

# Hesters Way Partnership

Annual Report 2020-21



HESTERS WAY  
PARTNERSHIP

# Hesters Way Partnership 2020-21

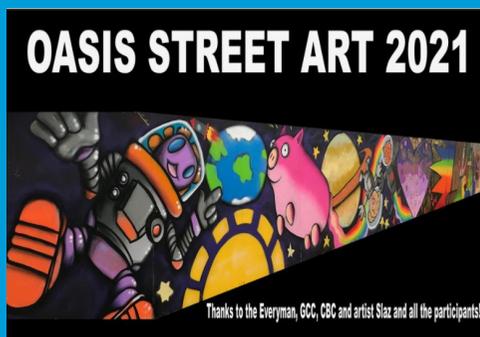
It's been a better but still a difficult year for us in Hesters Way but we have fared better than some. The Community Centres have remained open offering medical and nursery services to the community throughout the lockdown periods. We have been able to run sports and arts projects for young people and to add solar panels to the Hesters Way Centre. The Community Pantry has opened and is providing an invaluable service to families in greatest need.

We are please to announce two new directors to the fold. Wendy Flynn has been a councillor in Hesters Way for many years and adds her local knowledge and wisdom to the partnership. Bethan Morgan is joining as the representative from Pates, replacing Rachel Thorpe whose work with local schools has been much appreciated.

Its with it's great sadness that we bid farewell to Pat Thornton who has served the partnership with energy, enthusiasm and commitment for 25 years. Our best wishes go out to Pat for all her future endeavours.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Pantry Project Opening
- Solar Panels installation
- Hesters Way Neighbourhood Development Plan
- Summer Sports Coaching Project
- Oasis street art mural
- Tree planting in Fiddlers Green



The Neighbourhood Development Plan nearing the referendum stage and will ensure public led development within Hesters Way and successful integration with the exciting Golden Valley project, providing good jobs and new homes whilst also addressing the perils of climate change.

# SOLAR PANEL PROJECT



The Hesters Way Partnership has invested in a new solar energy project on the roof of the Community Resource Centre with the support of a Target 2030 grant from Severn Wye Energy Agency (SWEA). The project will generate electricity for the community centre and income for the Partnership through sales to the grid.

The new 188 panel scheme was designed, supplied and installed by MyPower, a highly experienced Gloucestershire based company. The system will help HWP secure our energy, future-proof electricity costs and reduce the carbon footprint.



The system will supply green energy for tenants at the centres and the income will support local community projects.

# TREE PLANTING PROJECT



HWP has teamed up with CPRE Gloucestershire, Cotswolds and Vale Ash Dieback Forum and Cheltenham Borough Council to plant 250 trees in Fiddlers Green Park to replace ash trees lost or likely to be lost to ash dieback.

Funding for this project was from the CPRE, public donations to the Ash Fund, and the Cotswolds Conservation Board.

Over 30 volunteers from the local community, the Rotary Club, St Marks Scouts and the Hesters Way Forum helped plant the trees as part of the improvements suggested by local people.

## COMMUNITY PANTRY

The West Cheltenham Community Pantry opened in November thanks to grants from The Barnwood Trust, National Benevolent Charity, Severn Trent and CBC. Invaluable help was also received from Cheltenham Community Food Network and The Trussell Trust, Family Space and CCP



West Cheltenham  
COMMUNITY PANTRY



The pantry is a membership scheme supporting individuals and families in the local community who are struggling to pay for their weekly shop. It offers donated and in-date waste food to members who will pay a weekly fee of £3.50 and be able to shop for approximately £15 worth of non-perishable and fresh food plus household items.

Thanks to pantry manager, Ami Walker and a growing team of volunteers, members will also benefit from additional services including benefits guidance, debt advice and mental health support.

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT

We continue to offer local people and organisations the following; access to networked and themed groups; funding ideas; help with consultation and statistics; partners for an activity; help with an event; setting up a social group; addressing a local issue; identifying training; sharing information; advertising services and sustainability!

## GREEN FLAG AWARD

Ongoing partnership work with CBC in Springfield Park has been rewarded by the achievement of a 10th Green Flag award. We installed new benches in the park and a new park sign at Hesters Park is due to be installed!



## CHILDREN and YOUNG PEOPLE

The Children and Young Peoples group continued to meet virtually over the year. Some of the funds previously raised for a "Creative West" project were returned to CBC but The Everyman support and that from the GCC funded Holiday Activities Fund allowed us to run a street art project at Oasis. Young people and artist Tim Martin aka Slaz designed and created a fantastic 25-metre mural behind the MUGA during the summer holiday.



## DREAMSCHEME

Dreamscheme engages with young people in years 5 and 6. However, the pandemic has curtailed in person gatherings but we were able to support the whole of year 6 at Hesters Way Primary School and the Boys Brigade with art packs over the year. Very soon we hope to recommence in person pastoral care and to offer emotional and social support for participants, building their self confidence and guiding good behaviour which are so important in the current pandemic

## MULTI USE GAMES AREA (MUGA)



The MUGA coaching activities went ahead during the summer and autumn with The Bridge Football Academy supplying coaches for the daily afternoon sessions. Despite lockdown over 50 children participated during the summer and a further 20+ in the October sessions. We were also able to partner Cheltenham Town FC whose

coaches were also able to offer their skills to local young people.

## FINANCE

Financial security will as always depend on the level of occupancy and the financial acuity of facilities management.

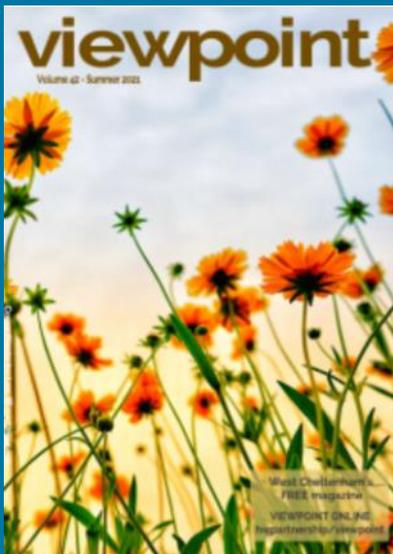
Concerns have been raised about the buildings' management and the partnership are progressing improvements where possible.



Project support was gained for summer sports and art projects, fit out and core costs for the pantry tree, continuation of Dreamscheme, tree planting, and parks projects.

## COMMUNICATION

We have completed 43 issues of Viewpoint magazine highlighting the work of partners and promoting positive views of West Cheltenham.



This combined with the Partnership's website: [www.hwpartnership.org.uk](http://www.hwpartnership.org.uk) our twitter account @hwpartnership and facebook pages ensures local people, organisations and agencies are informed of local developments, meetings and issues of local interest. Feel free to sign up!

We have also developed a new website for the community pantry [westcheltenhampantry.org](http://westcheltenhampantry.org) and updated the West Cheltenham Directory [hwpartnership.org.uk/directory](http://hwpartnership.org.uk/directory)

# FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

## NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

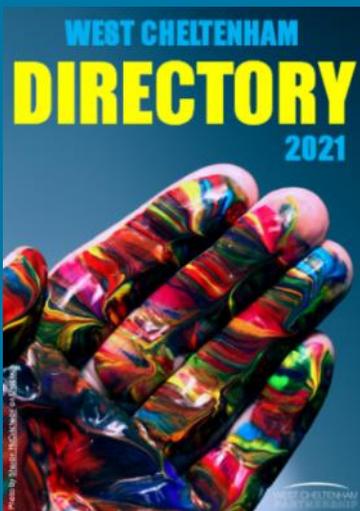
HWP will continue to focus next year on supporting the Hesters Way Neighbourhood Plan ensuring local views and opinions are given top priority, helping to preserve what is good and offering development opportunities to improve local infrastructure.

Hesters Way  
Green Living Plan  
2020 – 2031



Great interest will be paid to the Golden Valley development to the west of the area. HWP will promote the best outcomes for local residents in respect of affordable housing, transport access, employment opportunities, carbon reduction and climate change mitigation.

The Hesters Way Forum steering group, led capably by Charmian Sheppard with support from residents and local councillors Flynn and Wheeler who have galvanised the forum which has met weekly since March. Full details can be found here; [hesterswayforum.co.uk](http://hesterswayforum.co.uk)



The establishment of the pantry as a core offer for the local community and the development of associated partnerships will feature highly in 2022

We plan to restart the activities previously curtailed due to covid-19 restrictions including the Easter Eggstravaganza event in St Marks and face to face meetings of the co-ordination groups for Community Safety and Children and Young People.

To acknowledge the environmental and access benefits some meetings will remain online.

# Hesters Way Partnership

## Annual Report 2020-21

Hesters Way Partnership, Community Resource, Cassin Drive, GL51 7SU—01242 575638 [www.hwpartnership.org.uk](http://www.hwpartnership.org.uk)

