

West Marsh

Safer Streets

Special Edition Newsletter May 2022

NEWSLETTER



The Safer Streets project in West Marsh is now complete. This special edition newsletter for local residents tells the story of what has been happening to help make your community safer.



WEST MARSH SAFER STREET PROJECT

The West Marsh of Grimsby have been allocated Home Office funding as part of the Safer Streets Initiative via the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner. The Aim of the project is to reduce serious acquisitive crime such as burglary. In order to achieve our aims the Safer Street team will deliver the following to the West Marsh area.

- **Additional Street Lighting**
- **Additional CCTV cameras**
- **Target hardening to vulnerable properties**
- **Vehicle recognition cameras (ANPR)**
- **Listening and reacting to resident concerns**



The West Marsh Safer Streets 2 project, funded by central Government via the Humberside Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) has now been completed and I would like to take the opportunity to let you all know what the project has delivered for the benefit of local residents.

You may have noticed we have installed new lampposts fitted with the very latest LED lighting available as well as upgrading existing ones, which in the darker months will be a vast improvement in street lighting levels as well as being environmentally friendly and cheaper to run.

Seven new monitored CCTV cameras have been installed around the ward, which along with the new lighting provide clear images both day and night.

The railway underpass on Haycroft Avenue has been cleared of foliage; new lighting and two permanent CCTV cameras installed, and fantastic new artwork reflecting the West Marsh area. This area has been painted. This area of work was a priority requested by you the public, to make you feel safer going about your daily business.

Close to 350 homes have benefited from free home security improvements which has resulted in the fitting of locks, lighting and even alarm systems, along with an easy-to-apply DNA property pack included allowing personal property to be uniquely identified.

Twenty Five new alleygates manufactured by local company Bacons Engineering, have been installed along with opportunities to clean up alleyways which resulted in nearly one and half tons of waste removed.

Humberside Police were fully committed to the project and carried out several targeted days of action resulting in the arrest of offenders, helping to disrupt criminal activities.

Finally, three new Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras have been installed on the ward. This assists the police to identify travelling criminals and those using vehicles on our roads illegally.

In addition to these activities, a number of Community Champion groups and organisations based in the West Marsh have been leading and running all kinds of events, activities and actions to directly engage with residents.

This one-off special newsletter brings together a few more details about the various activities during the project so you can see what has been going on.

Steve Lynn, Safer Streets 2 Project Coordinator

Community Champions

The Safer Streets programme was delivered very much as a partnership. Alongside North East Lincolnshire Council were public sector partners such as Humberside Police and Humberside Fire and Rescue, but also many other partners from across the sectors such as Lincolnshire Housing Partnership. But much of the delivery to the community would not have been possible without the efforts of the Community Champion organisations.

West Marsh Community Centre

West Marsh Community Centre took the lead as the Centre of Excellence for Safer Streets. They hosted meetings, events, outreach sessions and much more. They were the fixed point of contact for members of the public and during the project, hundreds of West Marsh residents will have visited the centre to have conversations about the project and support available.



Community Champions

Voluntary Action North East Lincolnshire (VANEL) was commissioned to support the Community Champion organisations, who in turn were working the community. A big thanks goes to the Champions who were:



- West Marsh Forward
- Grimsby in Bloom
- West Marsh Allotments Association
- Hammond House Publishing
- The Older Peoples Group
- Neighbourhood Networking Programme



Household and Personal Safety Equipment

During the Safer Streets project, **VANEL** was able to distribute around 800 small items of personal or household safety equipment to over 200 households across the West Marsh. Some households had as little as a single personal alarm. Some received a range of items which included things like plug-in timers; stick on window alarms; door handle alarms and more. Each person we followed up with told us that the items increased their peace-of-mind as well as making their house a little bit safer.

Over 200 households received household safety items

We ran the project for over four months, taking referrals through various partners in the West Marsh as well as attending events and taking referrals from other neighbours. This part of the Safer Streets programme allowed us to provide items across the whole of the West Marsh, not just the areas covered by the household safety checks. We're very pleased to have been able to help bring peace-of-mind to so many people.

Referrals are now closed. However, West Marsh Community Centre has a very small number of items available and you can have a conversation with the Centre about what you might need. There is a possibility they might be able to help. However, all of these sorts of items can be purchased independently online - we recommend www.defendersecurityproducts.co.uk to start looking. If you have any concerns about home security then please chat to one of your Neighbourhood Policing team about your concerns.



Home Safety Improvements

Around 350 homes in West Marsh had visits by the team from **Empower CIC** during the project. These home safety checks advised home owners on ways to make their properties more secure. But the visits were also to install free home safety equipment. From the simplest door chains, to better locks, solar lighting or a couple of alarm systems, each set of improvements was helping provide more security for local residents. SelectDNA property marking kits were also supplied and a stock of these are still available from West Marsh Community Centre if you would like a pack.



Haycroft Underpass

Everyone is familiar with Haycroft underpass as it used to be: dark, overgrown, covered in graffiti. Not everyone's favourite route through West Marsh.

But through the Safer Streets project work on the underpass has changed its appearance completely. Residents are already sharing their thoughts about how the improvements are, once again, making them feel happy to use it.

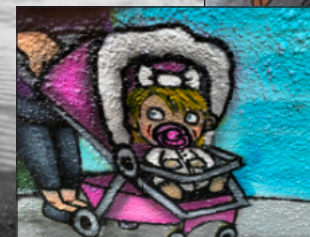
Local social enterprise, Capacity Buildings Ltd was awarded funds through the Safer Streets West Marsh Wallet to commission local artist Lynsey Powles to repaint the whole underpass using artwork inspired by West Marsh residents.

But first undergrowth was cut back to let in more light, and a new CCTV camera has been installed to watch over the underpass.

Residents had been asked what they wanted to see painted on the walls, and 'community' and 'river and gardens' were popular themes. Young people have 'had a go' with Lyns to learn about spray painting, and feedback from everyone using the underpass has been very positive.

The painting should be essentially complete by the end of May. Take a visit and see for yourself!

There's now a webpage with lots about the underpass and the repainting at www.capacitybuildings.org.uk/underpass and on there you'll find a link to a recent Grimsby Telegraph piece about the repainting!



More info and photos online at www.capacitybuildings.org.uk/underpass

Keeping Older People Safe

Safer Streets delivered a wide range of activities specifically targeted at older residents. The Over 50's Social Club at the Community Centre were our Community Champion for older residents, helping us try out ideas that would help make people feel safer and more secure in their homes and community. But the project engaged with the Macaulay Area Action Group; St Hughs Community Centre and older people on allotments, using Grimsby in Bloom as well as residents in almshouses and in residential areas.

“Stay Safe” guides were distributed. Copies of “The Little Book of Big Scams” were delivered widely and backed up with many talks on scams. “No Cold Caller” window stickers were shared, along with leaflets on avoiding doorstep scams and protecting your house against burglary. “Message in a Bottle” bottles were distributed. Social events at the community centre, at the allotment and at other venues were used to reach older people and share support materials.



Hundreds of local, older residents have been reached through the project and many of the materials distributed are still available if you missed out. Pop along to West Marsh Community Centre to pick them up.



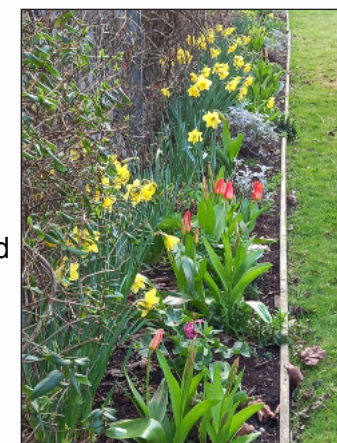
The Environment

Flytipping has long been a concern for West Marsh residents and is an issue that West Marsh Forward tackled during Safer Streets. The new alleygating gave an opportunity to clear alleys, and a local contractor cleared nearly 1.5 tons of selfishly dumped waste. Repeat clearances have been made and it is good to see that many alleys with new gates are remaining clear. This will be an ongoing issue that we've only just begun to tackle.



Grimsby in Bloom led on new planting and environmental improvements to the area. Unfortunately much of the Safer Streets project has been over the Winter so we're only now beginning to see new planting. But raised beds are being tackled; wildflowers will be sown in Duke of York Gardens when the time is right; and gardens have been cleared around some of the community venues and schools.

The West Marsh Allotment Association has been busy working with their potholders to improve security on the site (they are now our first formal Allotment Watch for North East Lincolnshire) as well as tidying up pedestrian access to the site and the riverbanks.



Physical Security around West Marsh

If you look closely around West Marsh now you'll see:

- Seven new monitored CCTV cameras and their associated signage
- Improved lampposts with brighter LED lighting
- Twenty Five new or repaired alleygates.

All of these works were coordinated by North East Lincolnshire Council as part of the Safer Streets project and are aimed at improving community safety for residents.

Local firm Bacon Engineering was used to make and install the alleygates, and there was also a considerable amount of rubbish clearance undertaken by a local contractor to remove flytipping from some of the alleys before the new gates were installed.



Police Support for West Marsh

The funding for the Safer Streets programme came from the Home Office through the Office of the Humberside Police and Crime Commissioner. So it was appropriate that Humberside Police and the local Neighbourhood Policing Team played an active partnership role in the project.

The Policing team carried out a dozen focused 'days of action' around the West Marsh during the project. These activities included: **stepped up, uniformed and plain clothes patrols; dozens of stop searches; at least five arrests; three house warrants served; patrols with the passive drugs dog; drone flyovers; crime prevention advice delivery; attendance at community events; extensive doorstep conversations with residents and support for community led visits to residents.**



Remember that details of the West Marsh local Policing team can be found at www.humberside.police.uk/teams/west-marsh

Neighbourhood Watch

In West Marsh there are only a couple of formal Neighbourhood Watch Groups, and throughout the Safer Streets project, VANEL has been working closely with them to share information and to develop new ways to watch out for each other and tackle issues that concern them.



We've been working with other residents too - supporting them to either setup new neighbourhood groups or often, simply encouraging them to explore ways to communicate better with neighbours near them and watch out for each other as a community.

Neighbourhood Watch is not just about crime. It's also about that sense of connection between neighbours and being part of a community. VANEL is able to help residents setup and run new groups through our Neighbourhood Networking programme, so if this is something you and your neighbours would like, please get in touch with Karl at VANEL. Visit www.nelwatch.org.uk or contact karl@nelwatch.org.uk. Please also talk to your local Neighbourhood Policing team who are also keen to support residents to connect with each other.

Safer Streets Video

Hammond House Productions was the 'media champion' for the project; photographing and videoing activities throughout. Over time there will be displays of photos depicting the Safer Streets project up in many West Marsh community venues. But a video has also been prepared telling the story of the project. It's on the VANEL TV channel on YouTube. Watch it at www.vanel.org.uk/links/saferstreetsvideo



What's next?

The Safer Streets project might be finished, but the whole community continues to work together to make West Marsh a great and safe place to live. We want to hear back from residents too. So if you want to tell us about your experience with the project please give your feedback to Alan Burley, Community Worker at West Marsh Community Centre (see numbers below). He'll then make sure feedback gets passed onto the right people and agencies. Thank you.

Also, visit **West Marsh Community Centre** where there are still materials and supplies from the project available (like the Scams guide or No Cold Caller window stickers). You can also talk to them about the West Marsh One Million Pound Challenge. Contact the centre on 01472 269230 or contact Alan Burley on 07862277435.

Come along to a West Marsh Forward meeting (third Wed of each month, 6pm at the Community Centre). Open to all residents. Meet community partners, your local councillors and Police representatives. Contact the Chair, Elaine Atkinson via eatkinson@hotmail.com