



## **Community First Plan Keighley Central Ward**

### **Background to the ward**

Keighley Central ward has a population of approx 18,255 with a rich tapestry of people from many different cultural backgrounds. It has a growing children and young people population, compared with a steadily declining older population. There has been an increase of East and Central Europeans moving into the ward, 4.3% compared to 6.8% across the Area and 3.3% for the District. This is visible in the ward as families are moving into private rented housing stock, children starting at local schools and groups are settling into neighbourhoods and accessing local statutory and non statutory services. Work is being done to identify different groups and families to build relationships and increase community confidence.

Keighley Town Centre is a busy, vibrant market town, attracting visitors from across and outside the District with a popular shopping centre, good parking facilities, well used train and bus station links, central amenities and facilities as well as a thriving night time

economy. Similar to many Town Centers there are a number of issues, including alcohol related behavior, acquisitive crime, litter, trade waste, fly tipping and traffic management.

Central ward has many issues relating to high levels of obesity, low educational attainment, poor housing, infant mortality and other issues relating to poverty. Although rich in services and opportunities there are still high levels of deprivation when compared to the districts average and national average.

## **Background to Community First**

Community First is a £80m government funded programme that will run for four years across the country in neighbourhoods that have significant deprivation and low social capital. The 2011 Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) was used to identify the 30% most deprived Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA).

Keighley Central ward was allocated £101,730 and groups are invited to apply to the fund for projects that improve people's lives. A panel of 8 people living or working in the ward over see Community First by promoting it within the community, supporting groups to apply and if successful recommending groups to the Community Development Foundation for funding. The panel set their priorities for the ward based on information and knowledge collected by the Area Co-coordinators Office through public consultations. The priorities are themed around Children and Young People, Health and Well Being, Older People, Environment, and Safer Communities. Projects applying must meet one of these priorities.

Community First is designed to increase volunteering and all groups applying have to match fund the project with volunteer hours and in kind match funding. This will help with future sustainability of projects. In addition an Endowment Match Challenge will mobilise both national and local giving and philanthropy, and aims to raise 100 million in donations which will then be matched with £50m of government investment.

## **Consultations**

Although we have already set our priorities we need to ensure that these are relevant now and the general public have the opportunity to "have your say" about what's important, what the issues are and what needs to be done to improve life in the ward.

## **Who we consulted with**

We consulted with a variety of agencies, including housing, police, health workers, community workers and residents to ascertain what positive aspects of the ward people appreciated. We asked about existing assets, issues, future possibilities and finally key priorities of the ward. 30 people attended and we will make changes to our priorities based on this new information.

## **We asked**

### **What are the positive aspects of the ward and its assets?**

People came up with a number of assets which they felt enriched the ward: These were: good schools, parks and historical buildings, a library, Independent cinema, countryside, Churches/Mosques, open spaces, volunteers, good food, new college, community groups, business networks and supermarkets. People felt that the ward had a lot to offer in terms of its history, diversity, parks, open spaces and knowing people whom they could trust and feel safe with. The location of the ward and the easy access to trains and buses enhanced the positives.

### **Issues for the ward- what you said**

There are a number of issues that blighted the ward and Unemployment, low paid jobs, drug dealing, sexual exploitation, violence, obesity and gangs were all issues that required further strategic planning and more resources.

### **What do you want from the area?**

People attending the event discussed a number of things that were important to them and these cut across themes linked to health and well being, cohesion, access to training and jobs, education, raising expectations (bring Oxford and Cambridge to Keighley), improving social mobility, positive role models, intergenerational work, empowerment, celebrating our history, architecture and famous people linked to the town.

### **Priorities- What You Said**

- More investment required to support young people into jobs and training.
- Projects that bring people together from the diverse communities.
- Intergenerational work bringing the old and the young together to learn from each other and have a better understanding.
- More projects that enable people to visit places of interest and other communities so that people can have a broader understanding of the world they live in.
- More projects that educate and inspire people about the history of the town, buildings and people.
- Projects that empower local people.

The information that was collected from the consultations will be used to update our priorities. We will encourage projects that empower local people, bring people together of all ages and cultural backgrounds and enhance life by celebrating heritage within the town and further afield.

## **Activity within the ward**

There are a number of thriving new groups as well as established community organisations going from strength to strength which include– Friends of Cliffe Castle, Highfield Community Gardens. Youth Groups – Inspyre Youth Project, St Marks Church Youth Group. Community Organisations – Keighley Community Organisation, Highfield Community Organisation and Community Groups – Keighley Scouts, Lund Park Community Group and faith based activities including parent/toddler groups. In addition the ward has many active community centers a healthy living centre, mental health service, parent’s advice centre, CAB advice centre and a Children Centre that offers satellite services around the ward.

## **Resources allocated to the ward**

Ward officers  
Youth Service Provision  
Keighley NPT  
Highways  
Parks and Landscapes  
VCS Support  
Clean teams  
Housing Providers  
Regeneration Airedale Partnership  
Ward Councilors  
Fire service  
Community Development Workers + VOSO

## **Other funding available for the ward**

Community Chest through the Area Office 01535 618008

Oak Fund and Acorn Fund through Keighley Town Council 01535 618252

Other avenues to explore are the bfunded website which if registered will email you with up to date funding [www.bfunded.org.uk](http://www.bfunded.org.uk)

Below are a list of projects that have been funded through community first and some are still taking place. To find out about these and other projects in the ward then call KIVCA on 665258 or email [jo@kivca.org.uk](mailto:jo@kivca.org.uk).

Thank you to all who took part in the consultations and to the area Coordinators Office for providing the background information of the ward.

**Summary of *Communities Having Your Say Consultation Event***  
**Central Hall**  
**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2013**

The aim of the event was to consult with residents, professionals living or working in Central and West ward, to establish if the priorities set by the panels are indeed reflective of what the community's needs are. Three groups Central, West and Ward Wide were asked to highlight the following; positives of the wards, assets, issues and future possibilities. Below is a summary of what you said and how this is now going to be used to inform future plans.

**Positives**

All groups highlighted many positives for the wards and shared similar views about the beauty of the landscape and the many historic buildings of the town, easy access to parks and transport systems, good schools, children's centre's, good and active community centre's, knowing people and feeling safe, active councilors, young old get on well especially Bracken Bank, having a sense of community, can do spirit.....

**Assets**

The assets were shared similarly and people thought that as a town there were many assets ranging from good networks, community cohesion across the town, churches/mosques, diversity of community groups, ethnic diversity, active volunteers, open spaces, independent cinema, library, parks and buildings, Asda, Marley and play spaces.....

**Issues**

The issues for the wards were also similar in the responses from the groups and national problems and more localized problems were highlighted. For example private landlords charging exorbitant rents, cost of water and utilities bills, unemployment, budget cuts, services closing due to lack of funding and low paid jobs, are issues that are not confined to wards but across the country whereas poor cultural exchanges, lack of activities for 5-12 year olds, poor drainage, lack of accommodations for 18-60, debt & loan sharks, violence, grooming, gangs, obesity, littering, bullying, burglary and theft, although could be said to be issues across the country could present themselves more in particular wards than others.

**Possibilities**

The ideas of the possibilities were about raising expectations, aspirations and opportunities, bring Oxford and Cambridge to Keighley!, people need to have a broader view of the world they lived in and not just the small area in which they go about their daily business. Study groups, education and more community based education, training linked to house builds, DIY practical skills, credit unions and

celebrating our history were all thought of as possibilities for the future and something that with more drive and commitment could be achievable.

The information collated from the event has fed into the Keighley Central and Keighley West Community First Plan and have resulted in the following priorities being set for 2013-2015.

### **Central Ward Priorities**

For the purpose of the plan for Central ward your views have been taken into consideration and the priorities will now include the following:

- Support projects that enable people to explore the area and take part in cultural exchanges.
- Support projects that bring people together from the diverse communities.
- Support intergenerational work -bringing the older generations and the younger generations together to learn from each other and have a better understanding.
- Support projects that enable people to visit places of interest and other communities which contribute to people having a broader understanding of the world they live in.
- Develop projects that educate and inspire people about the history of the town, buildings and people.
- Support projects that empower local people.

### **West Ward Priorities**

#### ***Priority 1: Encouraging, supporting and sustaining community action***

Help stimulate new community initiatives. Strengthen and expand existing community activity and volunteering. Bringing different people together who might not ordinarily meet. Examples could include intergenerational, cultural, local neighbourhoods activities, skills for life etc.

#### ***Priority 2: Activities for children and young people***

Develop more sustainable activities which are initiated by and/or fully engage children and young people.

#### ***Priority 3: Activities for older people***

Develop more sustainable, community led activities for older people which enable them to stay actively involved in community life.

***Priority 4: Improving the physical environment and promoting positive health and wellbeing***

Improve the local environment, addressing issues such as open spaces, growing projects etc. Promoting positive behaviour through a wide range of initiatives which divert people from crime/vandalism. Raise awareness of healthy lifestyles and encourage participation in wellbeing enhancing activities.

***Priority 5: Addressing Financial Challenges***

Raise awareness of, and develop initiatives in financial management that will help to address issues around debt, and low incomes in the Ward.

**Please note** that these priorities are pending approval from the Community Development Foundation.

Thank you to everyone who took part in this consultation and helped shaped the priorities for the wards. For a full list of what you said please email [Jo@kivca.org.uk](mailto:Jo@kivca.org.uk) and a copy will be sent out to you.

The information collected has been shared with councilors and the Area Office who will use the information to contribute to the forthcoming Ward Assessments Plans.