

Holmewood and Heath Healthy futures Group Chair's Report 2017

I would like to start by thanking everyone for such a wonderful and productive year.

Since becoming Chair, I have been immensely proud by everything we have achieved together and humbled by all members of the group that have given me so much support.

So much has happened since April 2016 I hardly know where to start...

Since the recruitment of Lynn our wonderful community development worker in May, I am pleased to say that our local health champions have now increased significantly in number from 12 to an astounding 27 registered members, 19 of these valuable volunteers are regularly active in this community on a weekly basis, undertaking an array of tasks such as work in the Living hope food bank to other tasks such as boosting the groups profile on social media. All deserve the praise and recognition for the incredible selfless work they do, thank you.

In July we attempted the first ever fun day on Heath estate, sadly as you all know, the weather let us down and the event was called off in the final minutes of set up. Since that day, I have received repeated requests for another, from all walks of the community, this is immensely reassuring and this Saturday we will try again.

In August we were privileged as a group to receive our first cheque from Derbyshire constabulary for £150, this money was to provide 4 weeks of holiday club activities for the local children. As Chair I took lead on this and was bowled over by the community support received in terms of meals and activities. J29 truck stop, generously donated meals for the whole four weeks and entertainment for the children was provided by Rykneld homes, Pets at home and Heath and Holmewood PC, paid for a fabulous local entertainer. As a result of these wonderful offerings, we concluded the 4 weeks project with the £150 still in the group's name. Fantastic!

In September sporting futures opened a girls hub from the McIntyre centre, sadly this was not attended as well as we all thought it would be, as a result the hub now runs from Sharley leisure centre and I am told has been doing immensely well. Well done to sporting futures for making a success out of a difficult start, it is inspiring when small setbacks do not cause a project to end.

October was incredibly busy, Lynn Luditt launched the Swaps programme in Heath Primary delivering a fantastic interactive performance by Kudos Creates. The performance was well received and delivered workshops afterwards, encouraging the children to think about physical activity and healthy eating. Fantastic feedback was received and many of our partners attended school for chats with parents about activities in the locality.

Also in October after the success of the Summer children's club, I was very excited to offer a further 2 weeks half term holiday club for the children, again due to the amazing people in the locality, no cost was involved, St albans provided the room at no charge, J29 provided meals, and Rykneld came in to deliver fun activities. Thank you again to these wonderful organisations.

In October / early November, the group launched our social media campaign on Facebook, to date we have 82 followers and some of our posts have been engaged with 2000 times. Thank you to Summer, who launched this and continues to keep it updated weekly, also thank you to Kelly for sourcing prizes from Sharley leisure centre, helping to boost social engagement.

In December The McIntyre opened its doors for an amazing free week of activities, these activities on offer included Boccia, Kurling, yoga and Chair based exercise. Delivered by Village games, these sessions went really well and were well received. Thank you to village games.

In January, Funding for some fabulous projects was made available through CRT and is currently being managed by Positive for young people. These projects; a youth club, which runs now weekly, A fruit and veg CO-OP and a family half term Activity project are all well received and running successfully. A huge thank you to Jess, Kelly, Summer and Jess N, for all their hard work. Fantastic effort!!

Finally after much stress, at the end Of February the group acquired a bank account Yay! We are now officially in the position to obtain funding, many thanks to Lynn and Dawn, I know this issue created huge headaches on the way.

In early March, I invited Brian Simpson from Gleeson homes to attend our meeting, Gleeson homes had been in touch with the group in regards to allotment land they had available from their housing development project in Holmewood. Sadly as a group we were not in a position to utilize this land, luckily Brian still wanted to meet us all and learn of what we do and have achieved in the area. Amazingly just a few days later Brian emailed me to say, he was that impressed with what our group was doing, he had secured us funding of £12,000 (£4,000 pa for 3 years). This is incredible, and a huge testament to the work we have all been doing. A huge thank you to Gleeson Homes and huge thank you to all our members, well done!

At the end of March we launched the Youth club and Fruit and veg co-op from the Cricket Pavilion. These have been well attended and utilized. The youth Club runs every Tuesday after school and has been funded up until Dec 19th of this year, we currently have 22 members and is staffed by 4 volunteers. The fruit and veg Co-op started fairly well, but has tailed off. I have just received banners for further promotion and Summer will be launching another round of promotion on the Facebook site to help build on numbers. A special thankyou to Jess P, Kelly, Summer, Jess N and My sister in law Tina, for the work you have done and are still doing on these projects.

In April, Jess, Jude and Jason, took the lead on our amazing family cooking sessions, again these session were brilliant and I am looking forward to the ones we have scheduled for August. Fantastic job, thank you.

To date there has been so much going on, I am certain I have probably missed loads out. So a special thank you to all those that have also been doing those things for us, it's because of us all, that this group is so wonderfully successful. Thank you.

Finally I close on some fabulous achievements:

Well done to Jess N, Jess has worked immensely hard with us as a group and this has been recognised by HIPC. Jess is now undergoing training as an assistant clerk and will qualify as a Clerk very soon. Well done Jess!!

Well done Summer, Summer again has worked incredibly hard, has now finished college and has taken her voluntary work experience into a new job with Voyage care, she is now supporting young disabled adults with their independent living needs. Well done Summer!!

And finally myself, I cannot express how grateful I am at the support showed to me from everyone, I have since been co-opted as a parish councillor and was recently nominated by Jess P for the housing Heroes awards in Manchester. I am incredibly humbled to say I was short listed as a finalist and received the 'Highly Commended award' for 'Inspirational tenant/resident of the year' absolutely incredible. Thank you to everyone for their support and encouragement.

To end, I wish to thank those that too have now gone to pastures new, Thank you to Phyllis, Nathan, Harriet and Charlotte, you have all been missed greatly, my apologies if I have missed anyone out.

Angela