

# The Greets Green Story 2000 - 2010





# MAKING GREET'S GREEN GREAT

**It's hard to know where to start when looking back over the past 10 years - so much has been achieved and so many lives have been touched by Greets Green Partnership.**

When gradual change happens, you often don't notice it. But if we think back to what the area was like 10 years ago and then take a look around us now, we can see what an impact the Partnership has had. There are safer streets, more community centres, improved schools, more opportunities for community learning, better services and facilities - the list is endless.

And that's only half the story. While the Partnership has led the way and provided the funding, it's been local people who've actually made it happen. Without residents getting involved, telling us the real needs and priorities of the community, and working with us, Greets Green Partnership could not have transformed the area.

It's true to say that whenever we've achieved anything, it's been through partnership working – whether with local residents, businesses or organisations. Sandwell Primary Care Trust, for example, has worked with us to trial new ideas in Greets Green before rolling them out across Sandwell. Neighbourhood policing proved so successful here that it's now used throughout the country.

In these pages it's impossible to tell the whole story of Greets Green Partnership. What we've tried to do is give you a flavour of the tremendous transformation Greets Green has undergone.

It's thanks to the energy and passion of residents, staff and partners, who've given their time and commitment so freely over the last 10 years, that we've truly made Greets Green great.



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Ally Allerson, Executive Director

Geoff Fisher, Independent Chair



# THE EARLY YEARS

**Higher than average unemployment, poor educational achievement, low skills levels, no recreational facilities for young people and a lack of services for older people.**

This was the picture of Greets Green in 1999. It's hard to believe it now but, to put it bluntly, a decade ago, the area was in decline. Half of all the private housing in Greets Green was deemed unfit for habitation. Joblessness was much higher in the area than in the rest of Sandwell, and those people who did find work were often stuck in low paid jobs.

Young people had very little to occupy their time or to gain their interest and enthusiasm, while older people had few activities or services to help them get out and about and meet other people. Perhaps it was hardly surprising that community participation in the life of Greets Green was said to be poor - there was very little happening for people, young or old, to get involved in.

The Greets Green New Deal for Communities initiative – Greets Green Partnership - was about to change all that.

## How did it all begin?

It would have been impossible way back in 1999, when the Greets Green Partnership Board was set up, to predict just how great the transformation would be. But even in those early weeks and months it was obvious that a new chapter for Greets Green had well and truly begun.

A total of £56 million was awarded to enable Greets Green Partnership to deliver a 10 year regeneration programme for the area under the Government's £2 billion New Deal for Communities initiative.

The ambitious national initiative was set up to provide funding for the intensive regeneration of some of the poorest neighbourhoods in the country.

Its aim was to deliver real improvements to people's lives based on five key themes: poor job prospects, high levels of crime, educational under-achievement, poor health and problems with housing and the physical environment.

New Deal for Communities was committed to encouraging partnerships that brought together local people, community and voluntary organisations, public agencies, local authorities and business. To win funding, partnerships had to be firmly rooted in the neighbourhood and the community and had to state:

- what was wrong and what needed to change
- how change would be achieved
- who would do what and who was in charge of making it happen

1999

New Deal bid put together by steering group

Oct – Consultation bus tours the area to enable as many local people as possible to have their say

Nov – Greets Green Partnership Board established

2000

May – Jan Rowley appointed Executive Director of Greets Green Partnership

July – Greets Green Neighbourhood Police Team established

Nov – Greets Green Community News launched

2001



## case study:

# Community champions

From day one, residents played a major role in the establishment and the early successes of Greets Green Partnership.

Many had become an important part of the team which put together the successful bid for £56 million Government funding. Rather than fading into the background once the initiative got underway, they continued to play an active role in the way the Partnership developed.

Very soon, they were joined by others keen to get involved. The Greets Green Community Team brought together nine Community Officers, led by Community Regeneration Manager, Palbinder Badesha. Their job was to make sure that local people were able to play a full and active role in their community.

It included Community Regeneration Officers Katherine Hewitt, Jill Manley, Marianne Monro and Surrinder Bains, and Community Outreach Workers Anam Choudhury, Avril McKoy and Helen Grogan. Of these, Katherine and Marianne stayed with the Partnership for almost the full 10 year programme.

The team also co-ordinated three funds designed to



provide community groups and events with a vital lifeline - The Project Development Fund, the Festival Fund and the Community Chest Fund.

Community Regeneration Manager Palbinder, explained: "Part of the role of this team is to work with local people so that they are in a position, after 10 years, to manage the regeneration of their area themselves.

"We need to recognise the strengths of local people and help them to develop projects which enable them to drive the regeneration of their area. Community involvement underpins our whole process and is essential to our success."



## Geoff Fisher, MBE

Independent Chair of Greets Green Partnership, Geoff Fisher, had firm roots in the local area and had always played an active role in the community. Born in Wednesbury, he had worked in Greets Green for more than 50 years. He rose up through the ranks at Robinson Brothers chemical works in Phoenix Street before becoming Managing Director.

Geoff was initially asked by Sandwell Council to get involved in the New Deal for Communities bid for investment and, when this was successful, he was invited to become Chair of the new organisation. He remained in this position for the full 10 years of the programme, creating stability from the top which impacted throughout the organisation.

Greets Green Partnership Executive Director, Ally Allerson, said: "Geoff's role as an Independent Chair was significant because it meant that he was representing everyone in Greets Green rather than any specific community. He fulfilled this role extremely well. I would like to say a big thank you to Geoff for the tremendous amount of time and effort he has put into the organisation. His work has been invaluable."

In November 2008, Geoff was rewarded for his contribution to regeneration in Sandwell with an MBE.

In return, they were promised that good ideas would be supported with significant sums of public money. As part of the New Deal for Communities initiative, 17 local authorities were invited to put in a bid for investment, including Sandwell Council, which decided to focus on the Greets Green area.

The regeneration programme was named Greets Green Partnership because initially it focused purely on the Greets Green neighbourhood. However, it was quickly realised that there were not enough households to warrant such a large scale programme and so the area was extended to cover nine local neighbourhoods:

- Carters Green
- Hamblett's North
- Hamblett's South
- Greets Green
- Lodge Road Area
- Oak House North
- Oak House South
- Swan Village
- West Bromwich Central

A huge amount of hard work, time and energy was ploughed into the bid by a wide range of individuals and organisations, including Sandwell Council, West Midlands Police, Sandwell PCT, local businesses, public agencies, voluntary organisations and many community representatives.

Residents were strongly encouraged to contribute to the bid and offer their views and comments on what was planned for the area. A special Consultation Bus toured the streets to enable as many people as possible to have their say.

Thanks to a fantastic team effort, the bid was successful, and in November 1999, the Steering Group which had been overseeing the project was replaced by the Greets Green Partnership Board. A 10 year programme for the regeneration of Greets Green was launched.

## Residents get on board

Right from the start, residents were encouraged and supported to get fully involved in Greets Green Partnership.

More than half of the Board was to be made up of residents, with strong representation from Sandwell Council and the business sector, plus Sandwell PCT, the employment service, education services and West Midlands Police.

Applications were sought from residents for the posts of Community Representatives, with plans for the introduction of a system to elect representatives at a later date.

The initial team included Graham Fellows, Peter Reeves, Gurbachan Singh Dhinsa, Sonia Lindsay, Paul Sandars, Mandy Preston, Anam Choudhury and Keith Handley.

A dozen Community Representatives who were in post by the end of 2000 were drawn from a number of different geographical areas and groups.

These included Neighbourhood Reps Graham Fellows (Hamblett's), Rofika Khatun (Lodge Road), Paul Sandars (Oak House), Jim Howley (West Bromwich Central) and Keith Handley (Great Bridge). The six Community Reps were Peter Reeves (Youth); Gurbachan Singh Dhinsa (Sikh Community); Mohanlal Patel (Indian Community); Stan Simms (African Caribbean Community); Saleh Saeed (Yemeni Community) and Sher Zaman (Pakistani Community), with applications being sought for the post of Bangladeshi Community Representative.

From the very beginning it was clear that this new initiative was not about people from outside the Greets Green area imposing changes upon it. It was about local residents, local businesses and people with an interest in the local area getting together to tackle the problems of Greets Green head on and to transform it into a lively, attractive and aspirational place to live.

## Work gets underway

Within the first year, nine new Neighbourhood Forums and the Greets Green Youth Forum were launched to enable as many local people as possible, from all age groups and all sectors of the community, to get involved.

The views of residents were also key to the development of the Urban Design Framework for Greets Green – known locally as The Master Plan.

“The launch of the new Neighbourhood Forums has been a success. Dozens of local people attended the initial meetings and it was pleasing to see the amount of support within the community for the regeneration of Greets Green.”

**Palbinder Badesha, Community Regeneration Manager**

## case study:

# Play days

One of the first major projects to be completed was the opening of a fantastic new £200,000 playground at the Marl Hole.

Both parents and children were delighted with the results of the project, which brought together Greets Green Partnership and local company, Allied Bakeries, which contributed £20,000.

The work was carried out by Sandwell Council and environmental charity, Groundwork Black Country. Kingsmill Corner was officially launched by TV celebrities Mel and Sue in the summer of 2001, although it was unveiled for the first time at a fun day staged by Hamblets Tenants' and Residents' Association.

Olivia Harvey, aged two, was among the many early fans of the playground, which was designed by pupils at Guns Village Primary School.



Her mum, Jane, said: "Olivia's childminder, Joan Tomkinson, lives opposite the play area. As the park developed, so did Joan's excitement at having such a facility for the children."

In 2009, the Kingsmill Play Area was given another overhaul thanks to funding from the Small Sites project, to make sure it still looked good when Greets Green Partnership came to an end.

New gateways were installed, the playing surface was improved, new signs were put up and the entire playground was painted. It was officially re-opened at a special event by Sandwell Mayor Councillor Bob Price, who said: "Thanks to the hard work of Greets Green Partnership and Sandwell Council, children have somewhere clean and safe to enjoy themselves for many years to come."

Pupils from Guns Village Primary School's Student Council also attended the opening and enjoyed trying out the revitalised play equipment.



**"It's great that there is now somewhere safe for the children to play."**

Jane Harvey, mum of two year old Olivia

Changes and amendments were made to The Master Plan as a major consultation with residents, business people and other interested parties took place over many months.

Representatives of tenants' and residents' associations, community groups, black and minority ethnic community groups and traders' associations were among those who attended one of the first of a number of events staged to hear people's views.

Improvements outlined in The Master Plan included traffic calming, tree planting, development opportunities for housing and commercial use, the creation of new public open spaces and a series of canal-side initiatives.

Partnership Chair, Geoff Fisher, said: "The Master Plan will constantly evolve as the community gets more and more involved."

## The first year

The enthusiasm and commitment of everyone involved ensured that Greets Green Partnership got off to a flying start.

From the very beginning, the aims of the initiative were ambitious, with a wide-ranging programme of projects planned to bring about real results in a whole range of different areas.

Key themes identified by the Greets Green Delivery Plan included:

- Jobs & Enterprise
- Education & Lifelong Learning
- Crime & Community Safety
- Health
- Community Empowerment
- Quality Environment/Housing Choice

Within the first 12 months of the launch of Greets Green Partnership, a number of exciting projects got underway and the seeds of hope for a bright new future for Greets Green were sown.

- A huge Spring clean was launched in an effort to tackle residents' concerns over litter and dumped waste.
- In May, Jan Rowley was appointed Executive Director of Greets Green Partnership.
- 32 council-owned garages which were no longer used by residents because of repeated vandalism and break-ins were demolished.

- A major survey was carried out to identify the scale of improvements needed to bring private homes in the area up to modern standards for decent living conditions.
- The creation of the Greets Green Business Forum gave the local business community a new voice and a greater input into efforts to revitalise the area.
- The Aim High project was set up to broaden the career horizons of young people and help them make the sometimes difficult transition from school into the world of work.
- A total of £60,000 was awarded to local schools to invest in a wide selection of much-needed sports equipment.
- Pupils toasted the success of a new breakfast club at George Salter High School.
- A group of young people took part in an outward bound course which encouraged them to see sports as a way of avoiding getting trapped in the drugs and crime culture.
- National charity, Crime Concern, launched its first ever Sandwell-based initiative, establishing a Neighbourhood Safety Partnership in Greets Green which focused on racial and domestic violence.

In Greets Green Partnership's first annual review, 'Making Greets Green Great!', Jan Rowley Executive Director of Greets Green Partnership said: "We were entrusted with £56 million and given the task of spending it wisely in order to benefit thousands of local people from all sections of our diverse community.

"We believe that, with the invaluable support of local people and a wide variety of organisations, we have made an excellent start."

“The community of Greets Green has a powerful vision for the future of their area and want to see and experience a greater sense of community. Greets Green Partnership is engaging local people in determining problems and issues, designing the solutions, and making decisions about how the solutions are delivered.”

Jan Rowley, Executive Director, Greets Green Partnership

## case study:

# The Thin Blue Line

Beating crime and the fear of crime formed a key part of the drive to revitalise Greets Green from the word go.

And West Midlands Police turned words into action when, in July 2000, they created Greets Green's first dedicated Neighbourhood Police Team - headed up by Sgt Chris Downen with eight Officers and four Special Constables committed to fighting crime in the area.

By spending time on the beat, talking to residents and discussing their concerns, the Officers aimed to provide a high-profile Police presence in the area in an effort to deter would-be criminals.

In fact, the strategy of dedicated neighbourhood policing was to prove so successful that it would later be rolled out across the whole of Sandwell and become the model being supported by the Home Office.

Within months of the launch of the Neighbourhood Police Team, Superintendent Bruce Gilbert was already able to report positively on the impact it was making.



He said: "Officers are being proactive in beating crime rather than reactive. There is already anecdotal evidence that local people feel safer walking around the streets of Greets Green. We are reducing the fear of crime."

Among the team's many achievements in the first 12 months were:

- 181 arrests
- 175 offences solved

In 2005, a new Greets Green Crime Fighting Team was launched with dedicated officers for the area. It had significant results, cutting crime by half.

Information sharing proved vital and officers attended many local meetings including the Neighbourhood Forums to meet with residents and discuss key issues.

The number of offences committed locally continued to drop and by Spring 2008, the area was experiencing the lowest crime rate on record.

The figures speak for themselves:

- January 2004 218 offences
- January 2005 140 offences
- January 2006 146 offences
- January 2007 106 offences
- January 2008 76 offences

Sergeant Tim Donovan said: "People are realising that you can't get away with certain things in Greets Green now."



**"There is already anecdotal evidence that local people feel safer walking around the streets of Greets Green. We are reducing the fear of crime."**

Supt Bruce Gilbert, West Midlands Police and a Greets Green Partnership Board member

case study:

# Youngsters speak out

As youngsters are the future for Greets Green, the Partnership recognised the importance of making it as easy as possible for young people to have their say in, and influence, all aspects of its work.

At the same time as the Community Representative elections, Greets Green Youth Forum elected two youth representatives to the Greets Green Partnership Board. Tozomul Hoque, aged 21, and 20 year old Kerry Houldey were elected by fellow Forum members to represent young people's interests on the Board.

Young people were also involved in a major piece of research to find out the specific needs of Greets Green youth. Around 20 young people, many from the new Greets Green Youth Forum, received training in interviewing and research techniques, before going out into the community to ask other young people their views.

The results of the Peer Consultation Research project were fed into the new Youth Inclusion project, headed by Project Manager, Duncan Wordley. Two Youth Support Workers, Ranjna Patel and Darren Saxon, were also appointed to help young people develop their full potential and get involved in the regeneration of the area. The pair joined Greets Green Partnership's Youth Support Team, led by Co-ordinator, Anam Choudhury.



case study:

# Going green

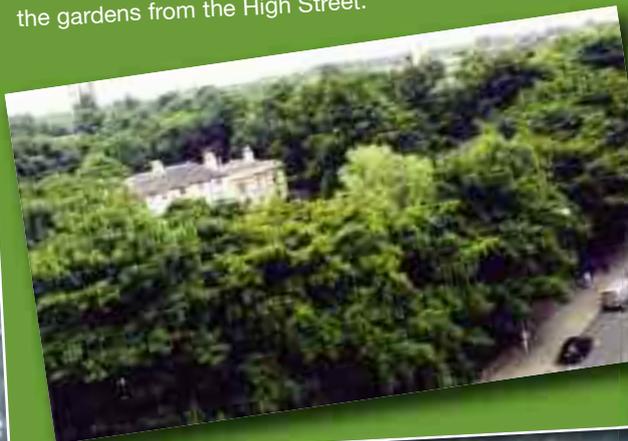
Two major environmental projects launched in the early days of Greets Green Partnership had a dramatic impact. The Partnership worked alongside Sandwell Council to transform two key public spaces – Oak House and the Memorial Gardens.

Laid out more than half a century ago, the Memorial Gardens were given a new lease of life in 2002, after trees and shrubs, which acted as a hiding place for would-be muggers, thieves and other criminals, were stripped away. As a result, passers-by could enjoy a clear view of the stunning Grade II listed building within the gardens from the High Street.

Lighting in the area was improved and more than 5,000 bulbs were planted to create a riot of spring colour. Over the following months, flower beds and pathways were also refurbished.

At Oak House, a Tudor Knot garden was laid at the front of the Grade II listed Tudor house, while a raised herb garden and rose garden were planted at the side. Secure ornamental railings and a dwarf wall were also installed along Oak Lane to aid security.

Today, the Memorial Gardens and Oak House are still real Greets Green gems, enjoyed by thousands of people every year.



## case study:

# From Talkback to Greets Green Magazine

Keeping residents informed and involved has always been central to the work of Greets Green Partnership.

As the seeds of change started to grow, it was vital that the Partnership found the best way of telling local people about everything that was happening and encouraging them to play their part in the transformation of their area.

In the early days, an A4 newsletter, Talkback, kept residents up to date with what was going on. The first issue was published even before the New Deal for Communities bid had been given the go ahead. It included an appeal for people to give their opinions on where the money should go if the bid was successful.

In November 2000, Talkback was replaced by Greets Green Community News, a free newspaper delivered regularly to every home in the Greets Green area.

Issue One introduced the initial Greets Green Partnership team, who were shortly to leave their temporary accommodation in Oldbury to a new base at Court House in High Street, West Bromwich.

As time went on, however, the pace of change in Greets Green demanded an even bigger and brighter publication for residents, and the first action-packed issue of the Greets Green Community Magazine came out in June 2002.



The first issue, edited by Communications Officer, Brian McKinstrie, was produced by Jubilee Arts, working with communities and individuals throughout the Greets Green area.

Greets Green Magazine welcomed a new team in July 2004, when Barbryn came on board and Susan Dunbar, Katherine Handley and Carl Murphy became regulars around the patch.

The team introduced a new 'upside down' youth section at the back of the magazine, dedicated Greet News pages and a special community page. This team continued to produce the popular magazine on a bi-monthly basis until the Partnership came to an end.



# Year two and beyond

An action-packed first year for Greets Green Partnership was widely judged to have been a resounding success. But there was no time for anyone involved to rest on their laurels.

There was still a tremendous amount of work to be done ensuring the pace of change in Greets Green was not allowed to slow down.

The following weeks and months saw dramatic improvements to Greets Green in a number of key areas.

'Seeds of Change', Greets Green Partnership's Progress Report for 2001/2002 was able to report that:

- crime in the area had been cut by half
- the number of students in college had doubled
- more local people had successfully secured jobs
- two major public spaces – Oak House and Memorial Gardens – had been brought back into use
- 2,500 residents had actively engaged in Greets Green Partnership activity

The first 'Magnificent Seven' elected Community Representatives joined the Partnership Board in Autumn 2001 following a postal ballot.

Thousands of residents cast their votes and the turnout was higher than local council elections at 37%. Results were announced at a celebration event for the whole community at West Bromwich Town Hall.

Those elected were: Sharon Howard (Swan Village and Carters Green); Fajli Bibi (Lodge Road and West Bromwich Central); Paul Green (Greets Green); Maureen Lambert (Hamblett's South); Janet Sayce (Hamblett's North); Ann Coll (Oak House North) and Joyce Mann (Oak House South).

Partnership Chair, Geoff Fisher, said: "I am delighted to welcome all seven Community Representatives to the Greets Green Partnership Board. We had some first class candidates and I am convinced that our 'local heroes' will provide us with invaluable links to Greets Green residents."

“At the moment, most young people, if they can afford it, will want to leave Greets Green. That must change. We want people to say that Greets Green is a great place to live because they have a good job, there is quality housing, crime is no longer a concern and the health care provision meets their needs.”

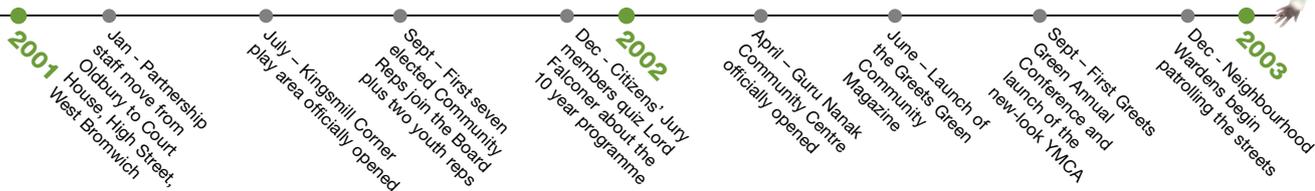
Geoff Fisher, Chair of Greets Green Partnership

## During 2002...

- The Asian Women's Forum celebrated a year of activity by hosting an Open Fun Day at the Guru Nanak Community Centre.
- Members of the Over 50s Senior Citizens Club held a dance and bingo event at the new Wood Lane Community Centre as a taster for future events.
- Over 100 guests attended a health and wellbeing day organised by the Visamo group at the Shree Krishna Mandir.
- West Bromwich African Caribbean Resource Centre celebrated its 15th anniversary with an Open Day.
- The famous clock tower was illuminated for the first time in living memory, thanks to Carters Green Traders' Association.
- More than 300 pupils from Guns Village, Ryders Green, Lodge Road and Lyng Primary Schools took part in a mini Commonwealth Games at Tipton Sports Centre.

Other projects already benefiting the community in Greets Green included...

- a new Community Library at Guns Village Primary School
- the creation of a closed play area for safer children's games in Wesley Street
- a new floodlit astro turf pitch at George Salter High School
- a Greets Green Community Learning Network which offered a range of IT-based learning



## case study:

# Wood Lane welcomes the community

During the early years of the Partnership, Wood Lane Community Centre became a focal point for the community.

Many residents will remember it as 'The Bush', the pub it was for more than 60 years. Local resident, Janet Sayce, says: "Horses and carts used to stop there for the horses to be watered. After The Bush, it became Darbys, which had a chip shop to one side. Then it was used to house asylum seekers for a while."

The building was then purchased by Hamblets Community Association headed by Maureen Lambert, with funding provided by Greets Green Partnership. It was run as a community venue and local residents helped to paint it, decorate it and refurbish it. Many local groups began to use its facilities.

Throughout the Partnership's life, Wood Lane Community Centre has offered a vast range of events, services and facilities to local people of all ages. It's now the base for Sandwell Women's Agency Network (SWAN), runs an after school / holiday club for children and provides a meeting place for the popular Spring Chicks older people's group.

It's home to groups and activities ranging from bingo and kick boxing to coffee clubs and the Citizens Advice Bureau.



In 2008, Greets Green Community Enterprises (GGCE) took over the running of the centre and continues to encourage businesses and residents to make full use of the facilities on offer.

Sandwell PCT's district nurses have a base at the centre and Crown's Hairdressers relocated here. Voluntary organisation, West Bromwich Food Bank was based here for a while along with an Adult Services Day Care Centre. A new training service was also launched and an arts and crafts group meets here regularly.

In late 2009, Greets Green Partnership funded a number of further improvements to make all areas of the building accessible for people with mobility problems. Work included a new lift, new toilets, and a facelift for the upstairs of the building which is rented out as office space.



opportunities within schools and community venues in the area

- an area-wide 'Ally-gator' scheme which aimed to increase security by putting lockable gates onto communal alleyways and passages
- the Home Maintenance project which offered training, support and tool hire to home-owners wanting to maintain their homes themselves

Three new housing forums were also set up to help in the major process of bringing much of the private and council housing in Greets Green up to modern standards.

The forums – one for council tenants, one for residents in the Housing Assessment Area (HAA) around Chapman Street and a third for the rest of the owners in Greets Green - aimed to look at the issues and options affecting those particular residents. Their comments were fed into the Housing Partnership Panel, chaired by the Partnership's Housing Champion, Joyce Mann.

## Hard work pays off

Four years of hard work came to fruition when the Guru Nanak Community Centre was officially opened in April 2002 by MP Tom Watson and Lord Tarsem King.

It was a particularly proud moment for Greets Green Sikh Community Representative, Gurbachan Singh Dhinsa. Having been involved in the project since it was first discussed, he was delighted to see it become a reality.

Gurnam Singh, Chairman of the centre in Edward Street, paid tribute to the support of Greets Green Partnership. He said: "When it was vacant, this place was no use to anybody. Now it's already being used by young and old alike."

The centre was set up to provide a whole range of community activities, such as exercise classes, sports sessions and health checks, as well as a much-needed new public space and a meetings and functions venue.

Other activities developed at the centre included study classes, employment advice, advice worker sessions, a youth club, a women's club and Punjabi language classes.

The centre's role in the community was further strengthened the following year when a bid for Lottery funding resulted in the award of £284,000.

Gurbachan said: "I am delighted, not for me, but for all the people who will benefit from this investment. It's a fantastic return on the initial money that Greets Green Partnership put in."

## During 2003...

- The Swan Village Action Group was set up to improve the Swan Village area. It followed a survey of residents carried out with the support of Greets Green Outreach Worker, Jackie Owen and Sharon Howard, Community Representative for the area.
- The first of a series of community noticeboards was installed at Oak House on Oak Lane. The noticeboards were the brainchild of the Community Representatives and were designed to enable local groups to publicise their events.
- Pupils from George Salter High School put their business skills to the test when they took part in the Young Enterprise Programme for the first time. Year 11 Business Studies students made and sold their own greetings cards, with sponsorship from Greets Green Youth Forum and local company, Signs Now.
- More than 60 young people attended Greets Green Bangladeshi Youth Forum's first annual conference in 2003, which took the theme that young people were the future of Greets Green.
- A special event at Wood Lane Community Centre marked the launch of the 'Food is Fun' healthy eating recipe book created by artist Ranbir Kaur.
- The extensive housing consultation programme got underway in the summer with every single household being invited to share their views on the area's housing.
- Executive Director, Jan Rowley, left to be replaced, in September, by Ally Allerson who would lead the Partnership for the remainder of the programme.

2003

Aug – Extensive housing consultation programme gets underway

Sept – Ally Allerson replaces Jan Rowley as Executive Director

Oct – Swan Village Action group set up

Oct – Child Home Safety Project launched

Dec – Greets Green Events Steering Group set up

2004





2004 – 2008

# UP AND RUNNING

**By 2004, Greets Green Partnership had already made a huge impact on the lives of the 12,000 residents across the area.**

More than 100 innovative projects were not only up and running, but were bringing people together from lots of different communities, many of whom had never mixed before.

Throughout the next few years, additional projects were regularly being launched. And their aim was simple – to improve the quality of life for local people.

The projects being funded covered the six Partnership theme areas of Community Empowerment, Crime & Community Safety, Education & Lifelong Learning, Health, Housing & Urban Form and Jobs & Enterprise.

A successful structure based on the six theme areas enabled residents to get involved in all aspects of the Partnership. Each theme was headed up by a theme manager whose task was to actually make the projects happen once they'd been approved.

Every year, each theme manager had to draw up a detailed Business Plan through consultation with residents. The following year, every single resident in Greets Green received an annual review through their door which stated what

each theme manager said they'd do and whether they had achieved it. The aim was for the Partnership to be accountable at every level.

## It's good to talk

Ensuring that its work was continuously meeting local needs has always been at the heart of Greets Green Partnership.

To this end, new ways of ensuring two-way communication with local residents were always being looked into.

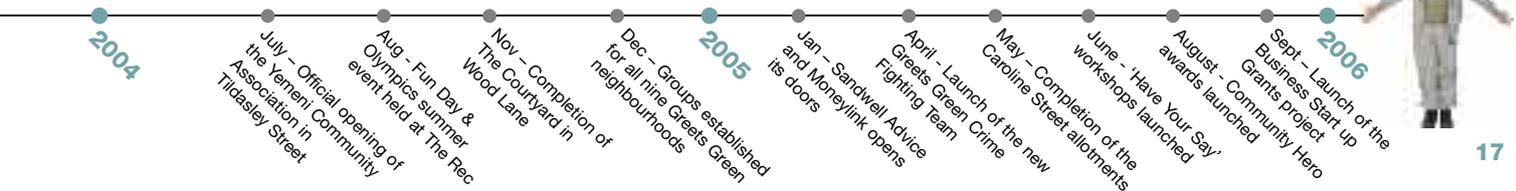
## Citizens' Jury

One successful way of finding out what residents thought about Greets Green Partnership was the high profile 'Citizens' Jury' project.

It was set up to enable residents to question a range of expert witnesses about the multi-million-pound plans to transform the area. In 2001, Greets Green hosted a visit from Regeneration Minister, Lord Falconer, who became the first witness to answer questions from the Citizens' Jury.

The Minister spent an hour fielding questions on a range of issues including housing, the environment, crime and safety, health and education, at the Partnership's offices in Court House. He said: "The Citizens' Jury is an excellent idea and a real credit to Greets Green

**92% of residents have heard of Greets Green Partnership.**  
Source: Citizens' Jury 2006



## case study:

# FRIENDS ON THE STREET

Greets Green Neighbourhood Wardens began patrolling the streets at the end of 2002 and were soon a familiar sight and welcomed by residents of all ages.

Their aim was to provide a link between local residents, local agencies and the Police in a bid to deter crime and anti-social behaviour. Easily identified by their red uniforms, the Wardens became key figures in the community, patrolling the streets, providing practical help to residents and groups, helping them to access services and initiatives, and generally making Greets Green a better place to live.

When funding for the Neighbourhood Wardens came to an end in March 2007, their legacy certainly lived on and residents are continuing to benefit from their work today.

Senior Neighbourhood Warden, Neil Woodfield, said: "People were definitely feeling safer in the area. I'd like to think that was partly due to our presence on the streets. Residents knew they could come up to us as friends and share their problems and know that the wardens would do their best to help."

During their time on the streets, the Neighbourhood Wardens were kept busy helping residents with a whole



range of issues, from dealing with crime and anti-social behaviour to tackling fly-tipping and sorting out broken street lights.

In the three years from 2003 to 2006, the work of the Neighbourhood Wardens included dealing with:

- 1,938 Anti Social Behaviour Counter Patrols
- 1,685 Environmental Issues
- 442 Housing Issues
- 380 Abandoned/Untaxed Vehicles
- 85 Drugs Cases
- 35 Fires
- 287 Faulty Street Lights
- 7 Racial Incidents
- 1,634 Information Visits (to individual residents and surgeries)
- 349 Road Safety Incidents

Phil Hartley, Crime & Community Safety Theme Leader from 2005 to 2009, said: "The wardens demonstrated

the benefit of neighbourhood-based patrols and many new initiatives were introduced as a result of their work.

"West Midlands Police in particular took on the mantle of providing more responsive services and have continued to develop close links with residents through attendance at Neighbourhood Forums and through the work of the Police Community Support Officers."



**"We're maintaining high visibility patrols throughout the area to deter criminals and have now begun joint patrols with the Greets Green Neighbourhood Wardens."**

Sgt Rasul

Partnership. It's good for Ministers to hear the real concerns of local residents without any bureaucrats getting in the way."

In 2006, further high profile events were held when residents from across Greets Green were invited to come along and vote on how well they believed the Partnership's regeneration programme was progressing.

## Families of 99

Another initiative launched by Greets Green Partnership to gain a broad range of feedback from local residents, was the 'Families of 99' project.

Informal discussion groups were held where residents talked through their own personal experiences and perceptions of the difference the Partnership was making.

All participants had to have lived in the Greets Green area since 1999 – the year before the Partnership began.

"All the valuable feedback we received was used to shape the focus of the Business Plan for the remaining years of Greets Green Partnership," explained Katherine Hewitt, Community Empowerment Theme Leader. "And we took action on any issues which residents said needed addressing."

## Have Your Say

Have Your Say workshops were launched by the Partnership in May 2005 and soon became a regular fixture.

Held at a variety of community venues, the monthly sessions enabled local people to share their views on proposed projects.

The very first workshop, at Lodge School, saw plenty of lively debate about three projects, one around sickle cell and thalassaemia, the second to encourage involvement in the Greets Green Housing Plan and the third to place IT tutors in two Greets Green e-learning centres.

## Down Your Street

The Down Your Street surgeries launched the following year proved similarly successful. In the summer of 2006, Neighbourhood Support Workers delivered leaflets to every home in

85% of residents know that there are now more places to learn to use computers since the start of the Partnership.

Source: MORI Household Survey 2006

Greets Green, inviting residents to display the 'Ask Me' sign in their window if they had a concern or query they wanted to raise. The workers returned the following day and visited everyone displaying the signs.

More than 150 people took up the offer, and the information gained was either passed to a relevant team to deal with or the individuals were given help or advice directly.

As time went on, street surgeries were developed to pass on positive information to residents and the scheme became a way of promoting activities organised by the Partnership, such as drugs awareness events or opportunities for adult learning.

## Community Health Forums

Greets Green residents were also given the chance to share their views at Community Health Forums.

The monthly meetings enabled people to find out more about local health services and projects, as well as helping to shape the development and delivery of services for the future. Each month, the forums focussed on a different health topic chosen by members. Following a speaker, residents often engaged in lively debate.

## Good neighbours

Greets Green's regular Neighbourhood Forums have helped to promote a valuable dialogue between residents and a whole host of service providers over the past decade.

69% of residents are aware of the increased support to help improve basic skills – numeracy and literacy.

Source: Citizens' Jury 2006

case study:

# CITIZENS' JURY SPEAKS OUT



Launched in 2001, the Citizens' Jury enabled residents to have their say on a wide range of issues and give their feedback on how well they thought the Partnership was doing.

In 2006, two high profile events took place at George Salter Collegiate Academy and Guns Village Primary School when people from many different communities, and all ages from 16 to over 65, came along and used hand-held keypads to cast their votes.

They were asked a series of questions and their answers proved that Greets Green Partnership was certainly moving in the right direction.

Everyone who gave up their time to take part in the Citizens' Jury events were entered into a prize draw as a thank you for attending – and the winners were delighted.

"I thought it was very good – they should do this more often," Peter Jones, Dilliers Walk.

"I'm glad I came and would do it again," Ena Barr, Bromford Lane.

**“By doing this, people feel more involved. It's a good idea to get the views of local residents.”**

Lynn Richards, Phoenix Street

## Do you read the Greets Green Magazine?

- Always – 78%
- Usually – 12%
- Occasionally – 10%

## What has had the most positive effect in Greets Green in the last 7 years?

- More policing – 20%
- More community facilities – 19%
- Better health services – 15%

## How have local health services changed?

- More healthy eating information – 26%
- More health advice & support – 17%
- More fitness & exercise opportunities – 15.5%

## How have schools changed?

- More places to learn to use computers – 28%
- Improved school facilities – 21%
- Better exam results – 18%

## How has policing in Greets Green changed?

- More policing patrol cars – 23%
- Tackling anti social behaviour – 20%
- More foot patrols – 18%

## How has the local environment changed?

- Better street lighting – 25.5%
- More secure pathways (ally gating) – 24%
- More traffic calming – 18%

## How has housing in Greets Green changed?

- Home security & safety improved – 29%
- New homes built in the area – 19%
- Homes improved externally (i.e. windows, walls, roof) – 17%

## How has community involvement in Greets Green changed?

- More community events – 24%
- Better range of community facilities – 19.5%
- Residents are more involved in making local decisions – 17%

## How have jobs and business support in Greets Green changed?

- More training opportunities available – 27%
- Help to improve basic skills (reading, writing & numeracy) – 23%
- Improvements to Carters Green & the High Street – 18%

## Overall, how much of an improvement has Greets Green Partnership made to the area?

- Improved strongly – 10%
- Improved well – 52%
- Improved adequately – 19%
- Not improved adequately – 19%

The forums were launched in the early days of the Partnership to give local people a chance to have their say, air their concerns or simply to find out more about the issues, services and activities they were interested in. And they soon caught on.

A wide range of service providers have attended meetings over the years, including Police Officers from the Greets Green Crime Fighting Team, Sandwell Homes, Groundcare staff from Greets Green Environment Team and local Councillors.

The meetings also provided a chance for local residents to meet their Neighbourhood and Community Reps and Partnership staff.

Community Services Worker, Simon Ware explained: "The key message is that if people have an issue or something they want to have their say on locally, or something they want changing, the forums are the place to be. You can talk face to face with the people who can make a difference."



Historically held in each of the nine neighbourhoods that make up the Greets Green Partnership area, in 2007 the forums were slimmed down to combine neighbourhoods and became two forums focussing on the North and South.

The forums played a key role in the success of the Greets Green Cleaner & Safer Environment Charter, developed by Greets Green Partnership as a joint commitment by Sandwell Council's Groundcare Services and West Midlands Police, to the standards residents could expect in terms of keeping the streets clean and safe.

They also took charge of the Small Sites project, introduced to identify small environmental or community safety projects that residents would like to see undertaken in their area.

## We're having fun!

As well as improving the quality of life for local people, Greets Green Partnership also made it a priority to ensure there were plenty of opportunities to have fun.

The Greets Green Events Steering Group was set up in 2003 to plan and organise fun community events.

Made up of local residents, the Steering Group worked with the Partnership's Community Empowerment Team to host many events, including bonfires and summer fun days.

Member, Balvinder Paul, said: "When I took early retirement I had time on my hands to do new things. I wanted to do something for the community and when this opportunity arose, it sounded a really good idea."

One of the Steering Group's highly successful activities was the Fun Day & Olympics in August 2004 with sports events for the youngsters and live music and dancing, stalls and games for their parents.

By 2008 the community events were still going strong, with a Summer Fun Day in July and Christmas Festival in December, complete with an ice rink, Santa's grotto and the official switching on of the West Bromwich Christmas lights.

## Housing consultation gets underway

From the start of Greets Green Partnership, whenever residents were asked what their main concerns were, the quality of local housing and the lack of choice was always high on the list.

As a result, the Partnership decided to commission independent consultants, Ernst & Young, to undertake a massive consultation programme throughout the area to look at how the major issue of housing for the future could be tackled.

Every single household in Greets Green – almost 5,000 homes – was invited to share in the extensive consultation programme which kicked off in the summer of 2003. Many residents shared

## case study: **ACTION TAKEN**

Local resident Chris Haynes was delighted with the re-surfacing work carried out to the passageway across the bottom of his garden. It had been deteriorating for years and Chris turned to his local Neighbourhood Forum for help.

"I always go to the Neighbourhood Forum meetings and decided to tell them about the passageway," he said. "I was very pleased when they said the work could be done through the Small Sites project. They've done an excellent job and myself and my neighbours are very grateful."

Greets Green Partnership's Small Sites project aimed to boost the appearance of the area by sorting out some long standing problems for people.

All the ideas for the projects, from erecting new fences, carrying out tidy-ups and resurfacing paths, came from local residents and were raised at the monthly Neighbourhood Forum meetings.

Sgt Tim Donovan said the forums, which were regularly attended by Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) or regular Police Officers, were a great way of helping to solve problems with anti-social behaviour or other crime.

He said: "We get to find out about the little things before they become big. People do use the anti-social



behaviour hotline sometimes, but we tend to find if people don't get a response straight away, they stop ringing so we think the problem's gone away.

"When you go to a forum, you have people saying 'this has been a problem for two or three years' and we didn't know about it."

Sgt Donovan added: "It's good when you can go back to a forum several months later and the problem's been solved so the residents are very pleased."





their views, ideas and comments about the area's housing and what they'd like to see in the future at a special housing fayre, drop in events and on board the consultation bus. Out of the four options for change, residents gave a resounding 'yes' to radical regeneration involving the major redevelopment of a number of sites.

Towards the end of 2004, the Partnership secured £5 million funding from regeneration initiative, Urban Living. This meant it could move ahead with its ambitious Housing Plan, transforming the range of housing options in the Greets Green area.

## A Partnership Plan

Four partners came together to deliver the Housing Plan – Greets Green Partnership, Sandwell Homes, Sandwell Council and Urban Living.

While the Housing Plan would benefit the whole of Greets Green, four areas were identified as priorities for action:

### 1. Claypit Lane / Wattle Road

To transform the area to provide affordable, quality housing for local people and to tackle local problems such as fly-tipping and anti-social behaviour. The Rec would be opened up to make it more accessible.

### 2. Coppice Street / Meadows School

To demolish the derelict school and low rise flats, and create an area of land on which homes could be developed to provide much greater choice for local people.

### 3. Housing Assessment Area (HAA) - surrounding Edith Street & Chapman Street

The HAA area had a large concentration of unfit properties due for demolition. Clearance of this site would be completed under the Housing Act which tackles unfit homes.

### 4. The former Albion House site on Richard Street South

This site was already clear and ready for development.

## Tackling the Issues

Rather than only looking to build new homes, the Partnership felt it was important to tackle the other problems too, such as anti-social behaviour. Its Housing Plan was a broad plan which looked to transform the whole area by improving the local environment and delivering better services.

Regular newsletters were produced by the Partnership and delivered to residents' doors to keep them fully up-to-date with how the Housing Plan was progressing.

## Work Gets Started

All residents affected by clearance in the Claypit Lane/Wattle Road/Coppice Street area were visited at home by staff from the Partnership's Housing Team, working with Sandwell Homes and Sandwell Council. Residents were helped every step of the way to find alternative homes. In addition advice surgeries were held at 117 Claypit Lane.

Demolition soon got underway. Greets Green Partnership, Sandwell Council and Urban Living began working together to attract a suitable developer to the area to build high quality housing to meet local needs.



In the HAA area, a HAA Forum of residents and Partnership representatives was set up to look at local housing issues. The forum met regularly until November 2007, by which time 116 properties had been acquired by Sandwell Council and demolition had begun.

At the Coppice Street site, Meadows School was demolished and plans were put in place to build West Bromwich's first Extra Care housing development for people aged over 55.

## case study: **GOING SOLAR**

Along with looking to build new properties, the Housing Plan focused on improving existing homes and the Sustainable Warmth project was a prime example.

In December 2007, Greets Green Partnership gave Sandwell Warm Zone funding of £737,599 to provide central heating, solar panels and insulation for people who own their properties but have an annual income of under £15,000.

The first couple in Greets Green to have solar panels installed for free, plus a complete central heating system, cavity wall insulation and loft insulation, were Bryan and Susan Wright, of Caroline Street.

Susan explained: "With three daughters we never had money to spend on central heating but when you get older you feel the cold a bit more. I knew about solar heat and I asked people what they thought. My daughter



said grab it with both hands - if we are going to get a warm summer you will have hot water for nothing. I'm now proud of my panels - it's really good having them!"

The Sustainable Warmth project proved an enormous success and, by the time the Partnership's funding came to an end for the project in 2008...

- 58 homes had been fitted with solar panels
- 120 homes had central heating fitted
- 59 homes had loft or cavity wall insulation

And that wasn't the end of it. Residents could still get help with improving the energy efficiency of their home through Sandwell Warm Zone, which is run by Sandwell Council.

## case study: **Centre transformed**

One of the most exciting early projects to be completed in Greets Green was the £1.25 million redevelopment of the YMCA.

Greets Green Partnership helped to kickstart refurbishment plans for the centre, which was founded in 1888, with a grant of £236,000.



The ambitious scheme included a new high-tech computer unit providing computer facilities and free internet access, an extended and improved fitness centre, day nursery, out of school clubs, youth clubs and accommodation for homeless, unemployed people.

A healthy living centre was to become the focus for fitness testing, exercise on prescription, cardiovascular exercise equipment, advice on nutrition and a healthy living café. The redevelopment also created a number of new jobs for local people.

The newly-refurbished and expanded facilities were officially launched with an open day in September 2002.

During the next few years, the centre went from strength to strength. In 2008, it celebrated its 120th anniversary with a re-launched healthy eating café and the latest innovations for encouraging fitness – computerised dance mats and a high-tech interactive sports wall – which were funded thanks to a grant of £34,800 from Greets Green Partnership.

Then in 2008, the credit crunch happened along with the downturn in the housing market. So although efforts had been made to attract developers to the area, they found themselves with no cash flow to build new properties because they were unable to sell the properties they'd already built. In the meantime, money was invested by Greets Green Partnership to make all the clearance sites ready for development as soon as the recession ends.

## Learning on the doorstep

Over the years, Greets Green Partnership has been keen to enable everyone to continue learning as long as they want to – whatever their age.

To this end, it set up a network of Community Access Points (CAPs) and e-learning centres which went from strength to strength, offering a whole range of learning opportunities on residents' doorsteps. The aim of the CAPs was to provide facilities where clubs, groups and anyone in the community could hold activities, events and meetings.

The Partnership created 10 CAPs throughout the area at schools and community centres, and set up a team of Community Learning Workers to develop activities at them.

And where organisations had no spare room to use, brand new self-contained units were literally craned in to provide the facilities. This happened at Lyng Primary and Newtown Primary Schools in Autumn 2005 where new units were 'dropped in' at the sites.



These two CAPs provide a range of excellent facilities including a computer suite, multi-sensory room, various function rooms, a kitchen and a relaxing area, and hundreds of local people have since enjoyed meeting and socialising there.

The team of Community Learning Workers, which included local residents, got regular courses off the ground at the CAPs and helped those based at schools to offer more out of school hours activities. These have included before and after school clubs, sport, homework clubs and support for parents.

### e-learning centres

Greets Green Partnership set up 12 e-learning centres across Greets Green, enabling local people – from children to silver surfers – to develop their IT skills.

E-learning centres can now be found in community venues such as primary schools, the YMCA and the Greets Green Access Centre, and many have been installed in Community Access Points, creating an excellent community resource.

Each centre provides e-learning opportunities for all ages and everyone is welcome to attend the range of IT courses on offer at the centres – whether they're an IT novice or a computer whizz kid.

### Passport to Learning

Thousands of local people were provided with a range of learning and training opportunities through Greets Green Passport to Learning (GGPL).

During 2003/04 alone, the scheme, together with partner organisations, supported access to more than 770 courses.

Lifelong learning was promoted through free tuition for programmes at Sandwell College, Rowley Regis Centre (part of Dudley College) and Sandwell Adult Education. Participants were offered individual advice and guidance interviews, provided with support for higher education programmes and given learning support at the e-learning centres.

"Twelve community venues were involved in GGPL including community centres, schools and churches," explained Project Manager, Joyce Jeavons. "Programmes from sugarcraft, Tai Chi and Bollywood dancing to family history, Asian sewing, first aid and IT, were held, with

## case study:

# REAL COMMUNITY HEROES

There are so many residents who go unrecognised for their tireless work in the community, that in 2005, Greets Green Partnership launched the Community Heroes award.

Each issue of the Greets Green Magazine featured a 'hero' – someone who goes the extra mile to help others.

Here are just some of Greets Green's Community Heroes....

- The Bethel Youth Club team – Lee, Adele, Devon, Sam and Peter – who run the youth club on a Friday night.
- Pam Jackson who runs the Swan Village Social Group, providing activities for around 20 elderly people.
- Paul Coton who does errands and gardening and is always willing to spend his time helping others who need it.
- Sandra Carter who has helped to save and restore local landmark, the 16th Century Oak House and Barns in Oak Road.
- Ray Edwards who's involved in helping youngsters in the Young Firefighters.
- Gill Cotterill who has made a huge commitment to voluntary work, especially helping with the Active Lifestyles project.



- Paul Green who set up a local football team to build a better community spirit.



- Salik Ullah who runs George's Carp Crew, a fishing club for pupils at George Salter Collegiate Academy.



- Imran Miah who helps the Bangladeshi community through various voluntary activities.



- Pauline Robinson who provides endless support to her neighbours and the local area.

many people progressing to college courses or further study." In 2005, the project was overhauled and relaunched as the Adult and Community Learning project.

## Learning to Work

Greets Green residents who wanted to gain qualifications and get back to work were given a helping hand by the Adult and Community Learning project. Set up in April 2005, the project provided funding and advice to Greets Green residents who wanted to take part in vocational or non-vocational courses.

Nikki Russell, the project's Community Development and Marketing Officer, explained: "Our aim is to get anyone aged over 16 into learning. They may be unemployed or currently working but wanting to change direction.

"It's all about giving people the opportunity to learn. If you have a job, you're expected to pay for courses which can be a barrier to learning. We're trying to reduce these barriers by providing funding to help residents go on courses at local colleges or learning providers."

Between April 2006 and April 2008, a total of 1,344 people were involved in courses, taster sessions and activities organised through the Adult and Community Learning project.

During that time:

- 226 learners gained Entry Level qualifications
- 224 learners gained Level 1 qualifications
- 300 learners gained a Level 2 qualification
- 81 learners achieved Level 3 qualifications
- 8 learners achieved Level 4 qualifications



Plus, the project ran special events such as Adult Learners Week events and family fun days to promote adult learning.

The Adult and Community Learning project team also launched the successful Door Supervisors course, which was aimed at local people who

wanted help gaining work in the security business. Twelve people passed the first course with flying colours and were able to apply for professional licenses. At least seven of them gained work and further courses were then set up.

## Just the job

As well as helping local people become better skilled for work, Greets Green Partnership has always been committed to providing a range of support to help people actually become employed – either by securing a job or by becoming their own boss.

Entrepreneurs in Greets Green enjoyed a kick-start for their businesses from the Business Grant Fund.



From fitness centres and soft furnishing companies to cake bakers and sign makers, a wide range of new businesses were supported with Business Start Up grants, while existing businesses wanting to expand or re-locate to the area were supported financially to make the move.

Launched in September 2005, by the time the project, which was funded by Greets Green Partnership and delivered by the Partnership and Black Country Small Business Service Ltd (Business Link) drew to a close, it left more than 270 businesses better off.

A total of 181 business ideas had been turned into reality thanks to start-up grants and more than 90 existing businesses were now bigger and stronger following financial help from the project.

## Getting down to business

Businesses in Greets Green were also crucial to the improvement of the Albion Road area.

The Albion Business Consortium (formerly Albion Road Business Forum) moved ahead with the

# case study: GIVING YOUNG PEOPLE ADVICE

The driving force behind the transformation of Greets Green has always been the next generation.

And young people themselves have played a crucial role in ensuring the area has so much more to offer them, their peers and generations to come.

The Young Advisors scheme was one of a number of projects launched through Greets Green Partnership funding to help young people get their voices heard and encourage local businesses and organisations to engage with the youth of the area.

Launched in 2008, it aimed to give young people aged between 16 and 20 the skills to act as youth consultants and carry out a variety of work, such as undertaking surveys to determine young people's views about services, publicising events to attract a young audience or 'youth proofing' documents to make sure they appealed to young people.

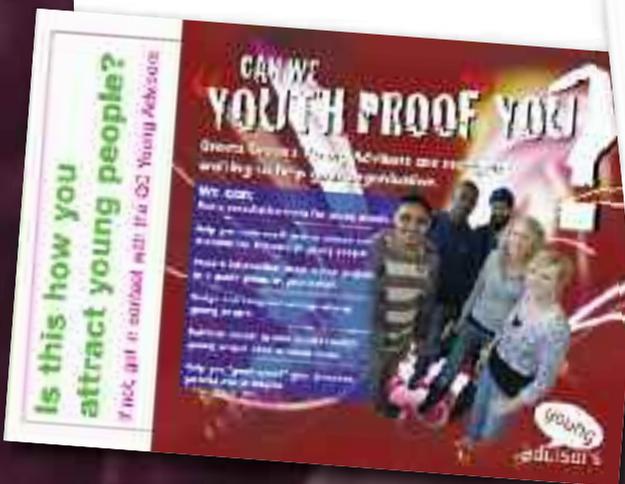
Advisor Rohim Mohammed explained: "We're here to help any type of organisation in Sandwell to improve their ability to work with young people. It's really important for organisations to build relationships with young people and that's where we can make a difference."

Towards the end of the year, the scheme was taken over by Greets Green Community Enterprises (GGCE), with an



official re-launch at The Public in West Bromwich, with speakers including Development Director for the national Young Advisors scheme, Jane Brooker Wood. The Young Advisors met a wide range of organisations and, as a result, secured several work contracts.

To meet demand it was necessary to expand the team so a few months later three more Young Advisors were recruited.



creation of a Business Improvement District (BID) after a 79 per cent vote in favour of the initiative. Local businesses agreed to pay an extra four per cent on their rates to fund additional services and improvements.

The Greets Green BID was a trail-blazer as such initiatives usually involve retail and commercial areas rather than industrial ones. About 80 local firms were covered by the BID, which attracted national interest.

Greets Green Partnership was among those instrumental in getting the BID off the ground, while Sandwell Council, M&T Solutions Consultants, Groundwork Black Country and the local business community, all helped it to be delivered in a record eight months. Changes included new directional signs and the installation of a brand new CCTV system around the main roads in the area to improve security.

Albion Business Consortium Chairman, Stuart Fell, of West Bromwich Tool and Engineering Ltd, said: "The view held by most companies within the BID area was that we faced a simple choice. We could either drive forward an initiative to fund additional services and improvements to help make this a better business location for our workforce and our customers, or we could stand still and watch the decline."

## Top of the class

Of all the success stories celebrated in Greets Green over the past decade, one of the most exciting – and important – has been the transformation of George Salter Collegiate Academy.

In the early 2000s, the school was poorly performing and under subscribed, with less than half the pupils who were leaving local primary schools going to the only high school in Greets Green.

Pupils are now queuing up to start at the school, with parents from outside the area wanting to get their youngsters an education in Greets Green. They know that the all-important next generation are being given an A1 start in life at the now over-subscribed school.

The GSCE pass rate for the school rocketed from just 15 per cent in 2003 to 89 per cent in 2008.

“The Partnership has helped things begin. It’s acted as a kick-start for lots of new ideas.”

Greets Green Resident

Plus, following the launch of a sixth form at the school, students are busy taking their A levels and applying to move on to university.

Extended Schools Co-ordinator John Nicholson explained: "Back in 2003, the GCSE pass rate of only 15 per cent meant the school had to raise its standards or close.

"Over three years the Department for Education & Skills put in £250,000 to transform the school and Greets Green Partnership matched this amount in the first year to pay for the ICT systems needed. This helped to attract good quality teachers to the school.

"The Partnership also invested a further £250,000 in other initiatives to turn the school around, including introducing Pastoral Managers, whose posts are now being entirely funded by George Salter.

"All the money put in by Greets Green Partnership was aimed at raising standards and giving young people a better future. And those improvements will continue once the Partnership comes to an end."

In 2005 the school was reorganised into a house system, each with a Zone Director, Head of House and Pastoral Manager to support students, parents and staff. Two years later it became George Salter Collegiate Academy and continued to go from strength to strength.

Its 2005 Ofsted report said that 'the school's success hasn't been achieved at the cost of caring - at George Salter High School it is obvious that every child really does matter.'

Now pupils are achieving results which were never dreamed of a few years ago and the future certainly looks bright both for the school and all the youngsters who pass through it.

## Full marks for new school

Younger pupils in Greets Green enjoyed a major boost to their education with the opening of the improved Guns Village Primary School.

## case study:

# BIG BOOST FOR FAMILIES

Families in Greets Green had plenty to cheer about when Greets Green's superb new Children's Centre opened its doors.

The purpose-built facility on the Ryders Green Primary School site in Claypit Lane was aimed at families with children aged five and under and welcomed its first young visitors in autumn 2007.

The centre aimed to concentrate on three areas, family health, family learning and family support. The first regular activity was an Early Steps Stay and Play class held three times a week for tots and their parents.

Health visitors also moved their baby clinics from the Lyng Centre to the Children's Centre, which aimed to bring family-centred activities together under one roof.

Children and Families Programme Manager, Jenny Mahimbo, said: "The centre will offer individual support for families with young children."

During 2008, a day nursery opened at the centre and more and more activities were launched for 0-5 year olds.

Deputy Manager Flo Reynolds stepped up to become Manager at the start of 2009, kicking off a new health programme with healthy eating advice and exercise sessions for parents.



Adam Cooper took over the role later in the year and made it a priority to improve access to the centre along with car parking.

A new car park was created, high fences removed and undergrowth cleared to really open up the area. Adam said: "It's made a big difference to the centre and to people knowing we're here."



The £3 million building project brought Junior and Infant school children together on one site on Hanbury Road.

Designed with the whole community in mind, tying in with the Government's Extended Schools agenda, it included a new nursery, an infant block and junior block plus a big school hall. A modern dance studio can be used by the community out of school hours, along with a parents/community room funded by Greets Green Partnership as part of the CAP project.

Pupils could improve their computer skills in the Junior School's new ICT suite as well as the Click! Greets Green suite, while their parents could also take advantage of computer classes.

The new school also boasted two libraries and a host of cutting edge technology, such as smart boards in every classroom. Outside amenities included a nature garden and tyre play area, plus sports pitches.

The school welcomed its first pupils for the start of the Autumn term in 2005. Head Teacher Barry Samuel said: "This will be a fantastic school for the 21st century. It will make a big difference to pupils, parents, staff and the local community.

"Having the whole school on one site is what we've been working towards for the past eight years.

"We currently have 50 children in each year group but this new school will be able to take 60 in each year, creating an additional 70 places."



## Kicking off two success stories

Over the years of the Partnership, residents have certainly got fitter and healthier thanks to a range of projects designed to get local people of all ages on their feet.



Two of the projects which encouraged the greatest participation from residents are the Active Lifestyles project and the Hat-Trick Community Football project.

### Getting fit & having fun

Launched in July 2006, the Active Lifestyles project helped more than 1,000 people – 600 of them from Greets Green – start to lead a healthier life.

The project was funded by Greets Green Partnership and managed by Sandwell Primary Care Trust to improve the standards of health in Greets Green by raising the participation in physical activity.

Active Lifestyles Co-ordinator, Nathan Moore said: "We also wanted to reduce the barriers that stopped many people taking part in physical activity, by making things affordable, accessible and achievable to all ages, abilities and ethnicity."

Part of the project involved training and employing local people as community champions to promote and run physical activities in Greets Green. They also brought more specialised sports coaching to schools and, because they're local residents, children have been able to relate to them more.

Plus, there was also an Active Lifestyles Community Fund which supported small projects

"Nobody likes change but I've never seen so much change in such a short space of time. It's important to keep people up to date and help them understand why the changes are needed."

Greets Green Resident

## case study:

# GROWING OLD GRACEFULLY

When consultation was carried out in 2002, it showed that residents in Greets Green didn't know how to access local health and social care services, and were tired of having to wait a long time for help and support.

The Partnership's Health Theme decided to bring staff together from a range of providers including Sandwell Primary Care Trust (PCT) and Sandwell Council to create the Enhanced Nursing Services Team.

In 2005, the nursing posts within the team were mainstreamed by the PCT and the remaining posts were funded by the Partnership until March 2007, creating the Healthier & Safer Older Age project.

Additional members joined to create a broader, multi-disciplinary team including social workers, occupational therapists, a physiotherapist, an older people's champion and a community pharmacist. It was a one-stop shop where anyone aged over 50 could access any help they needed.

Based at Wood Lane Community Centre, the team really reached out to older people in the area.

By calling the team, a whole variety of services for older people could be accessed including help and



support for carers, information on home aids and adaptations, exercise classes to help prevent falls, community talks, and benefits advice.

Older people became more confident, and were able to enjoy practical support and increased mobility and ability.

"People in Greets Green want to make the most of their retirement years," said Co-ordinator Terry Chikurunhe. "They really value the support of the Healthier & Safer Older Age team because we're based in their local community."



and activities for all ages. Dozens of groups secured funding for new football kits, gym and other sporting equipment.

“Residents from all communities have really benefited from the project,” adds Nathan. “We worked with young people, BME communities, families, older people – everyone!

“Our tea dances have proved particularly popular for older people. They’ve given residents borough-wide a regular once a month event where they can exercise and be socially active too.”

When funding for the project ended in 2009, many of the activities were mainstreamed by different organisations and Nathan was taken on by the Primary Care Trust to focus on a wider area so that even more residents could get active.

### Project is on the ball

The legacy of Hat-Trick lives on today. The three-year project well and truly kicked off in Greets Green at the start of 2006 and gave all ages greater opportunities to learn, play and get fit.

Its work became renowned locally for its provision of footballing and coaching opportunities for girls and boys, adults and parents, and laid down the foundations for a future of continuing sporting excellence in Greets Green.

Backed locally by the FA, West Bromwich Albion FC and Greets Green Partnership, the project’s ethos was one of benefiting all through the ‘beautiful game’ – and it reaped rewards in terms of improving both health and community cohesion.



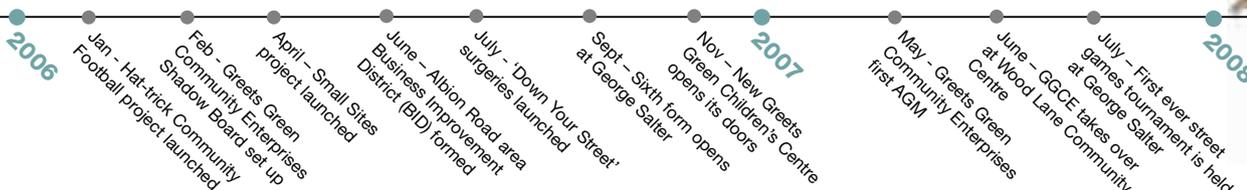
Hat-Trick’s numerous achievements included:

- Developing community teams such as Greets Green Albion.
- Helping local clubs and schools to earn FA Charter Awards for excellence.
- Talent spotting young footballers in Greets Green.
- Developing girls’ football via WBA Ladies Academy.
- Helping to train community coaches and volunteers.
- Providing Junior Football Organisers courses.
- Enabling youngsters in Greets Green to take part in national campaigns such as Let’s Kick Racism Out of Football.
- Promoting sport in primary schools – Hat-Trick’s Active 4s, 5s and 6s scheme increased PE time in schools.
- Extra-curricular sport through out-of-school clubs, evening sessions and Saturday sessions.

Thanks to its training of coaches and volunteers, and support for local schools, teams and individuals, Hat-Trick’s work is now set to live on through the enthusiasm it has generated for football and sport across Greets Green.

West Bromwich Albion FC Community Programme is also committed to continuing its work with the local area.

UEFA Hat-Trick Officer Dave Lawrence, of West Bromwich Albion FC’s Community Programme, said: “Lots of children have benefited and the project has also helped to support schools and clubs and provide training for coaches and volunteers. There’s still lots for people to look forward to.”



## case study:

# PARTNERSHIP WINS AWARDS

Former George Salter High School pupil Jubada Akhtar was among the winners from Greets Green Partnership at a prestigious awards ceremony.

It proved a clean sweep for Greets Green Partnership when it earned Commendations for all three of its entries in the 2006 Best Practice Awards staged by regeneration organisation, Regen WM.

The awards included Jubada, who was Commended for her achievements in the 'Skills Commitment' category, after her dedication took her from trainee to Administration Support Officer at the Partnership.

She said: "Being a local resident and seeing the changes in the Greets Green area is amazing. To be working for the Partnership whilst the changes are taking place is exciting and I'm proud to be living and working here."

The Partnership's Housing and Jobs & Enterprise teams were also recognised with Commendations.

In the 'A Vision for Transformation' category, the housing partnership formed by Greets Green Partnership, Sandwell Council, Sandwell Homes and Urban Living was Commended.



David Guy, Housing Theme Leader said: "It's encouraging to have not just our work, but the work of our partners recognised."

In the 'Roses from the Ashes' category, the 'Become' Jobs & Enterprise initiative, which created employment and business opportunities, was also Commended.

Jobs & Enterprise Theme Leader, Pat Parkes said: "Greets Green is changing and the employment and business opportunities are changing with it – a true sign of regeneration."



The work of the Healthier & Safer Older Age Team was recognised in the same year with a Primary Care Trust Chrysalis Award for Best Project.

Terry Chikurunhe, Co-ordinator for Older People said: "The event showcased the best projects and our whole team was short-listed because the PCT appreciated what we're doing. It's always good to be recognised and it was a great platform to promote what we're doing."

## Lots going on...

By 2007, the Partnership had funded some 340 projects which were making real and lasting changes to local services and the lives of local people.

### These included:

- Burglary Reduction Initiative – providing free security assessments and carrying out work in residents' homes.
- SWAN One Stop Shop – a one stop shop for any issues affecting women or children, provided by Sandwell Women's Agency Network (SWAN).
- Teenage Pregnancy project – providing awareness and a support service and group for young parents.
- Active 4s, 5s and 6s – delivering a high quality, out of hours PE programme to pupils in Years 1 and 2.
- Valuing Volunteers – supporting the involvement of volunteers in Partnership activities.
- Community Alcohol project – employing a full-time worker and community champions to help address the harm alcohol abuse causes.
- Building Skills for the Community – recruiting and training young people in the building industry.

## Looking ahead

Even though the work of Greets Green Partnership was in full swing during 2004 - 2008, there was always a need to look to the future.

The foundations for the creation of a new organisation to come into being after the 10 year New Deal for Communities programme had come to an end, were already being laid.

Speaking in February 2006, Ally Allerson, Executive Director of Greets Green Partnership, explained: "Throughout the life of Greets Green Partnership it's been recognised that there's a need and a desire to leave something lasting in the neighbourhoods which can continue some of the work the Partnership programme has begun.

“ICT facilities are available all over the place. It's good that they are available for parents at schools as well.”

Greets Green Resident

“This new organisation will be called Greets Green Community Enterprises (GGCE). It won't be able to cover everything, but it will certainly continue to bring various community groups together to enable them to have a stronger voice and influence decisions about their area.

“We hope Greets Green Community Enterprises will carry on things such as helping people into jobs, creating employment opportunities and maybe managing some of its own work space.

“The main aim of the organisation will be encouraging community ownership and leadership and enabling local people to play a role in their neighbourhood.”

A Shadow Board of local residents appointed by the Partnership Board included Gurbachan Singh Dhinsa, Susan Bartleet-Cross, Fajli Bibi and Ann Coll.

The following year, the Board of GGCE agreed to offer membership status to adults living or working within the area covered by Greets Green Partnership. Members could attend Board meetings, vote on the election of directors and stand for election as a director at GGCE's first Annual General Meeting on 10th May 2007.



2008

Feb – PC Lou Carter wins West Midlands Policewoman of the Year Award

April – YMCA celebrates 120 years of service

June – The Public opens its doors for the first time

Aug – George Salter achieves 89% GCSE pass rate exceeding both Sandwell and national average

Sept – Blooming Marvellous showcase event and launch of community cookbook

Oct – Environmental improvement work gets underway in Claypit Lane

Dec – Public launch for Greets Green Young Advisors

2009





# BUSINESS AS USUAL

**Although the end of Greets Green Partnership’s 10 year programme was firmly in sight, 2009 was still an extremely busy and exciting time for all concerned.**

The year started with many well known members of staff moving on to new jobs and a team structure was put in place to ensure the successful delivery of the remainder of the programme.

With the team geared up and ready for the final 12 months, it was business as usual with many of the Partnership’s successful projects continuing to have an impact on the area.

The very popular Small Sites project continued to make positive changes across Greets Green. While work got underway on a raft of new schemes, Kingsmill Play Area in Gads Lane was reopened by the Mayor of Sandwell after being given a facelift thanks to the project.



New gateways were installed, the playing surface was improved and new signs were put up as part of the work which was given additional funding from Sandwell Council’s Parks and Countryside Management team.

The project actually marked some of the Partnership’s work coming full circle, as it had originally been installed with NDC funding in 2001 as one of its first projects to help regenerate the area.

The appearance of the area was being improved elsewhere as the Environmental Improvements schemes continued to change the look of some of the major routes through Greets Green. One of the high-impact pieces of work included the overhaul of the pavements in Dartmouth Street.

Resurfacing work also took place around Dartmouth Street Metro Station while individual residents benefitted from new boundary walls and front gates which were designed to be in keeping with the age of their properties.

Resident Trevor Farrow gave the Claypit Lane environmental improvements the thumbs up saying: “The work they’re doing at the moment is really bringing the area up. It’s looking a lot smarter.”

Homes benefitted from a range of improvements including fencing, paved driveways and off-street parking bays.

2009

Jan – Official opening of the refurbished Shree Krishna Mandir Community Hall

March – People power wins the day and the Hamblets bus service returns

April – First pull out ‘News from GGCE’ published in Greets Green Magazine

July – First Neighbourhood Forum jointly led by GGP and West Bromwich Town Team

Sept – GGCE holds first community forum meeting

Oct – former Robinson Brothers offices purchased in Charles Street

2010



## case study: **PEOPLE POWER!**

People power really won the day when it forced the Hamblett's bus to return in 2009!

Local people were dismayed when West Midlands Travel dropped the National Express West Midlands 630/1 route in the area in January 2008.

Residents and Partnership Board members decided they would not simply accept this loss. Instead, they met Centro, Ring and Ride and Community Transport to look at what could be done to bring back a service to the estate.

It was decided to carry out a survey to look at the transport needs of people in the area.

Greets Green Partnership sessional staff carried out a doorstep survey in the area, and out of 800 questionnaires distributed, they got 263 responses. They discovered that nearly all those who replied had used the 630/1.

Residents refused to give up their fight - taking the campaign to the radio, the Express & Star and to Centro meetings around the area including their Annual General Meeting! They also organised a petition.

Resident Pauline Robinson explained: "The whole estate was behind me when I gave the petition in to the Town Team."

Local MP Tom Watson and local councillors even got on board.

Following the survey, Simon Ware, Hamblett's South Greets Green Partnership Board Rep, and three local residents met with Centro to look at other possible ways of funding a bus.

But soon after, Centro announced that it was creating a 431 service, which would again cover the Hamblett's, because of the residents' campaign.

Jessica Ferguson said: "It was a real group effort. We're so pleased for the pensioners. They haven't got to walk to Claypit Lane now so it's going to make their lives a lot easier."

Olive Bedworth, from Turner Street added: "I'm over the moon. There's people who are disabled and can't walk and they need the bus. Those are the people we tried to get the bus back for."



Roads on the Hamblett's estate were also spruced up. John Gallimore from Borwick Avenue said: "They're putting down paving stones and we're getting new walls. The whole street's looking much better and once people see it's tidy, hopefully they'll keep it that way."

Other projects originally started by the Partnership continued to flourish with the team of Young Advisors picking up lots of new exciting work, including promoting the launch of an NHS pilot scheme aimed at getting young people to take control of their health.

Elsewhere, Greets Green residents were not alone in coming to terms with the global economic downturn. The recession was taking its toll across the country however help was available to residents in the guise of the extended Business Start Up project.

The scheme, which provides expert advice and funding of up to £1,500 for Greets Green residents, came back with a bang in the summer of 2009 after many people looked into starting up their own businesses after losing their jobs due to the financial crisis.

2009 was also a time to celebrate some of the wonderful work and achievements carried out by Greets Green residents.

The Partnership held its second International Women's Day event which this time had a special

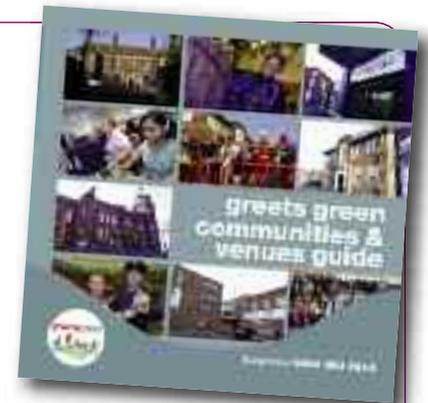


As part of its legacy work, Greets Green Partnership published a special guide to show people what the area has to offer.

The Greets Green Communities & Venues Guide has in-depth information on more than 40 different centres in the town.

It was created for anyone searching for a venue in Greets Green in which to hold an activity and to promote engagement with community groups in the area. The booklet, which was distributed across West Bromwich and beyond, also focused on community and business groups.

The guide features a handy map with grid references to make it easy for users to locate the facility they are looking for. It can be downloaded from [www.greetsgreenpartnership.org.uk](http://www.greetsgreenpartnership.org.uk)



theme. Held at West Bromwich Town Hall, the day celebrated some of the many inspirational women who live and work in Greets Green.

A souvenir booklet was produced to mark the occasion which even included a profile on Betty Boothroyd who wrote to the Partnership to voice her support of the International Women's Day event.

And the celebrations didn't stop there! In June 2009, past and present Greets Green Partnership board members were treated to a memorable day out in London as a 'thank you' for their hard work over the years. Over 60 board representatives made the trip to the capital city where they went on the London Eye and enjoyed a tour of the House of Commons.

## Changes afoot

By mid-2009, the message that Greets Green Partnership was in its last year was starting to hit home for many residents. However, work was being carried out to ensure that some of the key services offered by the Partnership would not only continue, but also thrive beyond its lifetime.

Throughout the 10 years of the programme, Greets Green Partnership's Neighbourhood

2010

Jan - GGCE moves into new premises at Waterside House in Charles Street

Jan - Greets Green Partnership's 10 year celebration event at The Public.

Jan - 'Making Greets Green Great' DVD released

Feb - Carters Green Clock Tower refurbished

Feb - Dartmouth Centre group launch new office space

Mar - Greets Green Partnership closes its doors for the final time



## case study:

# SEASIDE FUN AT WEST BROM!

It's nowhere near the coast but that proved no obstacle to local people enjoying a day on the beach in Greets Green!

Greets Green Community Enterprises (GGCE) brought a host of seaside fun to Belper Enterprise Park in July 2009 when many residents headed to the beach without having to travel far at all.

The fantastic beach party was staged by GGCE complete with plenty of sand for a sandcastle competition, donkeys, Punch and Judy, fairground rides and salsa dancing. Plus, holiday-makers could pedal round on a smoothie bike to blend fruit to make into their own smoothie drink.

GGCE even launched its very own rock saying 'Greetings from Greets Green' and the first 100 people who turned up at the beach party were given a complimentary stick.

Who says Greets Green isn't near the beach?!



## Ally Allerson

Ally Allerson joined Greets Green Partnership as Executive Director in September 2003 – and remained at the helm right to the end of programme in March 2010. She has a degree In Town Planning and prior to joining the Partnership had spent nearly 30 years working for Coventry City Council in a variety of roles including one which regenerated a shopping centre, turning it into the new focus for a disadvantaged area.

Ally has nothing but praise for the staff team, the local residents and the partner organisations she has worked with in Greets Green. "It has been the most fantastic job anyone could ask for," she said. "All our work has been about improving people's lives and encouraging local residents to get involved in their own future. I'm sure the area will continue to go from strength to strength."

Forums were not only extremely popular among residents, they also played a huge role in helping the Partnership do its job.

Via the meetings, residents were able to have their say on real issues affecting them in their neighbourhoods. By explaining this to Partnership staff and representatives of service providers such as the police, we were able to take action on behalf of the community and make a real difference.

In order to make sure the important community forums continued once the NDC project came to an end, Greet's Green Partnership linked up with the West Bromwich Neighbourhood Team.

In July 2009, the first of the jointly led neighbourhood forums was held at Lodge Road Community Centre. From that point on, the forums would take place once every three months meaning residents would still be able to speak out about the issues and problems they faced.

In addition to this, Greet's Green Partnership board member Jessica Ferguson worked tirelessly with Sandwell Homes to set up a new tenants and residents association for the area. This would prove to be another opportunity for residents to meet with service providers face to face and be able to influence what was happening in their neighbourhoods.

At the same time, efforts were made to make sure the popular annual community events run by Greet's Green Partnership were continued with the help of other organisations.

The 'Save Our Events' campaign was launched with GGCE and an expert panel consisting of different community groups and associations was formed to organise events in the future.

By making sure community forums and events were taken over by trustworthy partners, Greet's Green Partnership was working towards its legacy for the area.



# HOW TO STAY INVOLVED

## Greet's Green Community Enterprises Community Forum

Call GGCE on  
0121 525 2662

## Sandwell Tenants and Residents Association

Call Sandwell Homes  
on 0121 569 6000

## Neighbourhood Forums

Call 0121 569 4635  
or 0121 569 4640

## Police Surgeries

Call West Bromwich  
Police Station on  
0845 113 5000



# THE FUTURE

**One of the most important things to everyone at Greets Green Partnership is that the transformation of the area doesn't grind to halt once the programme comes to an end in 2010.**

The NDC programme has had a huge impact on Greets Green across a number of different areas of work. However, it was always acknowledged that there needed to be a long term plan to the regeneration of the area.

To ensure that Greets Green continued to improve as an area for people to live in beyond 2010, the Partnership developed what it called its 'succession strategy'. This plan set up different ways of making sure key parts of Greets Green Partnership's work will be carried on for many years to come.

## Passing on the torch

Although lots has been achieved during the past 10 years, it's not always been possible for the Partnership to complete all of its desired work. An obvious example of this is with plans to develop new housing in the area. The Greets Green Housing Plan was put in place to oversee new affordable properties built on the clearance sites. Hopes that building work would start in the final few years of the programme were dashed by the credit crunch which saw a significant slowdown in construction across the country.

However, thanks to the Partnership's succession strategy, plans were already in place to make sure the work will get underway once the housing market picks up again. By teaming up with Sandwell Council and other partners (including a community representative), a development panel was put in place to ensure new homes are built as soon as possible as envisaged by Greets Green Partnership.

This example of working with other organisations to carry on the Partnership's work, or

mainstreaming as it is known, is a vital aspect of the succession strategy. During the 10 years, many successful projects have been taken over by other organisations, and the final year of the programme was no exception with examples of mainstreaming taking place across all areas of work:

**Crime & Community Safety:** Funding for the dedicated Greets Green Crime Fighting Police Team was taken over by West Midlands Police.

**Health:** Aspects of the Partnership's Healthy Minds project were picked up by a number of partners including Sandwell PCT, SWAN and the West Bromwich & District YMCA.

**Community Services:** Neighbourhood Forums were picked up by the West Bromwich Town Team.

**Housing & Urban Form:** A development panel was formed to oversee future housing developments in Greets Green.

**Jobs & Skills:** Elements of the Partnership's Business Support project were picked up by Sandwell Council.

In March 2009, the Partnership launched its succession strategy with an event at The Public and received more than 150 written pledges from organisations vowing to carry on different parts of its work, proving a dedication to the continued regeneration of Greets Green.

Meanwhile another organisation was getting involved with the work going on in Greets Green. Sandwell Partnership is in charge of overseeing the transformation of the entire borough up until

## case study:

# GGCE PORTFOLIO EXPANDS

“We’re ready for the challenge ahead!” That was the message from Greets Green Community Enterprises (GGCE) at the beginning of 2010 as the end of the Partnership grew ever nearer.

Following its launch, the successor organisation grew very quickly, rapidly expanding its portfolio of premises so that all the profits made could be ploughed straight back into the community.

By 2010, the organisation’s portfolio comprised:



### Wood Lane Community Centre

GGCE owns and manages the centre. The ground floor is a popular meeting space for community groups, while the first floor is used as office accommodation. Further refurbishment work has recently been completed.



### Belper Enterprise Park

This was GGCE’s second major purchase at a cost of £500,000. It comprises nine offices and starter units of varying sizes which are rented by locally-run businesses including a motor repair garage, TOPPS Training, a taxi firm and a building services firm.



### Charles Street Business Park

Following the success of Belper, GGCE purchased the freehold on units 1-5 at the Business Park on Charles Street, from which a range of local businesses are run, including GGCE’s own computer repair company.



### Waterside House

Towards the end of 2009, GGCE purchased the former Robinson Brothers offices in Charles Street. Plans are in place to transform it into workspace for 42 businesses, with the aim of attracting new businesses to West Bromwich.

2021 and was taking on board lessons learned from the NDC programme and making sure the long-term aims of Greets Green Partnership became part of local policy.

With lots of work being done to make sure the Partnership's strategic work was in good hands, efforts were also being made to give residents a voice in the community once the NDC programme came to an end.

## Our legacy body

As mentioned earlier, in 2006 the Partnership set up Greets Green Community Enterprises (GGCE) as its legacy body. The main aim of establishing GGCE was to leave behind a sustainable organisation which would not only provide services and facilities for residents, but also give a voice to the local community.

To help GGCE get off the ground, Greets Green Partnership provided it with significant funds which would be spent on assets such as office premises and new business opportunities. The money was provided by the Partnership on the understanding that a significant part of the money raised from GGCE's various enterprises would be reinvested into the local community.

Throughout 2009, GGCE really started to gather momentum. After establishing its official head quarters at Belper Enterprise Park in Greets Green Road, further business opportunities were created after GGCE snapped up more industrial units in Charles Street. A new logo for the organisation was also launched to help raise GGCE's profile and support its work.

New members of staff joined the GGCE team including a business development executive and a community development officer. As a result of these appointments, a number of innovative businesses were set up by GGCE including a computer recycling service and a mobile children's play bus.

As well as running the popular Wood Lane Community Centre, GGCE branched out into other areas of work which included taking over the running of the Greets Green Young Advisors and hiring out a new computer suite.

The start of 2010 saw GGCE move into new premises at Waterside House in Charles Street. The organisation purchased the former Robinson Brothers offices through Partnership funding and put in a planning application to transform it to host up to 42 businesses and workspaces.

The years of work put into setting up GGCE, helping it establish a strong base in the community and developing its identity will go a long way to securing a sustainable organisation which will support residents after Greets Green Partnership's lifespan.

GGCE, coupled with the 'mainstreaming' of the Partnership's work, means the future is bright for the residents of Greets Green.

The message is clear – the regeneration of Greets Green didn't simply start in 2000 and finish 10 years later. It will carry on for many years to come and continue to make Greets Green a vibrant and prosperous place to live.

## Greets Green online



An archive site detailing 10 years of achievement in Greets Green. Features include an interactive map of the area and a photo gallery – see if you recognise yourself or any of your neighbours.

Back copies of magazines, annual reviews, case studies and more will be available to view online or download. Make sure you take a look.

[www.greetsgreenpartnership.org.uk](http://www.greetsgreenpartnership.org.uk)





# PROJECTS SUMMARY

During its lifetime, Greets Green Partnership funded almost 450 innovative projects which made real and lasting changes to local people and local services.

The projects covered the six Partnership theme areas of:

- Community Empowerment
- Crime & Community Safety
- Education & Lifelong Learning
- Health
- Housing & Urban Form
- Jobs & Enterprise

Each project was run by professionals and managed by a Greets Green Partnership Theme Leader. And their aim was clear – to improve the quality of life for local people.

## Community Empowerment

“This is at the heart of the Partnership. Our aim is to give everyone in Greets Green the opportunity, skills and confidence to influence our decision making and provide the foundations for lasting change in the area.”

Community Empowerment projects aimed to bring people from different backgrounds together to develop a community with real spirit in which everyone could play a part. Projects included...

### Community Empowerment/ Services Team

Employed a team of workers to engage with local people and hear their views through initiatives such as the weekly ‘Down Your Street’ surgeries, the monthly Neighbourhood Forums and ‘Have Your Say’ project sessions. The team also organised events, led on the diversity agenda and worked with community groups and voluntary organisations to assist their development and sustainability.

### Small Sites Improvements

Funded over 60 small scale environmental and community safety improvements specifically requested by residents via the monthly Neighbourhood Forums.

### Time 2 Trade

A unique approach to community development in which local people used their skills to help others, and in turn benefited from help themselves. The project was so effective that when Partnership funding finished in March 2008, the full costs were taken on by Sandwell PCT.





## Empowering the Pakistani Community

Funded a feasibility study to identify the services needed by the Pakistani community. A Men's and a Women's Development Worker were then employed to work with local residents, develop a base within the community and to help shape services to meet their needs.

## Greets Green Community Fund

Provided small grants to assist local community groups, awarded by a panel of local residents. In 2001, more than 300 small grants were awarded. Re-launched in 2005 when hundreds more groups applied. There are now more than 50 active community groups and organisations in the Greets Green area.

## Empowering the African Caribbean Community

Employed a Development Worker dedicated to working with the African Caribbean community. Established a steering group who worked alongside the Centre Point group to assist them in offering a wide range of social activities.

## Valuing Volunteers

Supported the involvement of local residents in Partnership activities, including training and transport. Led by a member of staff who helped volunteers to become more able to make their voices heard.

## Greets Green Magazine

Throughout the life of the Partnership, the Greets Green Magazine was produced bi-monthly, sharing news of the work of the Partnership with all residents. Feedback on the magazine was consistently good with many residents saying how much they looked forward to its arrival through their letterboxes.

## Krishna Community Forum

Funded major refurbishment of the community facility on Old Meeting Street and employed a Development Worker to run activities and work with groups. Today, the community venue is a popular meeting place.

## A Brighter Future for the Bangladeshi Community

Employed a Development Worker to work with the Bangladeshi community through the Confederation of Bangladeshi Organisations (CBO) to build residents' skills and confidence and make them aware of the opportunities in Greets Green.

## Greets Green Youth Forum

Through this project a high profile Youth Forum was created which gave a real voice to local young people. The forum became involved in decision making at all levels in Greets Green, and had a representative on the Partnership Board. Over the years, many youngsters built their confidence, had their say on a wide range of issues and had a great time in the process.

## Cleaner Environment Team

Employed a dedicated and multi-skilled team of four workers to provide services including litter picking, graffiti removal and tackling fly-tipping. This led to the Safer & Cleaner Charter, establishing standards of service delivery in Greets Green.

## Greets Green Community Enterprises (GGCE)

Funded the development of GGCE, which was set up to carry on some aspects of the Partnership's work.

Many other Community Empowerment projects also received Partnership funding including:

- Wood Lane Community Centre
- Lodge Road Community Centre
- The Guru Nanak Community Centre
- The Yemeni Community Association / Greets Green Access Centre
- West Bromwich & District YMCA
- The Masonic Hall
- Greets Green Events
- Minibus for Ryders Green Day Care Centre

# Crime & Community Safety

“Our aim is to reduce crime and the fear of crime in Greets Green and create a safe, secure environment by working in partnership with the Police and introducing physical improvements to discourage crime and anti-social behaviour.”

Crime & Community Safety projects tackled the issues in the community which were close to people's hearts – crime, the fear of crime and how to feel safer. They included...

## Crime Fighting Team

Funded a Crime Fighting Team specifically dedicated to cutting crime in Greets Green. The team was led by a sergeant with 10 Police Officers. Three additional Police vehicles, featuring the Partnership's logo, were also funded so that the team could maintain a high profile presence. As a result, the number of recorded crimes in Greets Green dropped year on year.

## Sandwell Women's Agency Network (SWAN)

Partnership funding for five years until March 2008 enabled SWAN to get off the ground and become an established charity, and the organisation is still going strong today. It offers advice and support on issues ranging from domestic violence and abuse to sexual health, teenage pregnancy, parenting, older age and eating well.

## DECCA: A Drugs Peer Education Programme for Greets Green

A wide reaching programme of drugs awareness. Local young people were trained as paid community champions and raised awareness of the dangers of drugs among their peers.

## Alleygating project

Funded the installation of 71 gates at the end of alleys where crime and anti-social behaviour was occurring. The alleys had been used by burglars, people trying to escape from the Police, youths gathering, and people dumping rubbish. Now only residents can access them.

## Police Radio Alarms

Funded 10 Police radio alarms to help support victims of domestic violence in their homes.

## Drugs in the Community DVD

An educational drugs DVD which looked at local issues and featured the views of local young people and adults. A copy of the DVD was distributed with the April/May 2008 issue of the Greets Green Magazine to all households.

## Burglary Reduction Initiative

Residents were visited in their homes and free door and window locks, and other security measures were fitted where required in a bid to cut burglaries.

## Albion Business Forum CCTV

Funded a new CCTV system and staffed control centre, which was installed in 2007.

## Community Alcohol project

Employed a full-time worker and three community champions to help address the harm alcohol abuse causes in the Greets Green area.

## Greets Green Street Lighting

By March 2009, every single street in the Partnership area had benefited from new, brighter street lights. In total over 830 new street lights were installed.



Many other Crime & Community Safety projects also received Partnership funding including:

- High Quality Safe Environment Fund
- Greets Green Home Protection Scheme
- Neighbourhood Safety Partnership
- Police Patrol Strategy for Greets Green
- St Michael's Court Security Improvements
- Neighbourhood Wardens

# Health

**“Our aim is to improve the health, well-being and quality of life of Greets Green residents through the integration of health and social care services that are flexible and responsive to the diverse needs of the community.”**

Health projects were designed to raise the general health of people across Greets Green and to enable residents to learn to lead healthier lifestyles. They included...

## Child Home Safety project

As statistics showed a high attendance of Greets Green children at accident and emergency departments following accidents in the home, Greets Green Partnership, OSCAR and Sandwell PCT decided to join forces in 2003 to launch the one year pilot Child Home Safety project.

The project offered free home safety equipment, such as stair gates and fireguards, to all residents with children under five in Greets Green. Its success led to the Partnership funding it for a further three years.



## Greets Green Teenage Pregnancy project

Through Partnership funding, the project was set up in 2006 by Sandwell Young People's Services in partnership with Sandwell PCT. Its aim was to tackle teenage pregnancy through sex and relationships education, contraceptive services and support services for local expectant teenagers and young parents.

A Teenage Pregnancy Development Worker was employed through the Youth Service and a weekly young parents' group was created which attracted more than 100 people.

## Place 2 Place

Funded by the Partnership for three years from 2006 – 2009, the project was delivered by Murray Hall Community Trust with the aim of supporting approximately 150 Greets Green pupils each year who were moving from primary to secondary

school. Workshops and summer activities enabled the youngsters to raise their confidence and communication skills, and meet new friends, so they could adjust quickly to their new school.

## Involving Parents and Communities

Employed Community Involvement Workers to help engage and involve local parents in the new Greets Green Children's Centre, promoting services and developing activities based on local needs.

## Fit for Life project

In 2005 the Partnership sponsored George Salter Collegiate Academy to develop Fit for Life, which was later rolled out to primary schools too.

Its aim was to address the low activity levels and inadequate diets that contribute to the high incidence of obesity and poor health in young people. Activities were introduced focusing on healthy lifestyles, sport, physical activity and food technology, involving pupils, parents, teachers and local communities.

## Healthy Minds Programme

This project was launched to improve support in the community for vulnerable people with mental health needs, reduce depression and raise awareness of mental ill-health. A range of organisations were brought together to create a co-ordinated community-based outreach programme to support individuals and groups in the community.

## Greets Green Children's Centre

The Partnership, along with Sandwell Council's Children's Services and Sandwell PCT, provided funding to build and run Greets Green Children's Centre, a purpose-built community facility which opened in 2006.

Situated in the grounds of Ryders Green Primary School, the centre provides a wide range of services for families with children aged 0 to 5 including advice on benefits



and housing, Stay and Play and Early Years Services, baby clinics, maternity support, family support and opportunities for training and volunteering. There's also a day nursery managed by the YMCA.

## Social Swimmers

Research showed that many local women wanted to learn to swim but would never go to a community swimming pool. The Partnership funded a programme of 10 women-only sessions at Tipton Swimming Pool in 2005 to give them confidence without feeling uncomfortable. Due to the project's popularity Sandwell PCT provided further funds to carry it on. Over 70 women from a range of different backgrounds took part.

## New Deal For Healthier Food in Greets Green

In 2002, a food mapping study was undertaken to look at the eating habits of local people. Following this, a Community Food Worker was appointed to work with local retailers and caterers to encourage them to provide healthier choices.

A network of Food Interest Groups (FIGs) was also set up where many people learnt about healthier cooking and eating.

## Care at the Chemist

As doctors' surgeries are often very busy, this scheme offered an alternative for people with minor ailments. Rather than waiting to see their GP, they could choose to have a consultation from their local pharmacist. Four local pharmacies joined the scheme which proved extremely popular with people of all ages.

## Health Assessment Training

Health assessments proved a big hit in Greets Green with residents learning how to develop healthier lifestyles and enjoy longer, fuller lives. Due to their success, this project enabled local people to learn to become health assessors

themselves so they could conduct assessments within their own community.

## Street Games

A common complaint from local youngsters was that there's nothing to do in Greets Green. This project took a physical activity programme out to the community to engage youngsters through sport. Neighbourhood Wardens and Neighbourhood Support Workers identified 'hot spots' within the community and the team headed out to run the sessions.

## Green Gyms

Many people got fitter while enjoying their favourite pastime through the Green Gyms project. A dedicated worker trained 'community leaders' to run Green Gym sessions where residents could do some gardening, plant a hedge or lay garden slabs, for example, to improve the community and benefit from the physical activity involved.

## Active Lifestyles project

Launched in July 2006, the project was funded to July 2009 when it was mainstreamed by Sandwell Primary Care Trust. Its aim was to encourage residents to take the active choice and enjoy physical activity. Local people were trained as 'community champions' to promote and run the activities which included tea dances, children's holiday activity programmes, ladies only sports and 50+ sessions.



Many other Health projects also received Partnership funding including...

- Hat-trick Community Football
- Yemeni Women's Luncheon Club
- Healthy Schools
- Self Help Management for Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia
- Active 4s, 5s and 6s
- Healthy Hearts
- YMCA Healthy Living Centre
- Minor Ailments Training

# Housing & Urban Form

**“Our aim is to create a high quality environment in Greets Green with housing to be proud of – fit and affordable for 21st century living.”**

Housing projects completely transformed Greets Green, making major improvements to streets throughout the area and paving the way for major new development in the future. They included...

## Housing Plan Delivery Team

Employed a team of workers to keep local people fully in the picture about the physical changes taking place in the area, and to work with partner organisations including Sandwell Council, Urban Living and Sandwell Homes to deliver all aspects of the Greets Green Housing Plan.

## Environmental Improvements

Funded major enhancements to streets across Greets Green in consultation with residents. Included Swan Village and Bridge Street, Dartmouth Street, Wood Lane, Bromford Lane and Claypit Lane, plus some of the smaller roads on the Hamblett's estate



## Critical Friends

Employed 'critical friends' to provide independent support and advice for residents affected by the clearance programme.

## Home Maintenance project

This very popular project provided completely free practical advice, support and training in DIY to local residents. Once someone had completed a DIY course, they were encouraged to try out their skills in their own home and to teach their family, friends and neighbours.

## Caroline Street Allotments

The allotments, completed in 2005, brought a fantastic community resource to Greets Green. Funded by the Partnership and Sandwell Council, the project saw consultation with the whole community to see if allotments were required. People who wanted to develop gardening skills,



study wildlife, grow vegetables, and carry out cookery demonstrations, all showed interest and the site at Caroline Street was transformed for all.

## Sustainable Warmth project

Supported owner occupiers who met certain criteria with free central heating, solar water panels and insulation. 120 homes benefited from new central heating, 59 had new insulation and 58 had solar panels.

## Community Alarms

Nearly 200 people in Greets Green were helped to feel more secure in their homes thanks to this project. In 2007, the Partnership invested in an existing scheme which offered support to vulnerable residents of all ages by linking them to a 24-hour control centre. This enabled the scheme to be offered to Greets Green residents at a much cheaper cost. If residents had a fall, were unwell or needed help, they simply pressed a button on a pendant at any time of the day or night to call for assistance.

Many other Housing & Urban Form projects also received Partnership funding including:

- Relocation Support
- Healthy Homes project
- Greets Green Park Masterplan
- Hamblett's Road Lifestyle Apartments Development
- Decent Homes Through Energy Efficiency
- My Home, My Choice
- Landlord Accreditation Scheme

# Jobs & Enterprise

**“We are supporting local businesses to create a thriving business community and jobs for local people. By 2010 we want Greets Green to be a place where people choose to live and work.”**

Jobs & Enterprise projects led to the lives of local residents being completely turned around by building people's skills and offering new opportunities for employment. They included...

## Business Grants

Supported new and existing businesses by providing a dedicated, proactive business adviser and access to small grants. More than 100 new businesses were set up.

## Greets Green Young Advisors

Recruited a team of Young Advisors, aged 16-20, to provide expert advice to organisations on how to communicate better with young people. Now managed by Greets Green Community Enterprises.



## BECOME project

A wide-reaching project designed to help local residents back into work and meet their aspirations in terms of improving their prospects, skills and income. In 2006, its success was recognised in the Regen WM Awards.

## Maximising Household Incomes

Aimed to increase the low incomes of Greets Green residents ensuring entitlements were being claimed and offering debt advice. Advice surgeries were held at various community venues where residents could drop in for free impartial advice and home visits were arranged where required.

## Building Skills for the Community

To bridge the gap between college courses and employment, this project was introduced in 2005



to combine college training with work experience. As a result participants gained qualifications in the construction trade and over 30 went into work. The project also established TOPPS as a management organisation.

## Business Improvement District

Supported the setting up of the first Business Improvement District (BID) involving an industrial area, in the country.

80 firms each paid an extra contribution on their rates to fund additional services and improvements, such as the installation of a new CCTV system and a staffed control centre in 2007. Crime in the area dropped as a result and the BID area is getting regular requests to expand to allow more businesses to join and benefit.

Many other Jobs & Enterprise projects also received Partnership funding including...

- Sandwell Advice and Money Link
- 6 Towns Credit Union
- Greets Green Business Directory
- White Goods Recycling Programme
- Chamber of Commerce Membership
- Job Brokerage Programme
- Shaftesbury Casino Recruitment & Training project
- Creative Learning in the Steel Industry
- Disability Access Awareness
- Business Acumen project
- Door Supervisors Course

# Education & Lifelong Learning

**“These have a key role to play in regenerating communities. We are committed to encouraging aspiration, raising achievement and improving the life chances for everyone in Greets Green.”**

Education & Lifelong Learning projects were designed to show local people that you're never too young or too old to learn. They provided opportunities for learning right the way through life. They included...

## George Salter Collegiate Academy

£½ million funding to help transform the school by installing all the ICT systems needed and developing a variety of initiatives, including funding Pastoral Managers. In 2003 the school was performing poorly but within 12 months of the funding and support from the Partnership, the School's GCSE results had risen from a 15% pass rate to 24%. By 2006 they had reached 62%, putting the school second highest in the borough. In 2007, it became George Salter Collegiate Academy.

## Shireland Language College/George Salter Partnership

This was part of a national initiative targeted at secondary schools and involved creating a federation between a successful school (Shireland Language College) and a school experiencing problems (George Salter High School). It harnessed the expertise and experience that had brought about success at Shireland to improve performance at George Salter.



## Greets Green Community Learning Network

The first drop-in information and communications technology (ICT) centres were opened in early 2004 and soon a whole network of centres was developed. Based in schools and community centres, they worked together to provide e-learning to all pupils and communities in Greets Green.

## Guns Village Primary School

In September 2005 the amalgamated Guns Village Primary School opened its doors, bringing together a junior and infant school on one site in Hanbury Road, creating a lively state of the art school for the whole community. As part of the Community Access Point project a new community room was added to the school, which would be used for out of hours activities.

## Workwise

This project worked with local pupils to help them develop the skills and experience they need in the workplace. It strengthened the partnership between schools, business and community organisations to broaden young people's horizons, increase their employability skills and ensure positive destinations post 16.

## Vocal Skills

Launched in 2004, this project involved more than 300 pupils from all five primary schools in Greets Green. It used creative arts to raise motivation and standards.

## Adult & Community Learning project

Launched in 2005, the project saw more than 2,800 people take part. A total of 1,451 qualifications were gained through the project running courses on everything from literacy and numeracy, IT and football coaching, to first aid and dressmaking. Activities were held at local community venues to encourage people back into learning.

### Employability Award

The Employability Award course was designed specifically for local NEETs – those Not in Education, Employment or Training. The Partnership identified several young people who would benefit from such a course which was delivered in June 2008 by St Albans Community Association.



### Looked After Children in Education (LACE)

Greets Green children in care and children from outside the area living in foster homes in Greets Green, were given opportunities to do better in their education through the LACE project. The Partnership funded 11 laptops which were loaned to Year 10 and 11 pupils to help them with their GCSE work, plus basic resources including pens, reading and exercise books for more than 20 children.

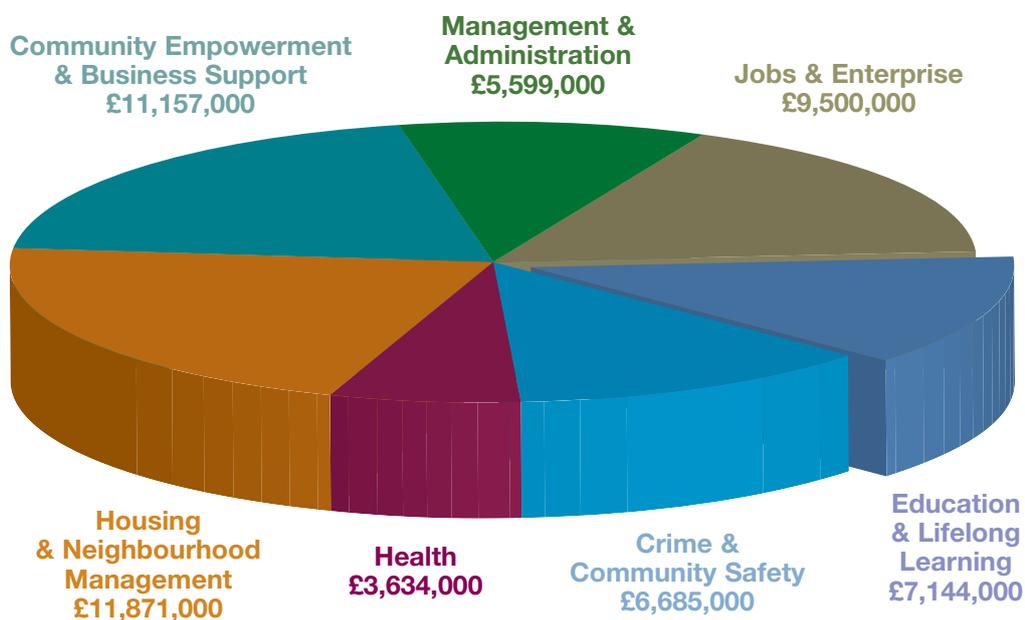
### Library Explorers

All children aged seven to nine were encouraged to bring their family members into the library by becoming a Library Explorer. The youngsters took part in a range of fun activities at the library, gaining points and receiving gifts to inspire them to continue reading. Their families received information on the range of learning opportunities available in Greets Green.

Many other Education & Lifelong Learning projects also received Partnership funding including...

- Community Access Points
- Passport to Learning
- Family Learning and Home Schools Links at Lodge Primary
- Polish Support project

## NDC Programme Expenditure





# SOME FAMILIAR FACES

**The success of the Partnership has been down to all the people who've been involved over the years in transforming the Greets Green area. Here we catch up with a few of the Board Representatives and staff members as they share their memories of Greets Green Partnership.**

## Resident Board Representatives

Ahmed Alkash, Amandeep Bahat, Poli Begum, Fajli Bibi, Debbie Botfield, James Bowen, Anam Choudhury, Ann Coll, Gurbachan Singh Dhinsa MBE, Bev Dudley, Graham Fellows, Jessica Ferguson, Paul Green, Keith Handley, Minah Hoque, Mohammed Hoque, Kerry Houldey, Sharon Howard, James Howley, Munir Hussain, Pam Jackson, Roy Jackson, Abdul Kahar, Sandeep Kaur, Amraj Khan, Rofika Khatun, Elaine Knowles, Maureen Lambert, Wendy Letts, Joyce Mann, Rohim Mohammed, Nasr Muflihi, Ragih Muflihi, Arawan Muflihi, Ali Al Osaimi, Latif Osman, Kam Panesar, Jayesh Patel, Madhu Patel, Mohanlal Patel, Reena Patel, Smita Patel, Sean Perry, Mandy Preston, Steven Pye, Peter Reeves, Sal Saeed, Ahmed Salem, Abdul Samid, Paul Sandars, Janet Sayce, Stan Simms, Laurie Spencer, Natasha Woolliscroft, Frederick Wright and Sher Zaman.

## Staff Team

Jubada Akhtar, Aftab Ali, Jay Alexander, Ally Allerson, Abdul Alkash, Hannah Alkash, Saifa Alkash, Jubada Arif, Paul Arrowsmith, Surrinder Bains, Shabena Begum, Ged Bowles, S Briscoe, Lorraine Bryson, Navida Bukhari, Simon Buttery, H Chaddock, Anam Choudhury, Dean Collins, Trevor Cooper, Roger Cunningham, Sam Downes, Winnie Edwards, A Evans, J Evans, Barbara Everson, Andrew Falconer, Nadia Farhat, Allison Franks, Cheryl Flynn, Dorothy Gardner, M Grewal, Helen Grogan, David Guy, Joseph Hall, Phil Hartley, Dawn Harper, Katherine Hewitt, Tara Hickman, Wendy Howells, S Hoque, Christine Jeffreys, Ian Jennings, Kevin Jennings, Stinder Johl, Adam Jones, Gursharan Kaur, Imran Khan, Abdul Monim Khan, Herdip Khangura, Jubada Khatun, Oliver Langford, Stephen Lees, Bob Lloyd, Kully Ludhar, Jill Manley, Jodie Martin, Kate Massey, Brian McKinstrie, Avril McKoy, Delors Medina, Maxine Millward, Faiza Mirza, Rohit Mistry, Alex Monk, Marianne Monro, Micho Moyo, Ruphsana Nahar-Qayyum, Diane O'Driscoll, Jackie Owen, John Paddock, Rekha Pal, Pat Parkes, Hasmita Parmar, Smita Patel, Harshad Patel, Emma Pritchard, Gemma Rock, Gurdeep Sagri, Sally Sandel, Pat Shermer, Michelle Stephenson, S Stocking, Laura Stratford-Madeley, Dawn Tingle, Tara Thomas, Joanne Toft, A Turner, Simon Ware, Sam Watts, Sonia Williams, Isabel Williams, Richard Wyatt and Georgina Wythes.

*Sincere apologies to anyone not included in the above lists – there are just too many of you to mention. But we'd like to thank everyone, including our Professional Board Reps, who has helped play a part in making the past 10 years such a great success!*

# ANAM CHOUDHURY

**It's fair to say that the Partnership has played a significant role in shaping the life of resident and former Partnership staff member Anam Choudhury.**

Now in charge of his own regeneration agency, Anam has come a long way since playing a crucial role helping set up Greets Green Partnership.

In 1999, he was part of a team of Outreach Workers who spent time in the community connecting with residents and helping put together a clear vision and strategy for the Partnership.

He went on to lead the Partnership's youth work before leaving in 2001 to work more closely with the Bangladeshi community.

Before long, Anam was back at the Partnership, this time as a board member between 2002 and 2005. As a result of his hard work in local regeneration, Anam was awarded a scholarship by Birmingham University to study urban regeneration and public policy.

Anam has also worked for the Bangladeshi and Islamic Centre in Smethwick and is now the CEO of the Urban Relief Partnership, an international regeneration agency working here and in Bangladesh.

So what does he think are the key successes of Greets Green Partnership?

"I believe it achieved three main things," he said. "Firstly, it has been able to deliver a cohesive programme of work which has engaged everybody.

"Secondly, it promoted itself very well with local residents. This enabled the community by giving them the tools necessary to improve their quality of life. And finally, it has transformed lives. If you put a value on that it would be extremely significant."



# AVRIL McKOY

**Back in 1999, a number of enthusiastic Greets Green Partnership staff members had the daunting task of letting the community know about the New Deal for Communities programme which was soon to have a huge impact on their lives.**



As an Outreach Worker, Avril McKoy said she was looking forward to the challenge, but it wasn't always plain sailing.

"As we were one of the pilot NDC teams, we were the first to do it and there was a lot of scepticism out there," she said. "We used lots of different ways to engage with residents such as establishing the first community representatives, and held community forums.

"I remember how we hired a mini bus and went around the area with a loud speaker – letting people know about Greets Green Partnership. It was fun."

Once the Partnership was up and running, she continued to engage with the community. "I was given £40,000 for the Festival Fund and different community groups could bid for money to hold their own events," she says. "It really developed

community participation." Avril is now working as a Learning Mentor at a Moseley school and studying for a degree in social work. So what are her thoughts about the work of Greets Green Partnership?

"It's been an innovative programme – and that was needed," she said. "It was meant to be community-led to empower residents. We did as much as we could. But once you give people the tools, it's down to them.

"Back then, people's homes and immediate streets were all they were concerned about. There's definitely more community cohesion now.

"I loved working for the Partnership, but what we have to remember is that Greets Green Partnership was not about us, it was about the people living here. I hope they got everything they wanted out of it."

# BEV DUDLEY

**Local resident, Bev Dudley had always cared about the community she lived in. Before Greets Green Partnership was formed, she was Vice-Chair of the Oak House Tenants' and Residents' Association and it was in this role she first heard about the Government's NDC initiative.**

"Local agencies would come to the tenants' association looking for feedback on what the New Deal money could or should be spent on," she said. "It allowed us as residents to say what was wanted. Once the Partnership was set up it gave a real voice to the residents."



A few years into the Partnership, Bev became the Neighbourhood Rep for Oak House, a position she held for 18 months.

"It was hard work and a real commitment, especially when you're doing a regular job as well," Bev said.

"You managed to get lots of little things done, but they meant a lot to people.

Things like lockable gates being installed or an increase in the number of Police Officers in the area were really important and made a big difference."

Bev's time as a Board Rep came to an end when a change of job meant she was unable to fulfil all of her Partnership responsibilities. But the work of the Partnership has left a lasting impression on her.

"Generally the work of the Partnership has been very positive," she says. "What it's shown is that when people have more of a say about their neighbourhoods, they want to do more to look after them.

"People need to take more pride in their area for a chance of real change."

# ELAINE KNOWLES

**As one of the co-founders of Sandwell Women's Agency Network (SWAN), Elaine Knowles is well known within the local community. The organisation works tirelessly to provide support to people in need, however, its roots can be traced back to Elaine's involvement with Greets Green Partnership.**

As a resident, she was elected as one of the Partnership's Board Reps in 2002.

"It was very rewarding to be able to help people who had problems," she said. "The role gave normal people a voice. I remember there was a lady who was being harassed by some kids. I was happy to be able to solve that problem. It's nice to know you've made a difference."

It was as a Neighbourhood Rep that she saw members of the community coming forward with ideas for projects.

"I was working in the voluntary community sector at the time with Susan Morgan and we thought it would be a brilliant idea to set up a group to offer support to women suffering from domestic violence," Elaine explains. "We took that idea to the Partnership. Unfortunately, to set up SWAN,

I had to resign from my post as a Board Rep due to a conflict of interest, but the Partnership was brilliant with its support.

"Thanks to the Partnership, SWAN had strong foundations and that's why it's carried on for so long. Over the years SWAN has really changed. There was a gap in support for vulnerable adults so we now do a lot more than just domestic abuse."

And her thoughts on Greets Green Partnership?

"It's achieved an awful lot. It's not just about services, but physical differences as well. We've had new street lights, new walls, it's safer and the quality of life has improved. As someone who both lives and works in Greets Green, I can really see the difference."



# JAN ROWLEY

**Shortly after it was first launched in 2000, Greets Green Partnership was under the leadership of Executive Director Jan Rowley.**

Now the Assistant Executive Director for Environment at Liverpool City Council, Jan held the role at the Partnership for three years, during which time she helped sow the seeds of its future success.

Although residents will always remember Greets Green Partnership being based at Court House in the High Street, Jan recalled how they weren't originally situated in Greets Green!

"Originally we were based in Oldbury," she said. "This was very frustrating but we moved into West Bromwich in January 2001. The whole office was open and inviting and it was all very much a team effort."

"In the first four to five months I was there, it was about more than just delivering a programme. We were constructing a strong team as well."

Jan said she uses many of the positive experiences at Greets Green Partnership in her role today.

"For me, the greatest achievement was the degree of informality which enabled residents and partners to work together," she says. "Getting them to have their say and move the programme forward was incredibly pleasing."

"I'm not saying we didn't have our ups and downs and little squabbles, but thanks to everyone's hard work and the great chairmanship of Geoff Fisher, we did a great job."

"I still visit the area and am immensely proud of what has been achieved. There are many projects breathing new life into the area and I really get a sense of achievement when I come back. I was very sad to leave Greets Green and had my happiest working days here."

"I have never regretted leaving for my new job but I left my heart in Greets Green, and I absolutely mean that."



# SALEH SAEED

**One of the Partnership's many successes is the work it has carried out in supporting the diverse communities which make Greets Green such a vibrant place to live.**



The evolution of the Yemeni community during the past 10 years is testament to this, and no one is better placed to comment than former Community Rep Saleh Saeed.

He was involved in putting together the original NDC bid which involved consultation with the community, getting people on board and identifying the key issues which needed to be tackled.

"I'm particularly pleased with the work Greets Green Partnership has done with the Yemeni Community Association (YCA)," he said.

"It was just a small organisation when it started and its growth has come from the support of the Partnership."

"I liked the way the Yemeni Community Association was branded as the Greets Green

Access Centre which is used by lots of different groups. The Partnership has done a lot of good work supporting community cohesion."

Saleh said his role involved working with people from all walks of life, not just the Yemeni community.

"I like to think I was a representative for all communities as what benefitted one group would benefit all. We were all in the same boat, working together to improve education and other issues to help everyone."

"A lot was done to bring the Community Reps together around a table to discuss important issues. This work really helped to remove barriers and didn't cost anything. No funding was required to get representatives from different ethnic groups talking and realising the issues they had in common."

# MARIANNE MONRO



**No-one has overseen the transformation of Greets Green more than Marianne Monro. For the best part of a decade, Marianne has undertaken various roles at the Partnership, becoming well known and well liked throughout the community.**

Marianne was seconded from her role at Sandwell Council before the Partnership was even launched.

“There was just myself and Sushma Soni initially,” she said. “We didn’t know if we’d get the NDC money but needed to find out about the area. I was excited because it was a diverse area to work in and we were starting a brand new thing which was great for the community.”

Marianne oversaw the appointment of Outreach Workers and Community Reps, and instigated the Community Chest Fund which provided funding for projects proposed by local people. She was also involved with an initiative aimed at supporting residents financially.

Marianne explains: “A lot of people out there couldn’t access banks so we set up a project to help them. This resulted in the creation of the Greets Green Credit Union, which Sandwell Council adopted and made borough-wide.”

Marianne went on to work for the Partnership’s housing programme which also enjoyed groundbreaking success.

Its innovative approach to community consultation when dealing with the clearance of homes in Greets Green changed the way Sandwell Council dealt with subsequent projects. Given the highly emotive nature of the work taking place, Partnership staff including Marianne took time to talk to all residents in detail and supported them and responded to their needs.

After working for the Partnership for such a long time, Marianne says she was sad to leave, but felt she’d played an important role in its success.

“A lot of time, energy and resources went into the Partnership and resident involvement was very important,” she says. “They’ve had a say in many key decisions. It has raised aspirations. It was the best time in my working life. I spent the best part of 10 years at Greets Green Partnership and was in the lucky position to see it all develop.”

# ROY JACKSON

**Roy has always been actively involved with the community in the Greets Green area.**

Having helped run Swan Village Action Group, Roy also spent time working as a Board Rep for Greets Green Partnership. Over the past 10 years, he said he’s seen some significant changes which have taken place as a result of the Partnership programme.

“The area was dilapidated,” he said. “It needed more than just the money - it needed gelling together and I think the area has been massively improved. My favourite scheme was the Small Sites project which is a really good example of change being genuinely community-led.”

The Partnership provided funding which addressed some of the issues raised by the

Swan Village Action Group, and Roy said people in the area needed to remember how Partnership money was responsible for many of the positive changes made during the past 10 years.

“It’s done lots of very good things, he said. “Better street lights, home security, healthy passports and so on. It funded many things lots of people may not know about.

“If I have one criticism it’s that the Partnership should have taken more credit for what it’s done. People weren’t always told it was Greets Green Partnership behind all the changes.”



# RUKHSANA HUSSAIN

**In 2003, Rukhsana Hussain became a spokesperson for the Pakistani Community in Greets Green. The role saw her meet regularly with Partnership officials and discuss opportunities available to her community.**

With cultural and language barriers to overcome, Rukhsana said engaging with her community wasn't always straightforward. However, she was impressed with how Greets Green Partnership went about the task.

"The Partnership was very understanding and communicated well," she said. "Where there were language and cultural barriers they brought in translators so everything was clearly explained. They didn't put you into boxes, or categorise you, as can happen."

By working closely with the Pakistani community and listening to their needs, a number of activities

were set up including Coffee and Tea, a social group for women, and play groups for children. A steering group was created to look at the possibility of finding a location for the community to meet, and a base was established in Dartmouth Street, giving people a place to go and enjoy activities.

"I think the Partnership has been excellent," Rukhsana added. "It has a great rapport with the community which is important. I feel it's listened to what people have had to say. It understands the communities in the area."



# JUBADA AKHTAR

**Jubada Akhtar, better known simply as Jay, has enjoyed an amazing journey with the Partnership. A Greets Green resident born and bred, Jay first became involved with the Partnership in 2001, aged just 16, when she got her first ever job.**



"I was able to benefit from one of the Partnership's projects which funded training opportunities for people who lived in the area," she said. "I earned an NVQ level two in business administration and that helped me get a job in reception at the Partnership in 2001."

"A couple of years later I moved into admin support for other staff members and then got a role supporting the Board Representatives."

As well as the NVQ, Jay gained other qualifications during her time at the Partnership and, in 2006, she received the RegenWM Skills Commitment Award for her dedication to her various roles at the Partnership.

"I was so happy with the award," she said. "It gave me a real boost – the belief that I could do even more."

Jay later went on to work as PA to both the Executive Director and Deputy Director at the

Partnership – roles she could not have imagined taking on when she started out. "There was always career progression for me at the Partnership. I was so lucky and everyone was great at motivating me and supporting me."

Jay left the Partnership in 2008 to move to London. She now works for the NHS in Tower Hamlets. "I made lots of personal progress at Greets Green Partnership," she says. "When I went for the job in London they told me I was very passionate about my work."

And what does Jay think about the work of Greets Green Partnership?

"I love coming back and looking at how things have changed and continue to change," she says.

"As someone who grew up here, it's so exciting to see. When I first started at the Partnership, I didn't know what it was all about. I can see now how it's helped so many people. I know I'll still be seeing the changes in the future when I come back."

# SAM WATTS

**Samantha Watts – or Sam as she was universally known to everyone who knew her – was a Neighbourhood Support Worker with Greet's Green Partnership, when she passed away suddenly in 2007.**

To lose anyone at such a young age would be a shock, but Sam was such an ebullient character that her sudden passing was especially hard to take for all of those who knew her.

Sam started working for Greet's Green Partnership in 2003 and straight away endeared herself to everyone she met – staff and residents

alike – with her self effacing humour, boundless enthusiasm and kind heartedness.

Working as part of the Community Development team was ideal for Sam. Nothing was ever too much trouble or too much of a challenge for her.

For a time Sam carried out the role of Diversity Officer which she clearly loved. She was very successful at reaching out to some of the hardest to reach residents in the area. Her efforts helped establish the Pakistani Women's Steering Group and the Social Swimmers project.

Her passing has been deeply felt by all of us who ever shared a joke with Sam. But as the work she gave so much energy to comes to a close, there are a lot of us who still think of Sam, driving round Greet's Green in the Partnership van, tooting the horn at the many friends she made.

We miss you, but we haven't forgotten you Sam.



## DAVE PAGET AND COLIN COOKE

**Two other high profile staff who passed away during the programme were popular Neighbourhood Wardens Dave Paget and Colin Cooke.**

Both Dave and Colin were part of the original wardens team and played a big part in its success.

Dave died peacefully in his sleep in November 2003 and Colin passed away in 2005.

Colin formed a close friendship with fellow warden Sulaiman Uddin and became heavily involved with community cohesion work, in particular with the Yemeni community.

Both Dave and Colin typified the success and popularity of the wardens team with local people. They were always happiest when helping others, which is how they'll be remembered by the many people in Greet's Green who counted them as friends.



# USEFUL CONTACTS

|   |               |  |
|---|---------------|--|
| <b>6 Towns Credit Union</b>                       | 0121 553 3110 | <a href="http://www.sixtowns.co.uk">www.sixtowns.co.uk</a>                       |
| <b>A4e</b>  | 0800 345 666  | <a href="http://www.mya4e.com">www.mya4e.com</a>                                 |
| <b>Accord Housing</b>                             | 0300 111 7000 | <a href="http://www.accordha.org.uk">www.accordha.org.uk</a>                     |
| <b>African Caribbean Centre Point</b>             | 07947 376729  |  |
| <b>Agewell</b>                                    | 0121 289 3038 | <a href="http://www.agewellinsandwell.org.uk">www.agewellinsandwell.org.uk</a>   |
| <b>Albion Business Forum</b>                      | 0121 500 5616 | <a href="http://www.albionbid.co.uk">www.albionbid.co.uk</a>                     |
| <b>Albion Foundation</b>                          | 08712 719840  | <a href="http://www.wba.co.uk">www.wba.co.uk</a>                                 |
| <b>Aquarius</b>                                   | 0121 525 9292 | <a href="http://www.aquarius.org.uk">www.aquarius.org.uk</a>                     |
| <b>Bangladeshi Mosque</b>                         | 0121 553 5598 |  |
| <b>Barbryn</b>                                    | 01564 741847  | <a href="http://www.barbryn.co.uk">www.barbryn.co.uk</a>                         |
| <b>Bethel Christian Fellowship</b>                | 0121 525 8434 | <a href="http://www.bcfwestbrom.org.uk">www.bcfwestbrom.org.uk</a>               |
| <b>Black Country Chamber of Commerce</b>          | 0121 533 2979 | <a href="http://www.blackcountrychamber.co.uk">www.blackcountrychamber.co.uk</a> |
| <b>Black Country Business Link</b>                | 0845 113 1234 | <a href="http://www.businesslinkwm.co.uk">www.businesslinkwm.co.uk</a>           |
| <b>Black Country Housing</b>                      | 0121 561 1969 | <a href="http://www.bcha.co.uk">www.bcha.co.uk</a>                               |
| <b>BTCV</b>                                       | 0121 678 8892 | <a href="http://www.btcv.org/westmidlands">www.btcv.org/westmidlands</a>         |
| <b>Confederation of Bangladeshi Organisations</b> | 0121 500 5441 | <a href="http://www.cbo786.co.uk">www.cbo786.co.uk</a>                           |
| <b>Dartmouth Centre Group</b>                     | 07830 413092  |  |
| <b>Digbeth Trust</b>                              | 0121 753 0706 | <a href="http://www.digbethtrust.org.uk">www.digbethtrust.org.uk</a>             |
| <b>DECCA</b>                                      | 0845 838 5317 | <a href="http://www.trustdecca.com">www.trustdecca.com</a>                       |
| <b>Disabled Action Committee</b>                  | 0121 553 1374 |  |
| <b>DORCAS</b>                                     | 0121 553 7737 | <a href="http://www.dorcashousing.co.uk">www.dorcashousing.co.uk</a>             |
| <b>Farley Park Community Centre</b>               | 0121 557 4957 |  |
| <b>Friends of Oak House Museum and Barns</b>      | 01922 723 230 |  |
| <b>George Salter Collegiate Academy</b>           | 0121 553 4665 | <a href="http://www.georgesalter.com">www.georgesalter.com</a>                   |
| <b>Greets Green Children's Centre</b>             | 0121 612 5131 |  |
| <b>Greets Green Community Enterprises</b>         | 0121 525 2772 |  |
| <b>Greets Green Young Advisors</b>                | 0121 525 2662 |  |
| <b>Groundwork Black Country</b>                   | 0121 530 5500 | <a href="http://www.groundwork-bc.org.uk">www.groundwork-bc.org.uk</a>           |
| <b>Great Bridge Community Forum</b>               | 0121 557 4957 |  |
| <b>Guru Nanak Community Centre</b>                | 0121 525 6923 | <a href="http://www.gncconline.co.uk">www.gncconline.co.uk</a>                   |
| <b>Housing 21</b>                                 | 0370 1924000  | <a href="http://www.housing21.co.uk">www.housing21.co.uk</a>                     |
| <b>Job Centre Plus</b>                            | 0800 055 6688 | <a href="http://www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk">www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk</a>           |
| <b>Krishna Community Centre</b>                   | 07779 706530  |  |
| <b>Lodge Road Community Centre</b>                | 0121 553 2013 |  |
| <b>Masonic Hall West Bromwich Ltd</b>             | 01922 402220  | <a href="http://www.masonichallwestbrom.co.uk">www.masonichallwestbrom.co.uk</a> |
| <b>Midland Heart</b>                              | 0345 6020 540 | <a href="http://www.midlandheart.org.uk">www.midlandheart.org.uk</a>             |
| <b>Multistory</b>                                 | 0121 525 6861 | <a href="http://www.multistory.org.uk">www.multistory.org.uk</a>                 |
| <b>Murray Hall Community Trust</b>                | 0121 612 1805 | <a href="http://www.murrayhall.co.uk">www.murrayhall.co.uk</a>                   |
| <b>New Horizons Fellowship</b>                    | 0121 532 7182 |  |
| <b>Ormiston Education</b>                         | 0121 236 5100 | <a href="http://www.ormistoneducation.co.uk">www.ormistoneducation.co.uk</a>     |
| <b>OSCAR Sandwell Ltd</b>                         | 0121 525 0556 | <a href="http://www.oscarsandwell.org.uk">www.oscarsandwell.org.uk</a>           |

**Primary Schools:**

|  |               |  |
|--|---------------|--|
| Guns Village   | 0121 553 1427 | <a href="http://www.gunsvillageprimaryschool.net">www.gunsvillageprimaryschool.net</a>       |
| Lodge Road   | 0121 553 2389 |  |
| Lyng   | 0121 553 1480 | <a href="http://www.lyng.greetsgreen.org">www.lyng.greetsgreen.org</a>                       |
| Newtown  | 0121 557 8504 | <a href="http://www.newtown.sandwell.sch.uk">www.newtown.sandwell.sch.uk</a>                 |
| Ryders Green   | 0121 553 0658 | <a href="http://www.rydersgreen.ik.org">www.rydersgreen.ik.org</a>                           |
| <b>Race Equality Sandwell</b>  | 0121 541 1775 |  |
| <b>Ryders Green Methodist Day Centre</b>                             | 0121 520 5367 |  |
| <b>Sandwell African Caribbean Development Agency</b>                 | 0121 553 4264 | <a href="http://www.sacda.com">www.sacda.com</a>   |
| <b>Sandwell Citizens Advice Bureau</b>                               | 0121 552 2022 | <a href="http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk">www.citizensadvice.org.uk</a>                     |
| <b>Sandwell College</b>  | 0121 556 6000 | <a href="http://www.sandwell.ac.uk">www.sandwell.ac.uk</a>                                   |
| <b>SCVO</b>  | 0121 525 1127 | <a href="http://www.scvo.info">www.scvo.info</a>   |
| <b>Sandwell Homes</b>  | 0121 569 6000 | <a href="http://www.sandwellhomes.org.uk">www.sandwellhomes.org.uk</a>                       |
| <b>Sandwell Irish Community Association</b>                          | 0121 533 9734 |  |
| <b>Sandwell Irish Society</b>  | 0121 553 4402 |  |
| <b>Sandwell Library Services</b>                                     | 0121 569 4904 | <a href="http://www.sandwell.gov.uk">www.sandwell.gov.uk</a>                                 |
| <b>Sandwell MIND</b>   | 0121 543 3930 | <a href="http://www.sandwellmind.org.uk">www.sandwellmind.org.uk</a>                         |
| <b>Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council</b>                         | 0845 358 2200 | <a href="http://www.sandwell.gov.uk">www.sandwell.gov.uk</a>                                 |
| <b>Sandwell Partnership</b>  | 0845 434 9140 | <a href="http://www.sandwellpartnership.co.uk">www.sandwellpartnership.co.uk</a>             |
| <b>Sandwell Primary Care Trust</b>                                   | 0845 155 0500 | <a href="http://www.sandwell.nhs.uk">www.sandwell.nhs.uk</a>                                 |
| <b>Sandwell Young Carers</b>   | 0121 525 7667 | <a href="http://www.sandwellyc.org.uk">www.sandwellyc.org.uk</a>                             |
| <b>SWAN Community Carelink</b>                                       | 0121 553 7074 | <a href="http://www.swancommunitycarelink.co.uk">www.swancommunitycarelink.co.uk</a>         |
| <b>Sandwell Youth Music</b>  | 0121 569 8502 | <a href="http://www.sandwellyouthmusic.co.uk">www.sandwellyouthmusic.co.uk</a>               |
| <b>SCIPS</b>   | 0121 544 1230 | <a href="http://www.scips.org.uk">www.scips.org.uk</a>                                       |
| <b>Seventh Day Adventist Church</b>                                  | 0121 525 4589 | <a href="http://www.adventistchurches.org.uk">www.adventistchurches.org.uk</a>               |
| <b>Shiloh Community Centre</b>                                       | 0121 553 1213 |  |
| <b>Steps to Work</b>   | 0121 580 4162 | <a href="http://www.wbacrc.org.uk">www.wbacrc.org.uk</a>                                     |
| <b>St Albans Community Centre</b>                                    | 0121 558 0018 | <a href="http://www.stalbans-cc.co.uk">www.stalbans-cc.co.uk</a>                             |
| <b>Swan Village &amp; Carters Green Goldies</b>                      | 0121 580 1143 |  |
| <b>SWEDA</b>   | 0121 525 2558 | <a href="http://www.sweda.org.uk">www.sweda.org.uk</a>                                       |
| <b>Tipton College</b>  | 0121 557 0837 |  |
| <b>The Public</b>  | 0121 533 7161 | <a href="http://www.thepublic.com">www.thepublic.com</a>                                     |
| <b>TOPPS Management &amp; Support Services</b>                       | 0121 421 5514 | <a href="http://www.toppsmanagementandsupport.co.uk">www.toppsmanagementandsupport.co.uk</a> |
| <b>Trident Housing Association</b>                                   | 0121 633 2189 | <a href="http://www.trident-ha.org.uk">www.trident-ha.org.uk</a>                             |
| <b>Urban Living</b>  | 0121 565 6540 | <a href="http://www.urbanliving.org.uk">www.urbanliving.org.uk</a>                           |
| <b>West Brom African Caribbean Resource Centre</b>                   | 0121 525 9177 | <a href="http://www.wbacrc.org.uk">www.wbacrc.org.uk</a>                                     |
| <b>West Bromwich Community Church</b>                                | 0121 580 0068 | <a href="http://www.westbromchurch.org">www.westbromchurch.org</a>                           |
| <b>West Bromwich and District YMCA</b>                               | 0121 524 1950 | <a href="http://www.wbymca.org.uk">www.wbymca.org.uk</a>                                     |
| <b>West Midlands Police</b>  | 0845 113 5000 | <a href="http://www.west-midlands.police.uk">www.west-midlands.police.uk</a>                 |
| <b>Wood Lane Community Centre</b>                                    | 0121 525 2662 |  |
| <b>Yemeni Community Association<br/>(Greets Green Access Centre)</b> | 0121 525 3909 | <a href="http://www.yca-sandwell.org.uk">www.yca-sandwell.org.uk</a>                         |



# MAP OF THE GREET'S GREEN PARTNERSHIP AREA

**Greets Green Partnership funded over 450 projects which made real and lasting changes to local services and the lives of local people. Not all projects lend themselves to being plotted on a map, but here you can see where some of the money has been spent.**



- KEY**
- Small Sites Projects
  - Environmental Improvements
  - Housing Developments
  - BID Area
  - ★ Community Access Points (CAPs)
  - ▲ E-learning Centres
  - GGCE Assets
  - Schools
  - Community Centres / Organisations
  - Community Facilities



Krishna Community Centre

Greswold Street

Chapel St

Old Meeting Street

Blithay Street

Tildasley St

GG Access Centre

Garrett Street

THE EXPRESSWAY A41

YMCA

Pearson St

Butler St

Mason Street

Harwood Street

Chapman St

Edith St

Oak Lane

Lodge Primary

Oak Lane

Rowley V

Ireland Grn

Margaret Street

Wicham Sq

Turton Rd

Westbourne Rd

Caroline St Allotments

Bromford Lane

Livingstone Rd

Coyne Rd

Cambridge St

Emily St

Barton St

Richard St South

Turks Head Wy

Carters Green

High Street

Shattsbury St

Temple St

Mill St

Sandwell Rd

Bratt Street

SWEDA

Summerfield Av

Hardware St

Cronehills

New Street

Malsall Street

W Bromwich Ringway

The Public

West Bromwich Bus Station

West Bromwich

Lyng Health Centre

Price St

Michael Street

Victoria Street

Lombard Street

Dartmouth Centre

Gurdarshan Community Centre

Masonic Hall

Sandwell College

6 Towns Credit Union

Jamia Mosque

Sandwell College

Grange Road

Edith St

Lodge Road Community Centre

Oscar

Bowater St

Moor Street

Lyng Lane

Hall St

Mt Pleasant S

Newhalls

Sams Lane

Horton St

Dora Rd

Maud Rd

Morris Street

Daw

KELVIN WAY A4182

Lyng Primary

Oak House Improvements

Multi Use Games Area (04-07)

Sandwell Partnership Office

Memorial Gardens Improvements

Greets Green Partnership Office

Sandwell Library

Dartmouth Centre

Gurdarshan Community Centre

Masonic Hall

West Bromwich Bus Station

West Bromwich

Lyng Health Centre

Price St

Michael Street

Victoria Street

Lombard Street

Dartmouth Centre

Gurdarshan Community Centre

Masonic Hall

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Lyng Health Centre

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Michael Street

**“The message is clear – the regeneration of Greet Green didn’t simply start in 2000 and finish 10 years later. It will carry on for many years to come and continue to make Greet Green a vibrant and prosperous place to live.”**



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