

Tangmere and Whyke Junior Wardens.

Interim Evaluation of Pilot Projects: February – July 2006.

Background:

The Junior Wardens projects for Tangmere and Whyke were launched on 23rd February 2006, and commenced fully on 1st March. The aim of this report is to assess the early impact and accomplishments of the projects prior to the end of the school year, at which stage some of those who have taken part will leave the scheme and move to new schools. Therefore this allows the opportunity to assess the views of those involved to date, and to allow for changes to be made prior to the new term commencing.

Each scheme was designed to be reactive to local needs, and as such are different in nature with the Tangmere project linking closely to the local primary school, whilst the Whyke project was more informal in nature.

The projects have been supported by Martlet Homes and Downland Housing Association each of whom have contributed to the set up costs of the project and in some of the events held. This assisted in the purchase of a distinctive uniform for each project, including T-Shirts, fleeces, caps, and Hi-Viz safety jackets. The launch generated a lot of media interest with Meridian News, Spirit FM and Chichester Observer all covering the event, and various other events have also been covered since this time.

Methodology:

As the projects have run for approximately 5 months at the time of writing, limited statistical data on the impact of the scheme is available at this time. As a result, I have used anecdotal and 'soft' data, including discussions with those involved in all aspects, such as the Junior Wardens, parents, community members, teachers and other workers in the communities, alongside the facts of what has been achieved in this time, and other available relevant data for an overall impact assessment.

A fuller evaluation with quantifiable data can be undertaken after a sufficient period has passed to allow the full impact to have been noted.

Having only been launched in late July 2006, the Selsey Magpies project has been excluded from this evaluation.

Limitations –

In addition to the noted time periods, and resultant lack of statistical data mentioned above, other limitations on measuring the overall project impact remain, but have been minimized as far as possible.

As various agencies work in these areas, allocating achievements to any one specific organisation can be difficult. However this has been used in turn to teach the Junior Wardens the value of working in partnership to achieve better results. By focusing on the impact of the Junior Wardens specifically in discussion with the community I have aimed to relate the core of the comments to the young peoples achievements as far as possible.

In addition, the difficulty arises of evaluating two projects with similar yet different aspects to them, although this does allow to reflect the local issues, and to compare and contrast the outcomes with a view to sharing best practice for the future.

Summary of Tangmere Junior Wardens:

Since the launch, the Tangmere Junior Wardens have met for 20 formal sessions, made of up the follow types of event –

Patrols – The Junior Wardens will patrol with the Community Wardens, equipped with notebooks and pens. They will then discuss and analyse what has been recorded and reported since the last session. They patrol together and have been shown to look out for issues such as day burning streetlights, graffiti, fly-tipping for example. A normal patrol will also include a series of ‘observation games’ to maintain the element of fun.

Reporting Methods – After identifying a problem the Junior Wardens have been taught how to report these issues to the relevant agency such as Graffiti Solutions or Solve Lighting. They will then monitor the issues to ensure it is dealt with effectively and chase up where necessary.

Youth issues – Patrolling with disposable cameras to allow them to record what they like and dislike in the community. These were then made into a photomontage in the school, to allow the wider community to appreciate the opinions of young people locally.

Teambuilding – These exercises have proved very popular with the Junior Wardens, helping strengthen teamworking and leadership skills for both the project, and wider life skills.

Visits – visit from partner agencies have included session with the Police, Fire and Rescue service , and Dog Wardens.

Environmental Enhancement – Numerous litter picks and graffiti spots session have been held across Tangmere. Listed below are some of the achievements in this area specifically from the Junior Wardens:

- 24 bags of litter removed
- 1 untaxed car
- 3 day burning streetlights
- 6 instances of graffiti
- Information and intelligence gathered on Anti-Social Behaviour
- Areas identified for clean ups and improvements, with the information being fed back into the Local Action Team meetings. As a result the LAT and partners are going to fund to new litter bins and improvements to a communal play area in these areas
- Education and awareness of environmental and social issues, both for themselves and their community as a whole.

Some of the initiatives the Junior Wardens have been part of also include –

Visit to the Lifeboat station at Selsey – this was designed as both a recognition of the effort the Junior Wardens had put into their work, and as a wider educational tool regarding safety at sea and around water generally. This included a tour of the lifeboat station, and to the wildlife pond locally.

No Cold Calling Zone launch - Junior wardens from each scheme were invited to help out at the launch of the No Cold Calling Zone launch in Chichester

Race for life – held in aid of Cancer UK, the Junior Wardens from both areas volunteered to staff the finish line tunnels and distributed medals, water, and goody bags to all competitors. Their help and behaviour was noted by many of the crew and competitors as being a credit to their communities.

Various sporting activities have been held to promote a fit and active healthy lifestyle amongst the Junior Wardens and their peers – these have included a Rounders match between the Junior Wardens and Community Wardens and Community Members.

Also coming up are visits to the Fire and Rescue service Headquarters to learn and enhance their perceptions about fire safety, to the ‘Beechwatch’ project in Selsey to help tidy the beech and report the debris recovered for future research, and a backstage trip around the Chichester Festival Theatre as reward to those who are moving on from the scheme to a new school.

In September the Junior Wardens will be involved in the ‘Make a commitment’ road safety and speed reduction project. They will be working with the Police, West Sussex County Council and others in surveying the traffic in various hotspots around the village.

An average of 10 young people have attended each session, and one person has been asked to leave the project due to poor behaviour. At the launch over 65 people volunteered – virtually all of the available school year groups – and so a new individual was invited to join and he has proven to be a great asset to the team. Recently one other young person has left for family reasons.

Four children will be leaving at the end of term, and a further 5 will be recruited in the new academic year to renew the numbers. Several of the leavers have asked to continue to support the Junior Wardens in their own time. Changes to the ways of operating will come into force at this time to reflect lessons learned, and as it is now possible for the Junior Wardens to have a regular afterschool club which was not previously available. This will enable more regular contact and the ability to do some indoor activities in poor weather.

The Tangmere Junior Wardens project has been positively received during the latest OFSTED inspection for Tangmere School which has proved great recognition for the project. Other recognition for both schemes has been forthcoming in a feature by Meridian ITV, Regeneration & Renewal Magazine, and the in the local written and audio media, as well as having been used as a case study by GOSE, and at recent conferences of the South East Regional Warden Resource Centre, West Sussex StreetScene, and the National Convention for Safer Communities.

Parents Comments -

Mrs Robertshaw – ‘It’s Brilliant. Jacks very proud he’s been chosen, he’s happy, enthusiastic, and keen to do a good job. Children of Jacks age get an awful lot of satisfaction from feeling they are being helpful and making a difference to the community – and that’s what the Junior Warden scheme is all about. It’s teaching the children how they can help in a positive way. I’d like to say a big thank you to Sue and Declan for giving him this opportunity.’

‘Being a Junior Warden has been a fantastic experience for Emily and the other children. It has helped them take ownership of their community and has highlighted their sense of caring for others.’

‘Children get a lot of satisfaction from making a difference to their neighbourhood. The Junior Wardens have learnt how to help in a positive way and see their efforts

rewarded. Jack has been so proud to wear his uniform, and is really keen and enthusiastic'

Community Comments –

Mary Pavard – Head of Tangmere School – 'At Tangmere we are educating children for life, not just to be good pupils but to be active citizens. That's why we're supporting the Junior Wardens scheme. It's fun for the children and helps them to become responsible members of the community. The Community Wardens have given people confidence that there is someone who is easily contactable and who will listen to their concerns however small. They have made a huge impact on people's lives.'

John Rosser - Dog Warden - 'I've found the Junior Wardens to be very attentive and willing to learn. They are a really useful asset to the community, and to us in passing our message to the public, as well as in identifying local issues.'

Junior Wardens Comments –

When asked for their views on how it has been in the Junior Wardens they were given universally positive comments. These are a selection of their comments and what they most enjoyed as a Junior Warden.

Jack – His favorite activity was Teambuilding and he was shocked and proud to have been asked to join the Junior Wardens. He can't do it later than others, but was so pleased to join and has been really enthusiastic. His favorite thing on patrol is spotting and reporting untaxed vehicles.

Bethany – She loved everything, especially going on patrolling in her uniform. But for her, the best bit was being chosen from over 60 children as it made her feel so special. She also liked being involved in the launch of the 'No Cold Calling' zone and talking to all the people there.

Ollie - He thought it was fun as well as a responsibility to be a Junior Warden. He especially liked the 'Marshmallow' test that was set for them, and playing in the Rounders competition.

Matthew – Liked seeing himself and the others on TV, and thought that was really exciting. He thinks it's cool to be a warden.

Melissa – Loved the uniform and being on TV and in the paper. Her only reservation on being a Junior Warden was that the shirt clashed with her hair.

Nicola – Loved being on TV, and also really liked the responsibility of being a warden. She especially liked having the responsibility of a noted book, and of being able to report things, and seeing them fixed.

Other comments included –

- A lot more things to do than I envisaged from the start.
- A lot more fun.
- A feeling of being special to have been picked from the rest of the school.
- Getting to know the Dog Wardens, Police, and other Community Wardens.
- Being treated as equals by people in authority.

- Year 6's – very sad to leave the scheme to go to their new school. Many have asked if they can still come and help out.

Funders Comments –

Amanda Easthaugh, Downland Housing Association - It's great to see such enthusiasm from the kids. They're really keen to take some responsibility in their neighbourhoods. The work they have done has been of real value, improving the environment and making the area a better place to live for the whole community. These young people work well together and with the Community Wardens and take pride in what they do for the community. Downland Housing Association is delighted to have provided start-up funding for such a successful and useful project.

Summary of Whyke Junior Wardens.

Of the original 10 Junior Wardens we have retained 9, and one has left for personal reasons. Two others have been recruited and the group now stands at 11. The Junior Wardens do not all attend Kingsham; in fact they come from 4 different schools.

Attendance levels are very good with five of our group attending at over 90 per cent. None of the Whyke Junior Wardens will be leaving, in theory, until they have completed their first year at senior school.

They have met on 28 occasions including 10 'special events'. Notable events include:-

- Tree planting at the Whyke Oval.
- Training on how to deal with used drugs needles.
- Regular updates on how to report crime/ASB and environmental problems.
- Litter picking, walks along the canal, a picnic at the canal basin make up the remainder of the meetings.
- Visit to Selsey and RNLi station.
- Visits to the Police Station and Fire & Rescue Services.
- Fire & R.S appliance visit to Whyke
- Visit to the Model Railway club in Blackberry Lane.
- Chichester Cathedral visit with an additional visit to see the Peregrine Falcons.
- Assistance at Cancer UK 'Race for life' event.

Litter picking normally consists of three or four groups with an adult taking charge of 3 or 4 Junior Wardens. The groups spread out over Whyke estate area and will always come back with bags full of litter, which is disposed of by the Community Wardens. To date, over 80 large bags of rubbish have been collected from the area since we started, plus numerous old bikes, prams etc.

The litter picking has made a real difference to the area and in particular the footpath down to the A27 and to the Primary school playing fields. The residents of the Whyke estate regularly thank both the Community Wardens and the Junior Wardens for keeping the place so much cleaner, and we have received the thanks of the Headmaster for our efforts. As a reward he allows us the use of a classroom for our meetings.

Compliments have been received from the Race for Life organisers on the hard work and behaviour of all the Junior Wardens and could we come back next year.

The help and support of three members of the Whyke Community – Bibs, Terry & Carly, must be acknowledged, whose help, encouragement and support is invaluable.

Parents comments:

Parents have given their full support and have stated that they have seen a difference in the behaviour patterns of their children, who regularly lecture them on litter and issues around anti social behaviour.

Tracey Henshaw – ‘Lauren can’t wait until its Wednesday She comes home, puts on her uniform and dashes out of the door. When she gets home she can’t stop talking about what they have been doing or where they have been. Its definitely working. It’s making them more responsible for their environment and their behaviour. Lauren now knows that if she throws litter on the ground she will have to pick it up again and has become more conscious of her own and other children’s behaviour.’

Mandy May – ‘The Whyke Estate is definitely much cleaner. There’s less litter and the kids have learned a great deal about themselves. McCauley loves it. He especially enjoyed the visit to the Fire and Police Stations. He’s getting the chance to do things he would never have been able to do were it not for our Community Wardens, and the volunteers who support them.’

Mr Parker – ‘Danielle loves being a junior warden. She is so much more litter conscious and feels good that she’s doing something about cleaning up the area. These youngsters are our next generation; hopefully they are learning good habits which they will carry forward to their adult lives.’

Junior Wardens Comments –

MaCauley May – It’s great being a warden. I love what the community wardens are doing and wanted to join them.

Anecdotally, one junior warden has commented that he is determined to become a Community Warden when he grows up. Other Junior Wardens have asked if they can continue throughout their time at senior school, and one other burst into tears when she was told that she would not be able to attend a meeting because the family would be on a day trip.

Funders Comments –

Sandy Parkinson, Martlet Homes - I would like to express how important I feel their role is in the community, not only from their personal development point of view which I believe is very important to them becoming responsible caring adults, but also from the perception people have of the youth of today and how seeing these youngsters working together for their community should help people realise there is a lot of good in the young.

From a Martlet point of view we are very pleased to be associated with the JW's and also if there was an opportunity of a smaller group of JW's at St James Square, would be happy to fund further equipment.

I think they have done some great work in building partnerships and relationships with organisations and the general public. Long may they continue.

Conclusion:

Overall, it is clear that, despite the limited time passed, each project has established itself well in its own community and is on course to meet its aims and objectives. The results of the events undertaken show a positive impact on both the community and the Junior Wardens themselves, and this is backed up by the comments received from members of the community and partners.

The Tangmere project has built on its links with the local primary school and is being seen to be of benefit to the wider community. The Whyke project has engaged a number of young people from traditional 'hard to reach' groups and has maintained their interest and helped channel their energies into a positive direction. Each project has adapted their initial remit to be fully reactive to the needs of the local community, and the young volunteers taking part.

It is also apparent that each scheme has established a degree of credibility within its community, with other young people in these communities wish to be involved, and other areas of the Wardens patrols requesting that similar schemes operate in their areas, although this may be limited by available supervision options.

As a result the projects, and 'Selsey Magpies' Scheme which has been launched subsequently, have invited adult volunteers to become involved in this aspect, subject to training and CRB clearance.

Andrew Pilley
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August 2006.

Comments from June 2006 Ofsted Report on Tangmere School:

"They take their roles of junior wardens in the community very seriously and play an active part in making their community a better place. Pupils' social development is greatly enhanced through regular opportunities to perform".

"Problem solving and teamwork opportunities enable them to develop some vital skills for their future economic well-being."

"You help to make your community a better place through your jobs as junior wardens."