

Heart of Pitsea – Legacy Statement

It is the aim of Heart of Pitsea to leave a legacy in various ways. Legacy to HoP means leaving behind something great, a better community feel in the area, residents engaging more with each other, support for a healthier lifestyle, and helping to sustain a cleaner and safer place to live.

The resident volunteers in our Partnership have mostly been there since BL began and have already gained a wealth of knowledge and experience during their time with us. This has increased their knowledge about their community.

In terms of physical legacy, we have renovated one park area by introducing some new equipment and upgraded the cage area. We have also created a brand-new park that is regularly used by many residents daily. The equipment includes accessible rides for less able-bodied children, giving everyone, regardless of disability - the same opportunities to play in the park.

We have installed two outdoor gym areas which gives residents on lower incomes the opportunity to work out and support a healthier lifestyle.

We have supplied and installed Christmas lights in the town to be used every year and have worked with the Council to supply more Christmas lights in the town, funded by them. This is something Pitsea has not had for more than 20 years and is something we will continue to work with the Council on. Residents are much happier to see a festive town at Christmas time instead of no public decorations like before.

Some residents have been upskilled with online training courses, work experience and paid work.

Volunteers have got involved in our Incredible Edible vegetable patches, growing items to be given away for free to residents. This has also supported the health and wellbeing of some of our more isolated residents. HoP is looking to engage some Young Climate Change Ambassadors to take over the vegetable plots in the coming year.

Our Youth Forum is a group of young people who survey their peers and commission projects for young people. Some of the residents on the partnership will be continuing to support the youth forum after BL has ended.

We are looking for a venue to host our 'Men's Shed Inside' project. We have set a budget to get this project up and running but where to host it is proving difficult. We will be working with the Council to find a suitable venue if possible. HoP is hoping this will be a project that runs after Big Local has ceased. Some members of the resident partnership are keen to continue with this and possibly set up as a CIC after BL to continue with the Men's Shed Project as well as raising money or gaining funding to hold other activities and events.

We are keen to get volunteers on board to support the Men's Shed project, creating a better sense of community.

We will be starting a two-year project around crime, anti-social behaviour, domestic abuse and other concerns. This should educate our residents, providing them with workshops for parents, children, and young people, enlightening them about the dangers of crime, places to turn to for help and, support when in crisis. It is hoped that by educating the children and young people, crime and anti-social behaviour in our area would be reduced, thereby making the area a safer and nicer place to live.

The HoP Partnership has contributed to the community by volunteering for many thousands of hours, engaging with local council, local schools, community groups and organisations, to make themselves known

within the community and encourage others to get involved. Our annual Pitsea Community Christmas event is growing, and local shops and businesses are supporting the event by donating towards the cost which will hopefully make it a sustainable event. We anticipate this will continue long after BL has ceased

Our main strengths are, that we are completely community led; we have influential partners; we are now firmly established within the community; we are flexible to meet the needs of the community and we are Innovative as a Partnership.

We have a walking group that will hopefully continue long after BL. For some of our more isolated residents, this provides them with an opportunity, to get out and socialise during the weekly walk around a local park and have a cuppa and a chat at the park café. This is a time-only project that can continue with or without support from the HoP partnership.

If HoP continues to run as a community group after BL, we will look to gain funding from different streams, particularly for Men's Shed if it is to continue and fund-raising activities to be able to purchase required resources.

The HoP Partnership will continue to share our experiences through social media, our website and by supporting community members and groups.

There are risks with some of our longer-term plans, including maintaining capacity, but HoP will work on getting more resident members onto the Partnership and encourage more volunteers to get involved in our Men's Shed project to support it.

Our area has been slightly regenerated with the help of Heart of Pitsea. With the forthcoming crime project, use of the new parks and outdoor gyms and the provision of a multitude of projects down the years which have lent themselves towards residents leading a healthier lifestyle, we are sure that we have helped to reduce isolation, improve wellbeing, and provide opportunities for fun and learning which had not been there previously. With the implementation of Christmas lights this makes the area look festive and inviting, which brings people and money into the area and creates a more pleasant seasonal environment for the people who live within the HoP area. There is a better sense of what community is and can be. This will be our legacy.
