



Think Family Neighbourhood Case Study – Chichester East

Swanfield Play area was a cause for concern often shut due to persistent damage to play equipment. There was evidence of alcohol related activity within the play area and surround most notably the seating area on Swanfield Green which was unkempt and had become a gathering point for alcohol and drugs. By contrast the Swanfield Centre was in good repair and protected by perimeter CCTV.

SPRING (Swanfield Park Resident Involvement Group), A2 Dominion and St Anthony's recognised the importance of Think Family from the outset and it was from Swanfield Centre that SPRING decided to take action.

St Anthony's School Community Garden Project

The St Anthony's project at Swanfield came from a chance approach by Sally Humphrey and Amanda Parker of St Anthony's School looking for a possible work experience day within the local community. SPRING, A2 Dominion and CDC were happy to facilitate what was initially planned as a one off work experience day which focussed on tidying up Swanfield Park and Bradshaw Road.

After the initial work experience day was complete pupils and staff from St Anthony's school were keen to do more and attention soon turned their attention to the seated area at Swanfield Park and what could be done to improve the look and tidiness of the area around the Swanfield Centre. CDC contractors Graffiti Solutions were instructed to clean graffiti and staining from the seats, the paved circle and foundation stone and CDC Westhampnett Depot provided litter picking kits and removed bagged litter.

Despite continued Anti Social Behaviour in the area, pupils from St Anthony's School soon began trial planting at Swanfield Park using donated bedding plants during summer 2014. Although not expressed at the time our fear was that youths would continue to abuse the area and in turn discourage St Anthony's. To combat this SPRING erected temporary notices appealing to local youths to respect the area and the work being undertaken by St Anthony's. Gradually we noticed that the area was improving with less litter and no damage. The whole initiative was underpinned by intelligence from Sussex Police, Community Wardens, SPRING, A2 Dominion and Hyde Housing targeting the activity of local youths.

The first stage of this particular THINK Family community project culminated in mass planting the entire embankment around the seating area. The work with St Anthony's is ongoing and the group are looking to source plants via formal approaches to local nurseries as well as A2 Dominion contractors Lotus, CDC and Hyde Housing. We are now at the stage at the beginning of 2015 where it is important to publically acknowledge the work of St Anthony's and SPRING and to this end A2 Dominion will be providing commemorative signs for a forthcoming public unveiling at Swanfield Park. The next stage of the project

will see St Anthony's working with Hyde Housing and SPRING on potential garden sites in and around the Bradshaw Road area.

Swanfield Youth Club

The Swanfield Centre remains a vibrant hub of activity within the local community and has also served as a Youth Club but facilities were limited and past ASB activity resulted in numbers declining. The Youth Club is about to be re-launched during March 2015. Volunteers from SPRING had previously wanted to convert the building to include a stand alone youth wing but these plans had fallen through. Encouraged in part by Think Family, Brian and Edith Clear of SPRING have re-doubled their efforts. Working closely with Janet Read of A2 Dominion decided to revisit and revise these earlier plans which involve conversion of redundant shower and toilet blocks to form a self contained and accessed Youth Wing as part of the Swanfield Centre.

Adequate and sustained youth provision within the area is a vital component and builds on the considerable work already undertaken by SPRING volunteers. Part of this initiative involved a special fact finding visit for SPRING volunteers to Midhurst Youth Wing to get a feel for how volunteers and staff at Midhurst run their operation and also to see how they successfully utilise and share limited space. A further fact finding visit is planned to the Sylvia Beaufoy Youth Centre at Petworth to see a larger but slightly older youth club in action. Volunteers from SPRING and A2 Dominion have already undertaken Youth Training with more in the pipeline.

Sport for Social Change

The exciting Sport for Social Change pilot initiative based on the successful Streets to Success project devised by CDC in partnership with Chichester University and SPRING, is targeted at young people in Chichester East especially marginalised hard to reach young people, some known to have been involved or engaged in ASB activity in the area.

The objective is to develop a series of social change initiatives to empower marginalised young people aged 12-18 using sport as an impetus for social change. The 10 week pilot programme will utilise expertise and facilities at Chichester University to develop sport participation sessions, leadership skills to support these young people and their families.

An initial focus group comprising Chichester University, CDC, SPRING & Sussex Police has been convened. The group recognise that positive engagement with these young people is not going to be easy but the focus group working in partnership with SPRING will be following up via a series of indirect approaches through Chichester College and Chichester High School.