

West Cheltenham Partnership

Annual Report 2022-23



WEST CHELTENHAM
PARTNERSHIP

Dreamscheme fruit picking — Summer 2023 — Jacquie Boyer

West Cheltenham Partnership 2022-23

This year has seen a consolidation of the Community Resource Centres' facilities which were in need of significant investment, putting right a variety of issues and discovering a multitude of new ones. Key improvements include replacement of boilers at Springbank and an LED lighting installation at both premises. We've fixed electricals, drains, toilets and cleared the guttering. We've negotiated improved contracts for gas and electricity made savings in waste collection, drainage and plumbing maintenance, We have supplied discounted electricity from our new solar panels and provided free the energy generated from the original solar panels installed in 2010.

Our longstanding projects have continued to flourish with Dreamscheme and West Cheltenham Community Pantry providing excellent outcomes. The Hesters Way Forum has developed fruitful relations with the Golden Valley developers Henry Boot Development and raised funds for Fiddlers Green Park improvements and for Springbank Creative Space

HIGHLIGHTS

- Pantry Project
- Youth Work Project
- Hesters Way Forum
- Summer Sports Coaching Project
- Creative Springbank
- Play Area in Fiddlers Green



West Cheltenham
COMMUNITY PANTRY

We are pleased to welcome two new directors joining the fold; Simon Richardson who has worked for IT Schools Africa and brings a wealth of experience to the board and Michael Sheppee who continues our strong relationship with All Saints Academy. Sadly we report losing two long standing directors Dermott McNiffe and Charlie Jackson both of whom provided invaluable wisdom and insight. We wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

COMMUNITY PANTRY

The West Cheltenham Community Pantry open since November 2021 has continued to grow, offering not only discounted food but also social support to members on the scheme

The pantry is a membership scheme that has now supported over 300 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 £4.00 and be able to shop for approximately £20 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 for all their hard work and dedication to pantry manager, Ami Walker and volunteers Jake, Ana and particularly Noel who's now moved on to full time employment with the NHS. We wish him well !

FIDDLERS GREEN PLAY AREA PROJECT



Hesters Way Forum with facilitation from WCP have developed a masterplan for the Fiddlers Green Park. The adjacent plan shows potential features requested by local residents after a consultation exercise in 2022.

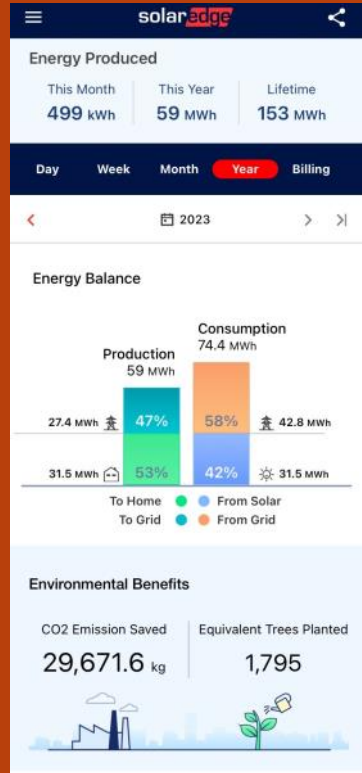
Since then applications have been made to upgrade the childrens play area. Successful bids have been made to the CBC Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) fund and Enovert. CBC and WCP have offered funding support and total of £30k has been raised, The project will commence in the new year.

GREEN PROJECTS

The Hesters Way Partnership has completed LED lighting for both Community Centres with the support of a Target 2030 grant from Severn Wye Energy Agency (SWEA). The project will help to reduce electricity usage at the community centres.

The solar PV system continues to help HWP secure our energy, future-proof electricity costs and reduce the carbon footprint.

The original solar PV system will supply green energy for tenants at the centres at no cost with grid supplied energy providing an income to support local community projects.



YOUTH WORK PROJECT

We have supported the Springbank Community Group with funds to employ two youth workers in West Cheltenham. The results of outreach surveys confirm the need to work more closely with young people and giving credence to our plans to provide a creative space at the Springbank Centre for activities and youth engagement. Funding for further youth work is being sought to continue with provision into 2024

GREEN FLAG AWARD

Ongoing partnership work with CBC in Springfield Park has been rewarded by the achievement of a 11th Green Flag award. New benches were installed in the park last year and a new park sign at Hesters (Fishy) Park is now in place.



CHILDREN and YOUNG PEOPLE

The Children and Young Peoples group remains a popular place to raise awareness of issues that affect our young people. Many groups have provided invaluable activities for local youngsters. We have again provided activities in the parks during the holidays in Partnership GCC HAF programme, The new Youth Creative Space proposed for Springbank has already received funding support form CIL and Enovert, and should be ready in 2024.



DREAMSCHEME

Dreamscheme is running from the Hesters Way Primary School with 12 pupils from years 5 and 6 on the roll. The regular team of Jacquie, Rachel and Kelly continue to provide pastoral care, emotional and social support for participants, building their self confidence and guiding good behaviour. The activities have included workshops from the Everyman Theatre plus a trip to the pantomime, circus skills from Thomas Trilby, and a variety of crafts activities, fruit picking and cake making!!



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 the LED lighting project, pantry food supplies and staff wages, plus the Springbank Creative Space. We also helped the Hesters Way Forum with funding for the improved Fiddlers Green Play area through bids to CIL and Enovert.

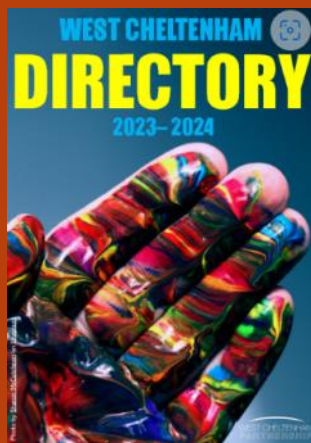
COMMUNICATION



We have completed the 49th issue of Viewpoint magazine highlighting the work of partners and promoting positive views of West Cheltenham.

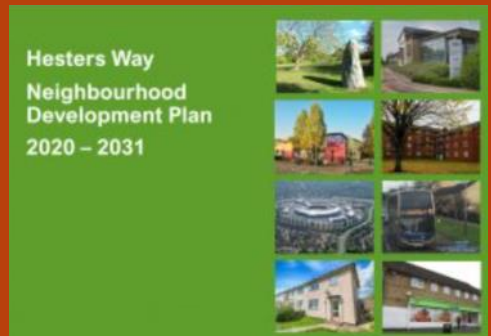
This combined with the Partnership's website: www.westcheltenham.org our X (twitter) account @hwpartnership and Facebook pages ensures local people, organisations and agencies are informed of meetings and issues of local interest.

We also keep clients informed via the community pantry web site westcheltenhampantry.org and updated the West Cheltenham Directory www.westcheltenham.org/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 just in! 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 2024. Further funding streams are necessary to secure the pantry's future as the demand is still very high.

We plan to kickstart community activities, training and engagement by employing a community development worker whose role will be to generate stronger networks and greater community use of the premises. The new Creative Space at Springbank will offer a great facility for young and old alike and proposals to develop a strong community hub and café at Hesters Way will feature highly in the new year.

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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Golden Valley Development Planning Application October 2023—GRIMSHAW

