



# North Meets South Big Local Plan

## January 2021 to December 2022



## Our Vision for our Community and our area of Marks Gate and North Chadwell Heath

“An area that is liked and looked after, with healthy, welcoming community groups with a positive ‘can do’ attitude”



## Legacy Statement

As the North Meets South Big Local enters the final stages of its work we seek to reflect on and evaluate our work to date and plan for what we can realistically achieve over the next few years. It remains a priority to, not just improve opportunities for individuals and lift the morale of the community, but also to ensure these continue once the programme finishes. It would be foolish to assume this will be easy. Motivating this community to become more self-sufficient and confident during a period of such financial, social and political uncertainty is not something that even generous resources can guarantee. However, it is important to recognise achievements and maximize the possibilities. It will be our intention to find both physical, personal and the more nebulous self-confidence elements within our legacy. We will not make false promises or use pretentious language to suggest more than this is possible. We will work with all the activity leaders to avoid an over dependency on Big Local money and plan for future years, whilst being aware that for some this may be a challenge. The area is changing and significant new housing is planned and if possible we will help newcomers adjust to the area and become involved in its self-care. We will recognise where we can be effective and where we will make minimal impact and pass on to the appropriate agencies. Our Legacy will include:

## **Physical Improvements**

The investment in facilities on Tantony Green for people of all ages, but particularly play equipment for children, is already proving a major positive for the community. Planning will continue to ensure it is “looked after” and improvements continue. There will be benches in selected areas for people to sit, rest and chat.

Much time has been spent looking to create a stand-alone Hub for community activities. The available areas require a level of development funding beyond the current budget. However, we will work with partners and strive to achieve this. We will consolidate the work done within the Community Centre to give it long term life, and we will leave information and plans in the hope that some other funding stream may emerge.

## **Social Activities and Cohesion**

NMS has helped small groups establish programmes for people of all ages to provide support, advice, direct activity and combat isolation and loneliness. The work with the elderly was recently recognised by the Mayor of London.

We wish these to take root, become known to new residents and find long term self-sufficiency. Already their effectiveness is easy to see and it can only be hoped that this will continue as people move through the various age categories. Experience shows that voluntary groups often flounder as individuals move on and there will be an investment in providing the support, motivation and training needed to preserve continuity and inspire new ideas. NMS seeks to leave behind healthy activity groups which recognise difference, social change and give opportunities to everyone to contribute and receive.

NMS realises that, like in many areas, there are teenagers and young adults who do not readily respond to offers of support and are suspicious of formal attempts at service provision. The later years of the Programme will attempt to develop community mentors, and to give important safety information (around knife crime, grooming, health care and similar issues). We will also support in areas such as employment and housing whilst being aware of the community response to anti-social behaviours. It is ambitious in expecting that, working with other statutory and voluntary agencies, real improvements can be achieved.

## **Positive Attitudes and Opportunities**

NMS, through its Dragon’s Den Programme and social enterprise training, has provided individuals with opportunities to explore new life skills. For some this has led to the possibility of sustainable employment whilst for others it has built up the confidence to deal better with complex life issues and plan for future work options. It is difficult to measure the effectiveness of these efforts but the anecdotal evidence is positive. Some long term change has occurred and we would expect this to continue in a way that goes beyond the timescales of Big Local involvement.

NMS hopes a major legacy will be an increase in the “can do” mentality of the community: a growth in taking responsibility for change rather than sitting back and letting others provide. Most residents are quite positive about living in the area and the hope is that by seeing ordinary people taking care of themselves and their neighbours they will join them.

## How we know what our community wants

425 NMS residents took part in a series of community consultations between May 2019 and July 2020. The community's clear top priority for the new Plan is teenage/youth activities, followed by more kids' activities and refuse collection.

Level 1 – with 14% of the 'vote':

- More things for teenagers/youth including a youth club, music studio, skate park



Level 2 – each with 8% of the 'vote':

- More activities for kids including the holidays
- More frequent refuse collections/litter cleaning

Level 3 – each with 4-5% of the 'vote':

- Singing/music/recording studio
- More events/fun days
- Keep fit activity for adults that isn't chair based, including tea dances for older people
- Football
- Family dance e.g. Bollywood
- Park warden/keeper/security
- More police visibly patrolling and building up relationships

Level 4 – each with 3% of the ‘vote’:

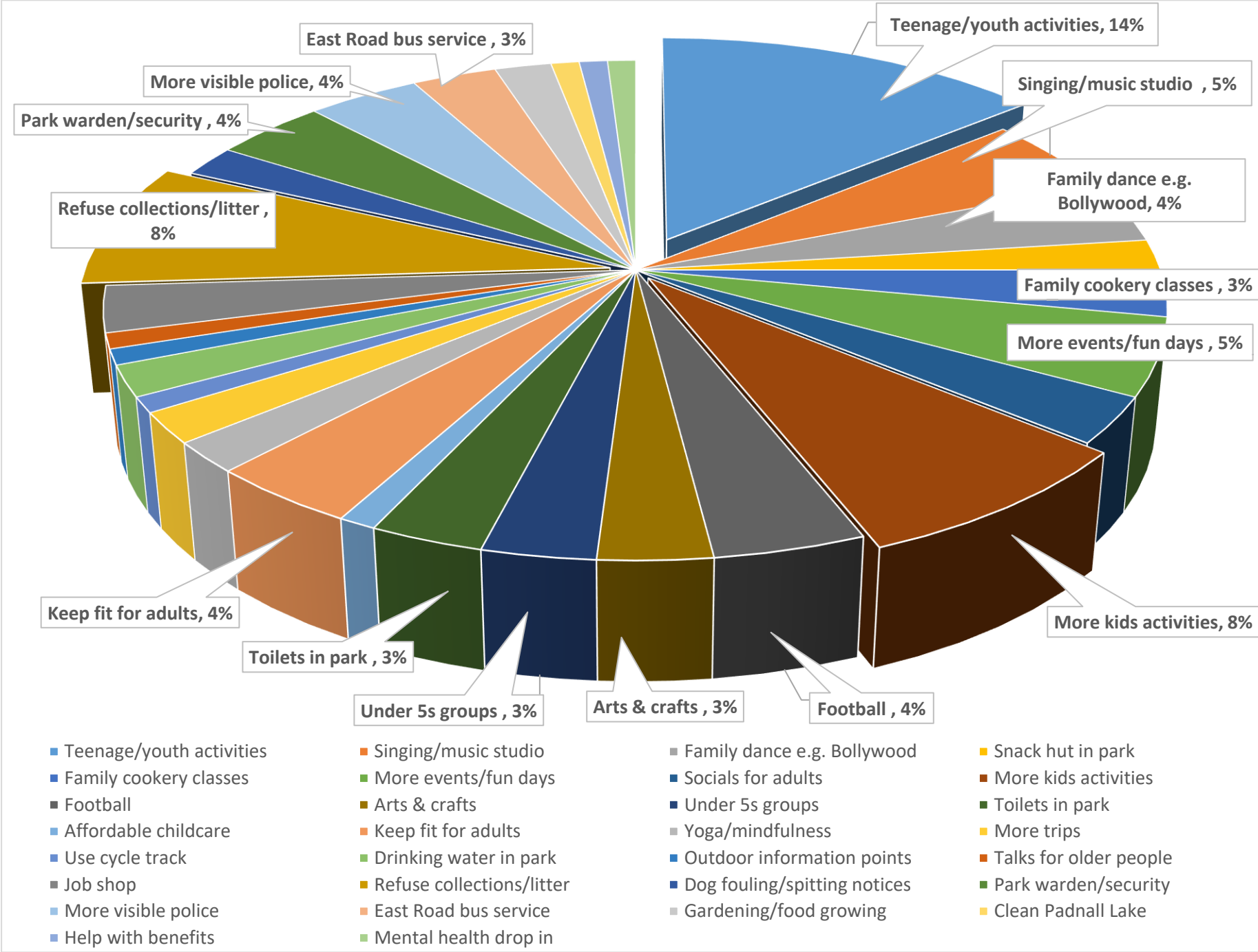
- Arts & crafts
- Family cookery classes
- East Road bus service to/from the High Road and Queens Hospital
- Toilets in the park
- Activities for under 5s



In addition, 34 people took part in focus groups carried by our guest researcher which highlighted the following issues:







- Not feeling safe on the streets, particularly at night – despite the overall crime rate in the North Meets South area being lower than the borough average. This was often stated in conjunction with a lack of activities for young people/young adults
- Isolation, particularly of older people
- Mental health problems
- Lack of an indoor gym
- A need for a central point of information where people can find out about housing, benefits etc. as well as the activities in the area

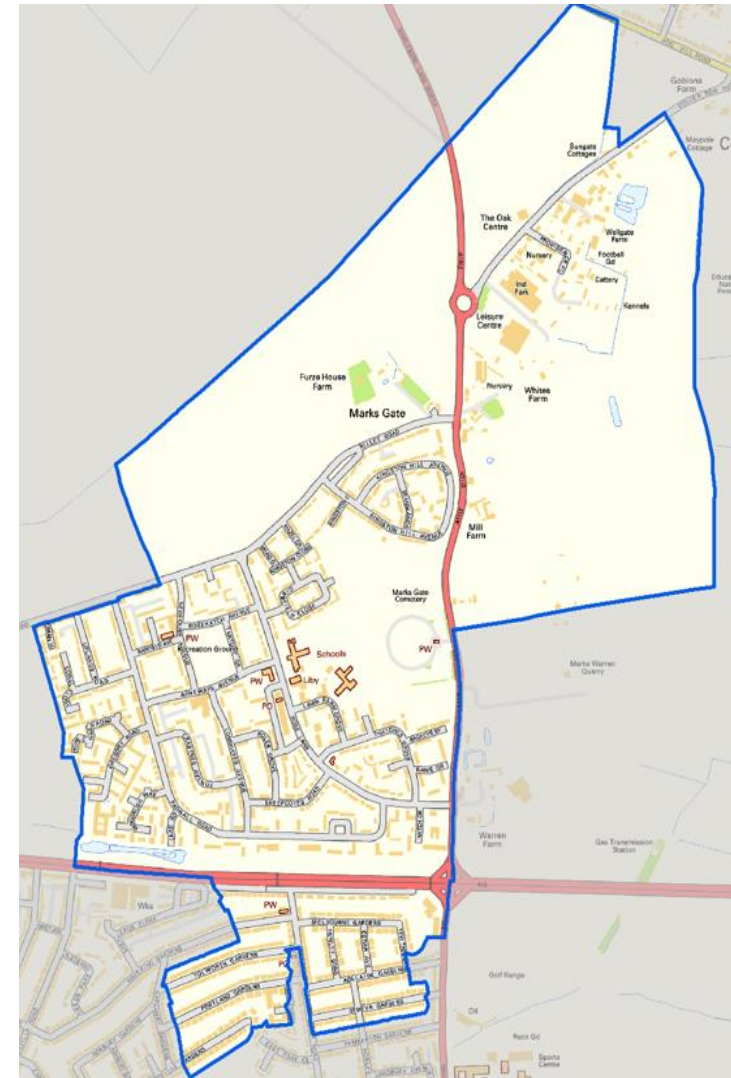
We will continue to work with the council and other agencies around issues like refuse collection, policing and health care.

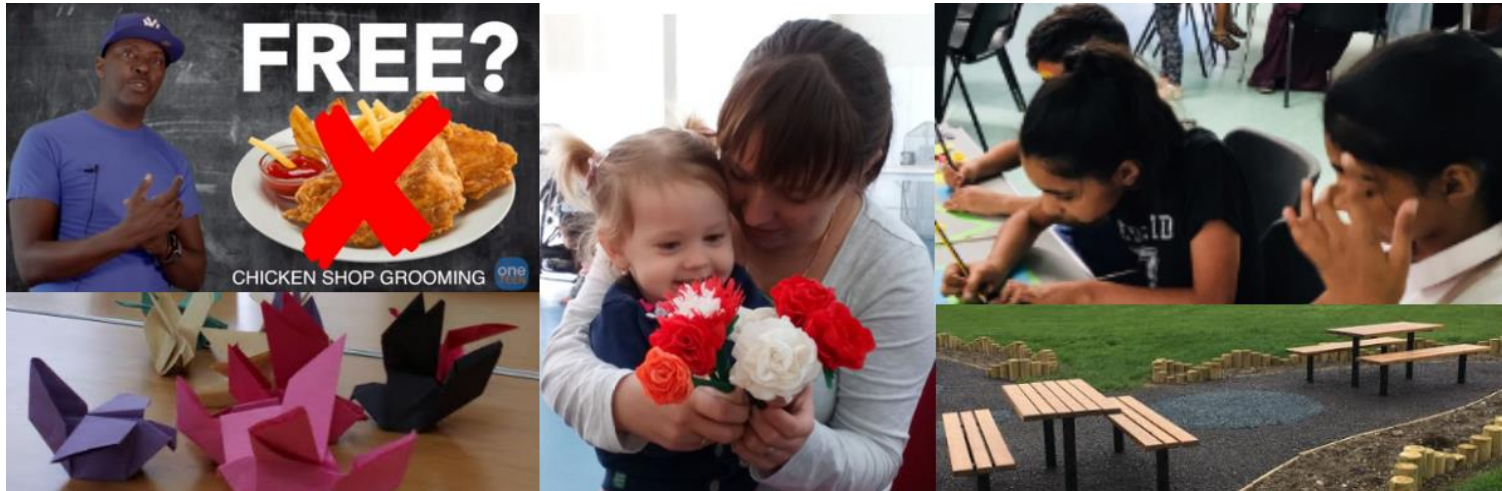


NMS Steering Group sees our new Plan as an opportunity to also address needs identified through Local Insight and other statistics, alongside our community's priorities:

### SOME HEADLINE STATISTICS ABOUT THE NORTH MEETS AREA

 <p><b>Families</b></p>	<p>42% of North Meets South families with dependent children are Lone Parent families, compared with 35% across Barking &amp; Dagenham</p>	 <p><b>Education</b></p>	<p>In the North Meets South area, pupil attainment based on GCSEs at Key Stage 4 is 321 points on average compared with 348 points across Barking &amp; Dagenham</p>
 <p><b>Vulnerable groups</b></p>	<p>27% of children are living in poverty in the North Meets South area compared with 23% across Barking &amp; Dagenham</p>	 <p><b>Economy</b></p>	<p>32% of people have no qualifications in the North Meets South area compared with 28% across Barking &amp; Dagenham</p>
 <p><b>Communities &amp; environment</b></p>	<p>7,735 people live in the North Meets South area. 57% are 'satisfied with their 'neighbourhood', the same as the average across Barking &amp; Dagenham</p>	 <p><b>Health &amp; wellbeing</b></p>	<p>20% of people have a limiting long-term illness in the North Meets South area compared with 16% across Barking &amp; Dagenham</p>





<b>PRIORITIES BUDGET</b>	<b>Jan 2021 to Dec 2021</b>	<b>Jan 2022 to Dec 2022</b>
<b>Physical Improvements:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investment in NMS facilities and New grant pot for Physical Improvement projects</li> </ul>	75,000	3,000
<b>Social Activities and Cohesion:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Cuppa &amp; Crafts, Coffee Stop, Family Fun &amp; Reading Club, Seasonal events</li> <li>Community Kitchen, New grant pot for Social Activities projects</li> <li>Youth work/youth clubs 2-3 days per week, Youth projects, Gang awareness/anti-knife crime sessions</li> <li>Grants awarded to Studio 3 Arts, Independent Karate Clubs, Chadwell Heath Residents Association, Sports and Life Skills CIC, Eastside Community Heritage</li> <li>Covid contingency pot</li> </ul>	108,600	82,517
<b>Positive Attitudes and Opportunities:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Money A+E's Money Mentors Community programme</li> <li>Community Job Club and accredited training courses, GCSE tutoring and After-school club</li> <li>NMS Young Advisors programme</li> <li>New grant pot for Attitudes and Opportunities projects</li> </ul>	33,050	33,050
<b>Community Engagement and Partnership Support:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff Costs and Operating budget</li> </ul>	47,387	48,241
<b>Total £</b>	<b>264,037</b>	<b>166,808</b>



## How we met our community's priorities to achieve the Big Local Outcomes from January 2018 to December 2020

### **Communities will be better able to identify local needs and take action in response to them:**

Our community is actively involved in identifying, prioritising and deciding on Big Local actions in relation to needs, through community consultation events and the North Meets South Steering Group. Based on identified needs, the following were organised:

- 153 sports and dance sessions: football, multi-sports, karate-based self-defence, cycling, street dance
- 16 events: family fun days, Christmas festivities, Dragon's Den, planting, fun days, volunteer celebrations
- 16 (non-resident led) arts & crafts sessions: Creative Café, lantern-making, origami
- 35 (non-resident led) 'cohesion' coffee mornings
- 1 defibrillator installed
- 1,000 food boxes delivered
- 60 food vouchers provided

"Well planned, well disciplined, very encouraging and empowering"

"Very fun and exciting"

"Children had so much fun and wanted to come every day"

"It made me learn different sports"

"All the activities we have here has been amazing. Keep up the good work"

"I really enjoyed this activity because it was fun, interactive and I got to make new friends. Also it taught me new dance moves"

"I thought the dancing project was very good. Giving the children something to do. As a form of exercise and of course free of charge!"

"I think the event was very successful in bringing both communities together. I've had some very positive feedback about the day and how well it was organised"

“This was a fantastic project! Our daughter struggles with routine and motors skills, so to see her part of a group of young people she did absolutely super! We would love to be a part of similar projects like this”

“I didn't like football or think I could play, I feel like it's easy after participating in this event”

“Thank you so much for the box of grocery that you have been sending though the lock down, it has been a life saver to me and my husband”

“The kids were amazed by the fruit! All so clean, you don't get fruit and veg like that in the shops!”

“Just wanted to let you know that the vouchers arrived today and we wanted to say a massive thank you because they really helped as I was totally skint”

“The quality is out of this world and the eggs are amazing!”

“The way Steven (Sports & Life Skills CIC) engaged with my older two, I was watching a pro at work!”

“You are doing a great job”



**People will have increased skills and confidence, so that they continue to identify and respond to needs in the future:**

Through the wide-ranging programmes below local people were empowered to make informed life choices:

- 236 days supporting young people with positive lifestyle choices
- 122 community wellbeing sessions: baking & making friends, weight management, moving on from abusive relationships, anti-grooming, free kids' breakfasts, movement & memories, Age UK's breathe & balance
- 6-month mentoring programme
- 35 Job Club sessions
- 31 volunteering opportunities
- 6 training workshops: domestic violence awareness, safeguarding vulnerable adults, safeguarding children & young people, Emergency First Aid, chairing meetings, setting up not for profit organisations
- 2 information sessions for older people
- 11 online courses: Food Safety & Hygiene Level 2, Mental Health Awareness, Health & Safety, Equality & Diversity, Fire Awareness, Customer Service Skills, Manual Handling, Risk Assessment, Safeguarding Children Level 2, Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults, Coronavirus Awareness

"After your workshop I thought a lot about youth exploitation and I realized how common it is e.g. friends and some family members. I really believe your work should be rolled out because so many people will benefit from it"

"I really enjoyed the group today and learned a lot"

"They've taught us to be responsible and thoughtful"

"I recognised my own faults and abusive ways"

"Spark2Life are great role models and help me to keep out of trouble"

"Spark2 Life are willing to listen"

"I really enjoyed the workshop, it was the highlight of my day"

"I will be able to listen and pinpoint people to services"

“All teachers have said how good the training was and how it has really made them so much more aware”

“Increased confidence in dealing with situations”

“I got offered the position for teaching assistant! I am so happy, thanks again for all your help and support”

“I realised the impact abusive behaviour has on others”

“Felt involved in the training”

“Volunteering at the coffee morning makes me feel like in future I could work with adults”

“Thanks a lot, it’s a great help to me”

**The community will make a difference to the needs it prioritises:**

Following identification of gaps by the community, local volunteers were empowered to run a variety of activities:

- 122 chair-based exercises to music
- 35 Street Fit classes
- 92 knitting & board games sessions
- 4 coach trips: Brighton, Colchester zoo, Margate, Walton on the Naze
- 60 homework club, family reading club, parent & toddler and creche sessions
- 92 bowls sessions
- 14 arts & crafts sessions: Twist Kids, painting, paper craft, singing
- 1,200 knitted flowers, poppies, baby clothes, bonding squares, scarves, hats, Easter chicks
- 10 IT support sessions
- An Evening to Reminisce

“Since coming to the chair exercise I no longer need my stick”

“You are superb. More of the same please”

“I am very happy with the community service, they are doing a great job”

“Friendly and welcoming atmosphere”

“When I saw the butter I thought it’s been so long since I had real butter I’m going to make scones”

“I learned so much as a parent”

“My child is doing much better at school”

“Thank you soooo much. We had a great time. It’s the best seaside trip and experience of travelling by coach ever”

“Everything was perfect and just good fun for the whole family. Well done”

“I like going out from home and meeting new people”

“1. It was a great workout, 2. It was good to see new people, 3. It refreshed me in the morning for the whole day”

**People will feel that their area is an even better place to live:**



We are working towards making our community somewhere people are proud to live, starting with the park. Tantony Green has been transformed with an adventure tree house, outdoor gym, wheelchair roundabout, toddler play centre, zip wire; basket, traditional and rope swings; park benches, seated picnic area, revamped MUGA and slide, imaginative play markings, fitness trail and nature areas.

“Many happy times will be spent over here with family and friends”

“Feel safe in the local area”

“I love this park”

“Thank you with love”

“Youngers seem to be enjoying themselves more”

“People are more closer”

“The park is perfect for kids”

“More age groups mixing together”

“Every day since the park has been done I have been going there with the kids and I have also had a go on the zipline!”

“The community is very fortunate to have the lovely park”

“We have been having lovely feedback about the improvement of the park”

“People in the community seem more happier”

“Lovely after 29 years on Marks Gate to see the fun and laughter of children in the park. Always busy!”

“The disability roundabout is very handy”

“Children play with new friends”

“A lot of good vibes”