

Wollaton and Lenton Abbey Area Committee - 9th July 2009

Title of paper:	Wollaton East and Lenton Abbey Neighbourhood Action Teams Update	
Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):	Lianne Taylor(Acting) Director Communities	Wards affected: Wollaton East and Lenton Abbey
Contact Officer(s) and contact details:	Dawn Simpson, Neighbourhood Action Officer, Wollaton East Email:dawn.simpson@nottinghamcity.gov.uk Tel: 0115 9158228 Norman Walker, Neighbourhood Action Officer, Lenton Abbey Email:Norman.walker@nottinghamcity.gov.uk Tel: 0115 9158089	
Other officers who have provided input:	Neighbourhood Action Team Officers as detailed and wider partners working in the neighbourhood.	
Relevant Council Plan theme(s):		
Choose Nottingham		x
Respect for Nottingham		x
Transforming Nottingham's Neighbourhoods		x
Supporting Nottingham People		x
Serving Nottingham Better		x
Summary of issues (including benefits to customers/service users):		
This report provides details on the activities of the Wollaton East and Lenton Abbey Neighbourhood Action Teams to date.		
Recommendation(s):		
1	That Wollaton and Lenton Abbey Committee note this report.	

1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Neighbourhood Working is facilitated by the Neighbourhood Action Officer and initiated through Neighbourhood Action Teams (NATs); this structure provides a framework to develop and establish joint working partnership between service areas to target issues that matter most to local communities and to agree joint responses to resolve problems within the defined neighbourhood. The NAT seeks to extend this partnership to build links with voluntary organisations with an interest in the neighbourhood.
- 1.2 The NATs in Wollaton East and Lenton Abbey meet regularly to discuss and task issues raised by local people and elected members as champions of place.

2 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

- 2.1 To ensure that the area committee is kept informed of what activities are taking place in the ward, who is involved and what progress is being made, so that they as 'Champions of Place' can keep their constituents informed.
- 2.2 To ensure that 'area' wide planning and allocation of funding, is carried out within the context of current activities in the ward.

- 2.3 To ensure 'joined up' communication between all levels of the Neighbourhood Management Framework, incorporating: Councillors, Senior Council Officers, Partner agencies and local residents

3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Minutes of meetings are taken for each Neighbourhood Action Team meeting and can be reviewed by any party at any time.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING VALUE FOR MONEY)

- 4.1 Actions carried out by the NAT services are contained within existing service budgets.

5 RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES (INCLUDING LEGAL IMPLICATIONS, CRIME AND DISORDER ACT IMPLICATIONS AND EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS)

- 5.1 At the heart of 'neighbourhood working' is the core value of 'engaging the voices of local residents' helping plan and delivery public services in neighbourhoods. The actions to date take into consideration the priorities and concerns of local residents.

6 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION

- 6.1 Various consultation notes, questionnaires, surveys and minutes of meetings for the period 2008 to present, correspondence from local people and emails between partner services.

7 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

- 7.1 Report to Wollaton and Lenton Abbey Area Committee 6th November 2008 - 'Consultation on Proposed Improvements to the green area outside Woodside Road Shops'.

Wollaton East Neighbourhood Action Team Responses and Initiatives April 2008 - June 2009

The main concerns being raised by local residents over the last 6 months have been environmental including:

1. Concern about standards of maintenance of the Wollaton Hall Park Grounds and the two playground areas within them (Carried out in partnership with Wollaton West NAT)
2. Incidents of fly tipping
3. Concern about public footpaths
4. Untidy gardens
5. Lack of youth facilities
6. Parking
7. Dog fouling

The Neighbourhood Action Team has responded to these concerns in the following ways:

1. Wollaton Hall Park Grounds

Working with the Wollaton West NAT, it was recognised that the standard of grounds maintenance was a concern raised by many residents over the past year. Many park maintenance requirements are beyond the scope of current levels of staff and maintenance budgets.

1.2 The Neighbourhood Action Officer (NAO) facilitated a meeting in September 2008 in order to identify and discuss the necessary grounds improvements and to scope the possibility of developing a Calendar of volunteer maintenance projects for the grounds.

1.3 Officers across a range of services areas and agencies attended the meeting and have been working in partnership since to develop and implement the calendar of volunteer projects; this is embedding a greater sense of community ownership within the park. Under the direction of Grounds Manager Allan Mather the following projects have been undertaken to date:-

- raking up leaves and sweeping footpaths
- replacing tree guards
- repairing and maintaining park benches
- re-designing, re-stocking and caring for the Sensory garden
- dead heading the Camellias in the Camellia House
- Creation of a Deer sanctuary

1.4 The above work has been carried out by a range of agencies and their service users including:-

1.4.1. PCT Social Inclusion Horticultural Team (2 members of staff and 8 volunteers) have redesigned the Sensory Garden which has been restocked and is now maintained by the team weekly (Julie Walker, Nottingham in Bloom secured the cost of plant sponsorship from Sherwood Press). Contact: Sue Crosby Tel: 9661088

1.4.2. Probation Service clients: (154 groups (836 offenders) have contributed 5852 hours of manual work in the grounds) undertaking 'community pay-back' service they have cleared an overgrown field to create a deer sanctuary, cleared fallen leaves and weeds and assisted staff to remove fallen trees and currently are repairing memorial benches. **Contact: Jackie Medcalfe, Phil Kirk, Grant Millington Tel: 0115 8455100**

1.4.3. The Youth Offending Team:-have supervised young offenders assisting with sweeping-up in the grounds (3 young offenders work in the park). **Contact: - Gemma Lewis Tel: 0115 9159426**

1.4.4. Bestwood Day Centre users (Adults with learning difficulties) have been assisting with litter-picking. Groups of 6 or 8 adults visit one week in three for either ½ day or full day.

1.4.5. The Summerwood Day Centre (based in Clifton) a group of 6 adults litter-pick one morning on a weekly basis.

The work being undertaken is contributing to the mental and physical health of the volunteers, unpaid workers and the condition of the Park. Further projects will be developed when resources become available.

2. Fly-tipping and Refuse collection

2.1 Sutton Passey

There appears to be regular fly tipping occurring in the shrubbery patch on the corner of Sutton Passey Crescent and Selston Drive. This has been cleared several times, Street Scene are keeping an eye on this and may involve environ-crime. Community Protection Officers are investigating incidents with residents. There have also been incidents on Charnock Avenue walk-way link to Derby Rd.

3. Highways and Footpaths

The condition of footpaths on Hawton Crescent, Scalford Drive and Toston Drive, have been noted by the Highways Construction and Maintenance Department. The capital budget available for work is restricted, therefore work is being undertaken on a priority basis. Service Contact Andrew Holdsworth Tel: 0115 9152002

Agreement has been reached to undertake the following:-

- 3.1 Hawton Crescent:** - will have 2 patches ordered to be done on the carriageway outside no.16 and 28
- 3.2 Scalford Drive:** - Clearance of blocked drain outside No.3
- 3.3 Toston Drive:** - (the curb encroaching into footpath was a danger Neighbourhood Environmental Action Team to pedestrians and scooter users) a patch outside No.16 will be done.
- 3.4 Bluecoat school:** - the pathway curbs at the entrance will be adjusted to permit access for all.

4. Untidy Gardens/Hedge ways

The most problematic gardens have been identified via an estate inspection undertaken with the Housing Patch Manager for Nottingham City Homes and are a combination of NCH and private rental properties. Officers are working to resolve all outstanding problems. Approximate Locations are marked on the map in Appendix 2.

Contact: Mario Rechia, NCH Housing Patch Manager Tel: 8838242

5. Youth Work in the area

5.1. Detached Youth workers have been working with:-

- Young people living on the Sutton Passey Estate and Middleton Boulevard (on the Nottingham University Jubilee campus side of Middleton Boulevard).
- Young people congregating at the Crown Island shops

5.2. Friday Youth club on Harrow Rd Community Centre

The club is being attended by about 30 young people on a weekly basis for a two hour session. Young people need increased access to community/youth centres or meeting place within the Ward. **Contact: Youth worker in charge - Jason Lambert Tel: 9158642**

5.3. Youth Opportunities within Wollaton Hall Park

The voluntary work opportunities being developed within the grounds of Wollaton Hall Park are engaging more marginalised young people. New links forged through NAT meetings have led to the Youth Service and Wollaton Hall Grounds Manager planning to make the mobile climbing wall available within the park on suitable days in the near future.

Enquiries: - Joy Smith, Youth Central Locality Manager Tel: 9158642

NB. It must be noted that cuts to this service area will have an impact upon future delivery

6. Parking and Access Issues

6.1 Traffic Regulation Order TMP 6728 on the Sutton Passey Estate

The Traffic Order to restrict parking along the length of Hawton Crescent was implemented on May 11th. Several disabled residents have complained that the restriction is causing them difficulty in parking near their homes. The Highways Dept, Councillor Tony Sutton and Alan Simpson MP are aware of these concerns and will monitor the outcomes following implementation of the scheme. **Contact: Scott Harrison, Traffic Management Tel: 0115 9156088**

7. Dog Fouling Clean-up campaign

The locations where there are incidents of dog fouling have been identified and reported to Daniel Ayrton, Project Officer Partnership Projects and Development Environmental Services **Contact: Tel: 9152035**

8.1 Your Choice Your Voice Consultation events

8.2 Children Voices Consultation was held at the Children's Festival Wollaton Hall Park August 08

The consultation exercise was held to establish, what children using the park liked /didn't like about the park, what improvements their carer's would like to see and to identify park users who would wish to befriend the park as a volunteer. 73 children participated, 59 adults completed questionnaires, 32 people would like to befriend the park and 8 people would volunteer for practical projects. The consultation was undertaken by the NAO in partnership with Allan Mather, a member of the Wollaton Park Residents Association and a local resident. All survey outcomes are available upon request.

Further information is available from Dawn Simpson Tel: 0115 9158228

8.3 Councillor Café

This was held at the Official Opening of the new Community Garden at Wollaton Park Community Centre in September 08. This was attended by Councillors Oldham, Sutton, Culley and Morley. Highways were represented by Prairie Bryant who was available to consult about works and concerns regarding highways and footpaths in the area.

9. Neighbourhood initiatives

9.1 Stay Safe, Stay Well, Stay informed Event

This was organised by the Greater Nottingham Doorstep Crime Partnership March 09.

9.2 This was partnership event aimed at engaging residents over 50. It was held at St Mary's Church Hall with contributions from Nottinghamshire Police, Neighbourhood Watch, Crime and Drug Partnership, Fire Service, Nottingham Warm Zone Pension Service, Age Concern, PAD scheme, Central Networks, Severn Trent Water, Specialist Housing Development and Telecare. The event enabled participants to promote their services. It was attended by 61 local residents. **Further information available from Karen Merrimen, Trading Standards, Education Information and Project Co-ordinator Tel: 0115 9507932**

10. Spring Clean Campaign Actions 2009

10.1 This opportunity was used to focus action planning upon issues of concern to local residents.

10.2 Wollaton Hall Park Lake litter pick. New partnership work between the City's Youth Service, Heritage and Environmental Teams will enable young people to go onto the lake by boat and clear litter contamination; date to be agreed. **Contact: Allan Mather Tel: 9157689**

10.3 Sutton Passey Crescent Playground

Wollaton Hall Park Grounds Manager, Street Scene (responsible for maintaining and inspecting the playground weekly) the Park Development Officer will work with probation clients to do a basic make-over of the park to include:-

1. repair to parameter fence
2. painting the equipment
3. Providing a new waste bin
4. removing the outdated and inaccurate park sign
5. sweeping

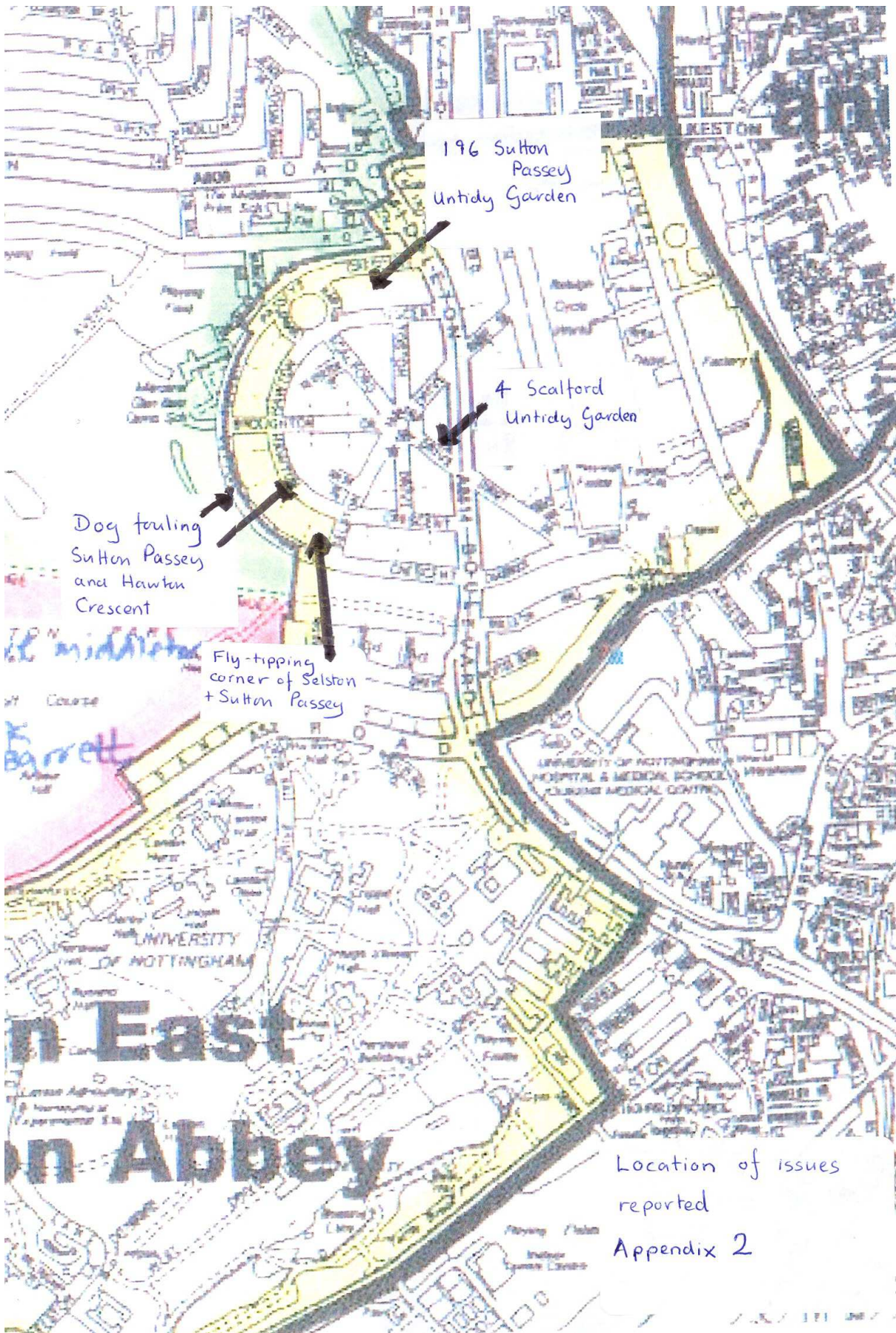
The general condition of the playground equipment is poor and needs to be addressed when funding is available. **Contact: Allan Mather Tel: 9157689 and Martin Harris Tel: 9152796**

11. Nottingham in Bloom

11.1 Farndon Green Island, Sutton Passey Estate

Following a request from Wollaton Park Residents Association Nottingham in Bloom provided three flower tubs for Farndon Green; they were located outside the Post Office, Dairy Box General Store and Hairdressing Salon on June 3rd by the Neighbourhood Environmental Action Team (NEAT) and planted up by local residents and Ward councillors. Local shopkeepers and residents were delighted with the results and have expressed an interest in developing a community project on Farndon Green Traffic Island in the future. **Nottingham in Bloom contact: Julie Walker Tel: 9152745**

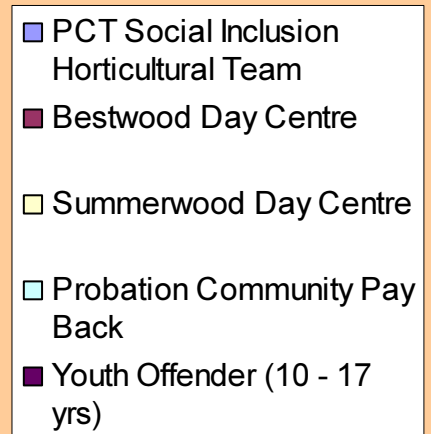
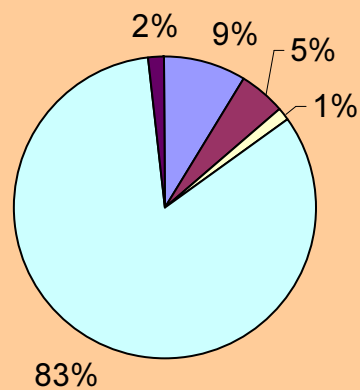
Appendix 2: Map detailing locations of issues



Appendix 3 Chart detailing outcome of partnership work developed in maintaining the grounds of Wollaton Hall Park

PCT Social Inclusion Horticultural Team	124
Bestwood Day Centre	72
Summerwood Day Centre	21
Probation Community Pay Back	1170.4
Youth Offender (10 - 17 yrs)	24
Total hours worked each month	1411.4

Hours of Unpaid Maintenance Work undertaken per month in Wollaton Hall Park since December 2008



Lenton Abbey Neighbourhood Issues and Neighbourhood Action Team Responses and initiatives 2008-2009

Issues:

The main concerns raised during this period have included:

- Alleyways – overgrown hedges and dumping of rubbish
- Crime and anti-social behaviour
- Allotments – untidiness, dumping of rubbish
- Standard of maintenance of the Lenton Abbey Recreation Ground

The Neighbourhood Action Team has responded to these issues in the following ways:-

1. Alleyways.

Issues around the alleyways on the estate are picked up through resident's complaints or through the bi-monthly walkabouts on the estate involving Nottingham City Homes, Streets Scene, Neighbourhood Management, Local councillors and local people. An effective system of reporting and follow-through action has now been developed between Nottingham Community Housing and Street Scene ensuring a rapid response to reported problems. A longer-term solution would be to secure fencing and to erect wooden gates at the end of alleyways. This matter is being given consideration.

2. Crime and anti-social behaviour

Specific issues are picked up directly by the police or through the local action group meetings which are staged every 6 weeks. Current priorities being dealt with through relevant agencies include dogs on the park and dog-fouling generally on the estate (Community Protection Officer and Dog Wardens), cycling on the pavements (Police Community Support Officer and Community Protection Officer), patrolling the vulnerable area around St. Barnabus Church and the park (Police), and dealing with youths who hang around at various points on the estate (Police).

3. Allotments

Unallocated allotments have been a target for persistent dumping. Streetscene regularly remove the rubbish and tidy up as necessary. Finance has been found for more thorough tidying, clearing up, ridding plots of weeds and fencing (some through Councillors allocations). Despite meetings between relevant sections of the council to resolve the matter, the problem remains with the speedy letting of the allotments to tenants.

4. Standard of maintenance of Lenton Abbey Recreation Ground

Lenton Abbey Recreation Ground was given green-flag status four years ago. Since then routine and regular day to day maintenance has been undertaken by the Park-keeper. The site is open and accessible even when locked and is vulnerable. Play equipment on the site has been damaged, as has fencing and the tennis court.

4.1 As part of the "Week of Action – Respect for Lenton Abbey" (see below page 3) there was a general tidy-up of the park.

4.2 Finance has been made available and the children's play area has been completely renewed. There was a well-attended official opening of the new play area on 28th May 2009 where Play staff were also in attendance to work with the youngsters.

4.3 Commitments have now been given for the replacing of damaged fencing and repairs to the tennis court in preparation for green-flag status in this years judging round. The

Recreation Ground is now covered by a peripatetic park-keeper and currently gates are being left unlocked. This is said to be due to lack of finance but needs urgent attention.

Initiatives:

5. Your Choice, Your Voice Event

5.1 This was staged as part of the Fun Day and consultation event on 19th July 2008. This joint initiative involved members of the Lenton Abbey Friends and Fun Day Committee (local people) and the Neighbourhood Action Officer in the planning, and organisation of the event; Parks, Youth Service, and Play Service additionally in staging the event; and Police, Neighbourhood Watch, Asset Business Management Construction Maintenance and Lighting, local councillors and Neighbourhood Action Officers in the consultation.

5.2 The main focus of consultation was on Woodside Road improvements (see below) and suggestions were made for improving the area outside Woodside Road Shops - these were included in the discussions with Councillors, Officers and LAFFDA members when they met to discuss the improvements with the Landscaper chosen to do the scheme.

5.3 A variety of other things were raised with officers, the police, and local councillors. Concerns were raised about litter and dumping on the estate. These concerns were passed on to Street Scene and dumped rubbish and litter was then cleared. Issues were raised with the Police about antisocial behaviour and crime. These issues were taken to the Local Action Group meetings where local residents meet with the Police, Councillors and Council Officers and action on the points that people raised was taken.

5.4 This year the event is to be staged on Saturday July 4th. Members of the Lenton Abbey Friends and Fun Day Committee are well underway with the organisation. There is to be an open consultation theme this year.

6. Woodside Road Improvements

6.1 Members will recall the report from the Acting Director, Local Communities entitled "Consultation on proposed improvements to the green area outside Woodside Road Shops" which came to Committee on 6th November 2008. This detailed the consultation that had taken place with local people as a prelude to improving the area immediately outside the Woodside Road shops in a scheme funded by Area Committee.

6.2 The information from the consultation formed the basis for discussion between a small group of local residents, local councillors, Neighbourhood Management and the landscaper who was chosen to undertake the work. This resulted in a preferred scheme being chosen and adopted.

6.3 Work was started on the scheme in the first week in April. Local adults and children were invited to plant the beds out in the same month and the scheme was finished in early May.

6.4 To celebrate the effort of all who helped to design the new layout, plant the beds and fund the changes there is to be an official opening of the garden on Saturday 20th June from 11 - 1.00pm. Various special activities will be taking place in the new "garden", supported by local shops and groups. The garden has been named by local residents as "Woodside Blossoms" and the name will be officially adopted on the day.

7. Community Garden

7.1 There are a series of untenanted allotments around the southern outer edge of the Lenton Abbey Estate. Most have been unused for several years and have become completely overgrown over time.

7.2 Local residents have for a while shown an interest in the idea of a community garden on the estate. After considering the matter further and meeting with the Allotments Officer the decision was made to take over some of the allotments between Wensor Drive and Manton Crescent and develop this as a community garden.

7.3 These allotments needed considerable work on them to clear brambles, weeds and rubbish dumped on the site and progress was slow for a while even though local people worked diligently.

7.4 Subsequently money for some work was found from the area capital budget and some fencing was erected. Also with support from Street Scene and a considerable amount of work from local residents more of the site cleared.

7.5 During the Week of Action (see below) local people were joined by Street Scene, Probation Community Services, officers and councillors from the City Council and a considerable amount of the site was cleared.

7.6 The community garden is now taking shape. More work on the overall plan for the site is to be undertaken and more people are being invited to be involved. Probation Community Services will continue to give support to local people. There is to be an official opening of the community garden on Saturday 20th June at 1.00pm.

8. Week of Action – Respect for Lenton Abbey

8.1 In conjunction with the Crime and Drugs Partnership a week of action was staged on the Lenton Abbey estate from 11th to 15th May. The week involved a variety of agencies working together to tackle concerns raised by the community.

8.2 Concerns included, among other things, removal of dumped rubbish, work on the community garden to remove weeds, brambles and tidy up the site, tidying up of Recreation Ground, high profile policing of the estate, work with local young people on issues to do with crime, anti-social behaviour and drugs, Trading Standards checking on sale of alcohol to under-aged youngsters, and crime prevention measures such as smart-watering.