from the CPRE, public donations to the Ash Fund, and the Cotswolds Conservation Board.

SOLAR PANEL PROJECT

The Hesters Way Partnership has invested in a new solar energy project on the roof of the Community Resource Centre and new LED lighting for both Community Centres with the support of a Target 2030 grant from Severn Wye Energy Agency (SWEA). The project will generate electricity for the community centre and income for the Partnership through sales to the grid.

The system will help HWP secure our energy, future-proof electricity costs and reduce the carbon footprint.

The systems will supply green energy for tenants at the centres and the income will support local community projects.



WELLBEING PROJECT

We have supported the West Cheltenham Health Equalities group which brings together people from the community and representatives from different organisations to improve the health and wellbeing of residents in the area. Immediate successes of the focus on local need has been the return of nursing services to Springbank.

GREEN FLAG AWARD

Ongoing partnership work with CBC in Springfield Park has been rewarded by the achievement of a 11th Green Flag award. We installed new benches in the park and a new park sign at Hesters Park is due to be



CHILDREN and YOUNG PEOPLE

The Children and Young Peoples group is now meeting in person and remains a popular place to raise awareness of issues that affect our young people. Lots of discussion has taken place about the GCC holiday activity funds and many groups have provided invaluable activities for local youngsters. We have again provided sports activities in the parks during the holidays in Partnership with The Bridge Football Academy



DREAMSCHEME

Dreamscheme is back up and running with the regular team of Jacquie and Rachel bolstered by new addition Kelly. The project continues to engage with young people in years 5 and 6 at Hesters Way Primary School. This invaluable project provides pastoral care, emotional and social support for participants, building their self confidence and guiding good behaviour.



MULTI USE GAMES AREA (MUGA)

The MUGA coaching activities went ahead during the summer and autumn with The Bridge Football Academy supplying coaches for the daily afternoon sessions. Over 50 children participated during the summer and a further 20+ in the October sessions.



FINANCE

Financial security will as always depend on the level of occupancy and the financial acuity of facilities management.

Project support was gained for Easter sports projects, fit out and core costs for the pantry tree, the solar panel and LED lighting projects, tree planting, and parks projects.



COMMUNICATION

We have completed 46 issues of Viewpoint magazine highlighting the work of partners and promoting positive views of West Cheltenham.

viewpoint

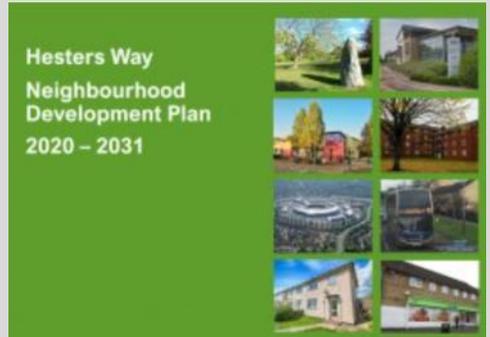


This combined with the Partnership's website: www.hwpartnership.org.uk our twitter account @hwpartnership and facebook pages ensures local people, organisations and agencies are informed of local developments, meetings and issues of local interest. Feel free to sign up!

We have also developed a new website for the community pantry westcheltenhampantry.org and updated the West Cheltenham Directory hwpartnership.org.uk/directory

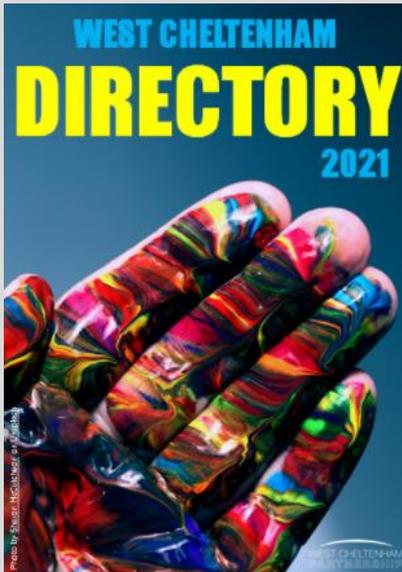
FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

Great interest will be paid to the Golden Valley development to the west of the area. Planning applications and associated consultation are expected soon. The Neighbourhood Forum will promote the best outcomes for local residents in respect of affordable housing, transport access, employment opportunities, carbon reduction and climate change mitigation. See hesterswayforum.co.uk for developments



The establishment of the pantry as a core offer for the local community and the development of associated partnerships will feature highly in 2023. Further funding streams are necessary to secure the pantry's future and help establish the Warm Rooms Project

We plan to restart community activities and engagement by employing a community development worker whose role will be to generate stronger networks and greater community use of the premises. The activities previously curtailed due to covid-19 restrictions including the Easter Eggstravaganza event in St Marks and seasonal activities and Springbank will be restarted



The community centres will remain a key focus as the critical core of our work. We will develop further new activities to support local people most in need working in partnership with key providers to enhance local services.

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Street art Mural—Summer 2022—Mr Samo



LOTTERY FUNDED



Bromford.



BARNWOOD TRUST