

September 2022

# Victoria Ward Notes



Notes of VWP meeting  
@ Greenbank, Stranton  
– 14th July 2022

Next Victoria Ward  
Partnership meeting –  
9.30 (-11, latest)  
Thursday 27th  
September @ Salaam  
Centre



Notes of discussions are organised into the six themes that emerged from the spring 2022 community consultation – these consisted of 50 interviews with residents through door knocking & street contacts. Additionally, circa 450 adults & children attended community events over the preceding 12 months.

VCS organisations: Graham Alton & Stephanie Bailey-Minton (Changing Futures North East); Tom Cook, Sheila Hope & Fiona Cook (Salaam Centre – Big League CIC) Sharon Cook (Hartlepool Carers); Shaun Haque (Hartlepool Huskies); Julian Penton (notes & facilitation – Hartlepower VCS Development Team);

Hartlepool Borough Council: Penny Thompson (HBC Head of Housing & Hardship); Scott Campbell (Service Manager for Education, Employment & Skills); Sarah McCluskey & Caitlin Connor (HBC Youth Service); John-Paul White (HBC Energy Efficiency Manager)

Apologies: Laura Blackett (Team leader – Victoria Community Support Team); Sue Leather (HBC – Public Health); Paula Carroll (Senior Sport and Physical Activity Coordinator); Leigh Keeble (Head of Community Hubs & Wellbeing)



## Theme 1 – younger children

These are requested and very popular – with children & parents – as seen by the last year’s sequence of family fun events.

- Kids Cabin to provide street-based sessions for young people – update from HBC’s Paula Carroll.
- Summertime Summerhill picnics planned – contact Steph/Rachael
- Still struggling to work out who to contact in Lynnfield school to organise access to the field.
- Salaam Centre keen to develop work pertaining to child safeguarding and child exploitation.
- Free swims available? Penny to contact Hartlepool Borough Council’s Head of Service Ian Gardiner.
- Salaam Centre increasing activities – see community assets section below.

## Theme 2 – communications

The perennial issue of how to convey info about events etc.

- Juli is preparing a first Victoria newsletter.
- NB Victoria ward Facebook page – are you using?
- These minutes being reformatted to a more newsletter style – of possible future use for sharing with residents?





## Theme 3 – older children/adolescents

Parents' concern – too much time being spent online (gaming/social media). Older children/adolescents feedback – don't feel particularly safe going outside; low confidence/social anxiety – would prefer structured, organised activities in own neighbourhood. Refugee & asylum seeker girls/adolescents (16 & 18) looking for older girls/children sports club – rounders, basketball, bench-ball

- Sarah (McCluskey) is organising youth outreach consultation events over the summer – events being held in Thornton Street linear park on 1st & 22nd August; youth worker Caitlin (Connor) leading.
- Shaun (Haque) reported on Hartlepool Huskies (basketball club) activities for young people of all age groups – which now are delivered across the town.
- Funding available from the Police & Crime Commissioner's Office re. violence reduction – youth & adults funding pots.







## Theme 4 – the social & physical environment

Scruffiness, litter and worse remain a problem for residents – e.g. the outdoor Family Fun events have required the prior removal of canine excrement. Anti-social behaviour and anti-social/aggressive attitudes

·Housing: Penny working to reorganise HBC's currently fragmented housing services; Penny also connecting with the VCS community housing group to look at possible synergies; as previously stated, the exploitative, shoddy practices of a minority of private landlords can heap pressure on tenants and their neighbours/neighbourhood. Progress on landlord licensing? The soon to be re-established Hartlepool Housing Partnership will become a town-wide, multi-sectoral forum in which such issues can be aired and, addressed.



·The former Northern Textiles building (at the Hart Lane/Raby Road traffic lights) has been acquired by One CIC for conversion to 11 flats & community café – aimed at single person occupancy.

·Energy efficiency: John-Paul White reported that funding is available for around 200 homes occupied by “vulnerable” people, town-wide, for fitting of solar panels, air source heat pumps, insulation, energy efficiency surveys. Around 150 off-gas and 50 gas supplied properties are sought – with around £10K per property available.

## Theme 5 – community assets, connection & neighbourliness

People keen to get to know neighbours and feel connected to their community.

- Refugee and asylum seekers are keen to learn conversational English – they suggest sharing food as the best means.
- Salaam Centre are building up the activities offered from the Centre:
  - o Monday: Free food available from 2pm; informal English conversation, reading & writing (children’s and adult’s sessions); Ukraine support & social group
  - o Tuesday: Free music lessons (guitar, drums etc.)
  - o Wednesday: Free food from 11am (women only); Red Cross refugee & asylum seeker advice & support session; women’s social group; children’s autism support group
  - o Thursday: informal conversational English
  - o Friday: Happy Parenting drop-in; food/toiletries donations & free collection
  - o Sunday: Jazz band; Dan’s Man Club (male mental health support through music); Plus: Hall hire for parties, weddings etc.; Monthly adults autism support group
- Zeba Alam’s ethnic minorities women’s group meeting in the Central Hub should be contacted and connected back to the Salaam Centre
- The forthcoming Learning for Inclusion adult learning budget (£0.5 million annually) has considerable flexibility in which “learning” will be understood in the widest sense – there may well be opportunities with this. E.g. training of parents to assist with children’s play





## Theme 6 – Hartlepool strengths & positive feedback

House prices, beaches, access to green space (apart from very locally); sense of community



## Theme 7 – Partnership development

Joining up contributors around shared outcomes

- Reconnect Zeba with the Salaam Centre
- Whilst Lynnfield school have been helpful – the issue of finding a consistent, reliable contact to field requests for use of the school field remains a challenge. For want of such a contact we are in danger of losing a programme of sports and children’s activities – the Kicks programme – that will also pay the school for use of the field
- How to involve residents in the Partnership?