

## **HOMES & COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE**

**7 JUNE 2021**

### **SAFER STREETS FUND – END OF PROJECT REPORT**

#### **1.0 Purpose of Report**

1.1 To update members on the successful completion of the Safer Streets Fund and the early impacts that have been identified.

#### **2.0 Background Information**

2.1 In January April 2020 the council in partnership with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and the County Council was successful in obtaining funding for the Home office initiative of Safer Streets that was designed to address domestic and acquisitive crime. Two Lower Super Output Areas were identified in the bid and have formed the geographical footprint for the bid. These are the areas around Chatham Court and area on Northgate/Lovers Lane.

2.2 The Newark bid was successful in obtaining an award of £550,000, of which the District Council's allocation was £118,580.

2.3 The table below sets out the activities that were included as the deliverables with in the bid and the lead organisation.

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Lead Organisation</b>	<b>Supporting Organisation</b>
Bicycle Property Marking & Security Events	Nottinghamshire Police	Newark and Sherwood DC
Assessment and Oversee Installation of ANPR	Nottinghamshire Police	Nottinghamshire County Council
Establishing new community hub at Chatham Court	Newark and Sherwood DC	Nottinghamshire County Council
Safer Streets Patrol and Enforcement Operations	Nottinghamshire Police	Newark and Sherwood DC
Environmental Improvements (Street cleansing Repairs)	Newark and Sherwood DC	Nottinghamshire County Council
Neighbourhood Capacity Building + Neighbourhood Watch	Nottinghamshire County Council	Newark and Sherwood DC
Establish a Residents Parking Permit Scheme	Newark and Sherwood DC	Nottinghamshire County Council
Project Management & Governance	Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner	Newark and Sherwood DC
Street Lighting	Nottinghamshire County Council	Nottinghamshire Police
Target Harden Chatham Court	Newark and Sherwood DC	Nottinghamshire Police
Target Hardening General	Nottinghamshire Police	

2.4 The work on the themes was completed by March 2021 and the details around each theme are set out below.

#### 2.5 **Crime Prevention - Target Hardening**

A Burglary Reduction Officer (BRO) has been in place since on 4th October and has made contact with 464 burglary victims and adjacent neighbours. The following summarises the work:

- 464 burglary victims & neighbours offered target hardening (target 312)
- 137 (29.5%) accepted and risk assessments undertaken by BRO
- 327 (70.5%) declined the offer (we also made the offer again to most of these)
- The no. of premises to be target hardened with:
  - a. Gold packages 15
  - b. Silver package 12
  - c. Bronze package 110
- Since the project started in August 2020, there have been no repeat burglary victims
- 38 4G CCTV or WIFI Cameras are now installed at victim/neighbour premises (target 30)
- No incidents have arisen following the installation of the 38 CCTV cameras

2.6 The improvement plan for Chatham Court was implemented following consultation local housing officers and residents. It was necessary to obtain planning permission for some of the main structural changes to Chatham Court but the new door entry system, new cycle store and a new community hub are now in place. The major piece of work at Chatham Court was the upgrade of the door entry system to ensure that all the flats within the complex were provided with a new video door entry control system. This will prevent unknowns being able to enter the buildings. This was supplemented with improved internal lighting, redesigned external door fixings and redecoration to the communal areas.

2.7 Lighting in and around Chatham Court was improved. 13 lamps were upgraded. Improvements to existing CCTV have also been made and environment clean-ups` carried out.

#### 2.8 **Street Lighting**

A list of the top 23 hot spots for acquisitive crime were identified within the two LSAOs and these locations have been visited by lighting engineers, the Designing out Crime Officer and Council colleagues and assessed for how best to upgrade the lighting.

2.9 There have been 489 lamps upgraded. The lamps required a 6 to 8 week lead time and some even longer due to the special aesthetics due to conservation considerations. The installations and the upgrades were completed by Christmas.

#### 2.10 **Preventing Bicycle Thefts**

Seven major Bicycle Property marking campaigns were planned and advertised to ensure good attendance. A large Gazebo was purchased and three events held during Qrt2 and Qrt3 in the open air to mitigate Covid-19 risks and undertaken in key public hot spot locations. A local bicycle shop fitter attended events to fit the security devices and assist with the property markings and registering with BikeRegister.com.

However, the COVID-19 lockdowns meant that the 4 remaining events had to be cancelled. In consequence the Police visiting cyclist at their home and fitting security devices.

2.11 The following summarises the work completed:

- 4 Property Marking/Security Events held (target 7 events)
- 50 staffing hours spent at events (target 112 hours)
- Re Cycle owners residing in target areas or frequent visitors:
- 119 SBD security devices fitted to bicycles
- 65 GPS Tracking devices fitted to cycles (target 30)
- 223 bicycles registered with BikeRegister.com
- There have been no repeat thefts of GPS tracked Bicycles
- Two GPS tracker devices were trialled and found unsuitable so a third type was trialled and found successful.
- The top 10 bicycle theft hot spots were identified and 25 cycle pods were installed during quarter 4 at or close to these locations. A further 24 secure bike spaces have also been provided in the form of hangers or the redesigned bike store making a total with the pods (extra storage) of 74.
- The Capture Bike has been deployed on 6 occasions in these hot spots without incident. The Capture bike will be used over the next three years as part of the sustainability commitment.

#### 2.12 **Neighbourhood Capacity Building and Resilience**

Newark and Sherwood District Council identified a suitable ground floor flat within the Chatham Court complex and have stood the cost of the loss of rental income to support the project. Planning permission was obtained in January 2021 and construction work has now been completed to establish a Community Hub. This will be operational and staffed during 2021-22 as part of the sustainability commitment.

2.12 In addition to the funding in the bid, the Council has, both through its own funding and from the contribution by contractors, spent an additional £21,000 on the development of the Hub. A range of partners are already committed to providing their services from the Hub.

#### 2.14 **Community Capacity Building**

It was established that there are 9 Neighbourhood Watch Schemes registered within the target areas. However, none of these were active. Action was taken to engage with coordinators and 5 of them have now become active again. A number of residents from Chatham Court have joined nearby Neighbourhood Watches.

2.15 The owner of Neighbourhood Alert has created new geographic boundaries to match the target LSOAs and it has been established that there are currently 272 residents signed up to receive alerts.

2.18 The PCC and Chief Constable sent a letter to 1,741 residents inviting them to sign up to the alert system and also invited them to take part in an end of Project survey. At the start of this project there were 2,926 residents signed up to the Neighbourhood Alert in the Newark and Sherwood district. At the end of March 2021, this increased by 546 to 3,472 representing an 18.7% increase. In other areas the overall increase was only 4.5%.

2.19 A Neighbourhood Watch scheme covering the Chatham Court area is being initiated by a resident who has part of a WhatsApp group with 20 of her neighbours.

## 2.20 **Enforcement**

The top 10 acquisitive crime locations have been identified within the two LSOAs. These have been targeted with high visible patrols and the use of a capture bike fitted with GPS. The activity undertaken is set out below

- 500 hours spent patrolling the top 10 hot spots in target areas (overall target 448)
- 14 intelligence reports submitted
- 38 stop and searches undertaken
- 11 arrests made following stop and searches
- Capture Bike deployed 6 times as part of police operations
- 8 of the top 10 offenders have been arrested and in custody

2.21 There have been 6 fixed ANPR cameras have been installed and one redployable ANPR camera fitted to one of the local police cars for operations. Since then, over 3,250,560 reads from these cameras have been received of which 21,681 were positive matches against the Vehicle of Interest database (VOI). From these, 77 were classified as priority activations which led to the Force Control Room dispatching Police Response Officers to investigate and take positive action.

## 2.22 **Environment**

A baseline environmental assessment was undertaken at the start of the project and 62 Streets within the two target LSOAs have been assessed resulting in the identification of 304 issues across 19 environmental categories. 74% of issues relate to weeds/moss on footpaths, boundaries, roads; detritus; overgrown shrubs, trees, hedges and litter/refuse.

2.23 All of these issues impact on the look and feel of the area. Action has been undertaken to address the issues. In addition to a specific day of action environmental improvement works have been undertaken around the Chatham court area resulting in:

- 106 operations/days of action undertaken
- 346 staffing hours spent on activities
- 22 priority streets cleaned/cleansed
- 156 locations where fly tipping/rubbish removed
- 1 household cleared of garden rubbish

## 3.0 **End of Project Survey**

3.1 In order to fully understand the impact that the Safer Streets initiative had had on the area survey was undertaken seeking views on a range of issues related to the Safer Street themes.

3.2 A copy of the full survey and its results are attached as Appendix 1. A summary of some key headline results are set out below.

- 83% of respondents feel safer
- 53 % feel the area is cleaner
- 40% of respondents feel safer after dark
- 44% of respondents feels the community looks out for each other better than it did

#### **4.0 Future Developments**

4.1 In order to build on the positive work that has taken place as part of this project agreement has already been made to develop a Safer Street 2 initiative. This will again be a partnership with the police and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

#### **5.0 Equalities Implications**

5.1 There will be a range of people from, for example different backgrounds, nationality, religions, etc within the two bid areas. All communications and engagements will need to be targeted appropriately so as to reach a range of communities.

#### **6.0 Financial Implications (FIN21-22/9820)**

6.1 The district Councils allocation from the safer street fund was £118,580 and during 2020/21, all this was either spent or has been committed for elements of the project.

6.2 £83,552 of the grant money was allocated to the Capital Programme for works at Chatham Court, due to being the Council's own asset, the purchase of new CCTV cameras and the bicycle storage which was considered to be capital in nature.

6.3 All the remaining costs have been or will be incurred in revenue, fully funded by the grant received.

#### **7.0 Community Plan – Alignment to Objectives**

7.1 The Safer Streets Initiative will align with the Community plan theme to 'Reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, and increase feelings of safety in our communities.'

7.2 The actions proposed will assist in the delivery of this element of the Community Plan.

#### **8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS that:**

- a) **Members are asked to note the success of the Safer Streets initiative and the positive survey results.**

#### **Reason for Recommendations**

**To update members on the successful delivery of the Safer Streets initiative.**

#### **Background Papers**

Nil

For further information please contact Alan Batty on Ext 5467

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