



Building Communities Together Partnership February 2019 Newsletter

Communities

Plogging

Here is a great example of communities doing it for themselves. The Hi-5 running club in Thatcham spent some time on New Year's Eve 'Plogging' which is a combination of running and litter picking. They collected 8 bags of rubbish and a few extras that were fly tipped on a residential road around the Henwick Fields area. They are planning to do more plogs this year.

Thatcham Litter Pickers

Thatcham Litter Pickers is a small group whose aim is to make Thatcham a tidier and nicer place to live. They started in the summer of 2018 with support of funding from Thatcham Town Council. They have an active Facebook page, which informs the community of Thatcham where and when the litter picks will take place. At one of the latest litter picks they collected 17 bags of rubbish from the Kennet Heath area.



Community Conversations

On Monday January 21st a very successful community conversation took place in Purley on Thames. The residents group PRSC wanted to use a new way of addressing the problems within their area. A world café approach was taken and it was great to see so many residents actively engaged with the conversation and coming up with some really good ideas to address local issues. This has been an excellent example of community led engagement

On Thursday January 24th a community conversation took place in Lambourn Woodlands after residents had raised some specific issues which predominantly seem to stem from the operation of businesses located on the Membury airfield and those at Ermin Street industrial estate and the impact trading is having on residents and their quality of life. These issues were highlighted to Cllr Graham Jones who instigated a community conversation problem solving session. West Berkshire Council officers from planning, transport and environment attended.





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Domestic Abuse

Coercive Control

SafeLives are a national charity dedicated to ending domestic abuse for good have written a review on the impact of coercive control on children and young people in the family environment. It is recognised that coercive control is a key feature of abusive relationships. It is therefore essential that the conceptualisation of coercive control and the impact it has on the whole family is recognised and understood.

Click [here](#) to read

Femicide Census

Women's Aid, in partnership with Karen Ingala Smith, have published the latest and third Femicide Census Report; the Femicide Census is a project which "aims to provide a clearer picture of men's fatal violence against women by allowing for detailed tracking and analysis." The report reveals that 139 women were killed by men in 2017 including the women from West Berkshire and the published report is dedicated to them. For more information on the census, the findings of the report and the report's recommendations please click [here](#)

Economic Abuse

Following on from a very successful lunchtime awareness session in October last year, which focused on modern slavery and captured a large volume of people who were keen to use their lunchtime to gain insight into an important issue. Chloe and Sharon from the BCT Team have organised another one of these lunchtime sessions. This session will highlight the subject of economic abuse.

This will once again be held in the Council Chamber, Market Street office. This multi-agency free event will be on March 6th and we would encourage you to send your staff along to attend. To book please click on information sheet below.



Economic Abuse
Awareness Session (

Exploitation

Stop Loan Sharks – England Illegal Money Lending Team

This is the latest report from Stop Loan Sharks highlighting all the victims they have helped in 2018. It is a really good report breaking down the victims into age, gender, employment status, housing status and reasons for borrowing the money.



Witness statistics
report Jan - Dec 201

Homelessness

MEAM

Making Every Adult Matter (MEAM) is a coalition of national charities – Clinks, Homeless Link, Mind and associate member Collective Voice.

Working together MEAM supports local areas across the country to develop effective, coordinated services that directly improve the lives of people facing multiple disadvantage.

The MEAM Approach has been active in West Berkshire since December 2017 and a Year 1 Report is currently being drafted.

In the first year of the MEAM Approach in West Berkshire there have been a total of 60 referrals.

Of the 51 referrals of people that have homelessness support needs, 96% of those have had other additional support needs of either Substance Misuse, Offending or Mental Health.



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Thames Valley CRC

Community Payback is a punishment given by the courts, which requires offenders to pay back the community for the crimes they have committed. They have to carry out demanding unpaid work for between 40-300 hours. This work helps make the communities we live in safer and better places to be, as well as offering an opportunity for offenders to learn new skills, and take a more active role in their local communities.

Thames Valley Community Rehabilitation Company (TVCRC) are responsible for the delivery of Unpaid Work in the area. The Community Payback Team, based in Reading, have long supported charitable and not-for-profit organisations across West Berkshire.



Over the last 3 months of 2018, a total of 1182 hours were spent on projects in Newbury and West Berkshire. These include Bucks, Berks and Oxon Wildlife Trust, Shaw House, Newtown Road Cemetery, St Mary's Church in Speen, and a number of projects for Newbury Town Council.

Recent work includes clearing the gorse bushes on Greenham Common as part of the ongoing work for the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust.

Below are some photos of the work the group completed.



The Community Payback team are very keen to undertake more work in West Berkshire and are actively seeking new and varied projects and beneficiaries. If you would like to nominate a placement, please contact the Community Payback Team on 0118 9560466, or email

TVYCRCUnpaidWorkSouth@thamesvalleycrc.org.uk