



HEART OF PITSEA REFLECTIONS 2012-2024

Looking back on our Big Local journey spanning 12 incredible years.

Celebrating everything that we have achieved and marking the beginning of our exciting new community chapter.



LEGACY PARK ON CHALVEDON FIELD, INSTALLED WITH
A £104,000 CONTRIBUTION FROM HEART OF PITSEA.

FOREWORD

Heart of Pitsea has been in existence since 2012 and was part of the Big Local project overseen by Local Trust. Having been identified as one of the most under-privileged areas of Basildon, a particular area of Pitsea was selected to receive over 1 million pounds to spend over a period of ten years to help develop the area in a variety of ways.

The main difference between this and other regeneration schemes was that all decisions about how to spend the money would be decided upon by local residents.

There were specified outcomes for the programme which centred on community cohesion, empowerment of local people, prioritising recognised needs and improving perceptions of the area.

Beginning with a steering group and a sequence of public meetings, eventually an official Partnership Board – led by residents – was formed to spearhead the project alongside representatives from organisations such as Essex Youth Services, Basildon Council, the NHS and Basildon, Billericay & Wickford Council for Voluntary Service, all on board to offer advice and support.

Having worked solidly for the past twelve years, overseeing all manner of positive changes to the area, the time has come for Heart of Pitsea as it stands to conclude its work. The £1,000,000 has been spent and we feel it is important to celebrate the achievements that have been made, acknowledge the many people and partners who have been part of this incredible journey and share the legacy of what has been set up for the future.

This publication will explore a lot of the great work which has been done to improve and invigorate Pitsea and the local community. Many connections have been made, friendships have been formed and the energy which the project has incited has been truly wonderful.

At the beginning we created a motivational statement which would hopefully encompass what we set out to do, namely: “We have a vision and our vision is for an engaged community that creates opportunities for everyone and feels good about itself.” Looking at the multifarious activities and initiatives contained within this booklet, we hope you will agree that we have successfully achieved that.


Having been involved with Heart of Pitsea since its inception, I can honestly state that it has been a privilege to work alongside so many passionate local resident volunteers who have dedicated thousands of hours of their own time to make everything happen. It has been inspiring that the public have engaged with so many of our plans and been so generous and positive with their feedback.

Although the Heart of Pitsea itself is coming to an end, it is great that there are various legacy projects which will take the trailblazing work of HoP into the future. We are sincerely grateful to the National Lottery Community Fund for providing us with this unique opportunity to really make a difference.

Paul ‘Snoopy’ Nagle
Chair, Heart of Pitsea Partnership Board

LEGACY PARK

One of Heart of Pitsea's proudest achievements is to have provided £104,000 of funding from the National Lottery Community Fund for Basildon Council to install the play area and outdoor gym on on Chalvedon field and a further outdoor gym at Elm Green.



The outdoor gym at the Legacy Park has a wide variety of exercise equipment.




The Legacy Park play area includes swings, climbing frames and slides.



The project turned the previously empty, unused green space into a community friendly area.

We recently provided additional funding for Basildon Council to install 2 sets of benches to add a finishing touch to the Legacy Park.



We are thrilled that it has now become a fabulous community asset that all generations can enjoy for years to come.

HEART OF PITSEA IN HOUSE PROJECTS

Over the last 12 years, the Heart of Pitsea Partnership has created over 38 'in house' projects.



We have organised quiz nights, party nights, health markets, pamper and gift evenings and Easter trails.



Our most recent project A.C.T.I.O.N. (Against Crime Together In Our Neighbourhood), focused on crime prevention and awareness.



To help residents to get outdoors and to connect with nature we ran an 'Incredible Edible' gardening group.



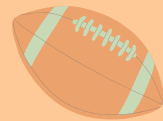
Our weekly walk and talk group, and the 'Pitsea Pots' gardening group are still running. Please call 07572 001671 if you would like to take part.



HEART OF PITSEA EXTERNALLY FUNDED PROJECTS



To ensure the best opportunities came to our local community, we encouraged external organisations to apply for funding to deliver free projects in Pitsea.



We are proud to have funded over 42 external projects, including a social group for isolated adults, karate classes, self-defence training courses, dance sessions for children, self-awareness & safety classes, non-contact rugby for children, gangs' awareness training, one-to-one counselling, an inter-generational skills swap club, football coaching for young people, outdoor exercise workouts and skills for life training for young people with disabilities.



The Hearing Help Essex NHS hearing aid maintenance service has become self-sustainable and is still running in the area. Visit hearinghelpessex.org.uk or call 01245 496 347 for more information.



SUMMER EVENTS



*'Was a great day.
Thank you for
all you do for our children.'*



*'Brilliant day.
Thank you!'*

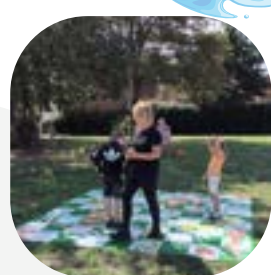
Every year we have dedicated funding from the National Lottery Community Fund to provide over 50 free family fun summer events in the Legacy Park on Chalvedon Field and also on Elm Green.

Aimed at children aged from 5-17, these events have included everything from traditional sports and games to inflatables fun and from arts and crafts to wacky Woodland Warriors activities.



The Triffik 12 over the summer was truly amazing!

We also ran some incredibly wet and wild water events and an unforgettable powder paint colour rush!



Over the last few years we have also provided free children's packed lunches



*'My children had a great time today!
Thank you to the team.'*



PITSEA COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS

Since 2014, we have funded and organised the popular annual Pitsea Community Christmas event on Northlands pavement, with support from the fabulous guys at Basildon and Pitsea Carnival Association (BPCA) and local community organisations and businesses.



Heart of Pitsea funded the lights in the market square and on the balcony of Pembroke House



Despite December (2023) being our last event before our funding from the National Lottery Community Fund ends, we don't want the festive fun to stop!

We are delighted to announce that we have set aside a grant for the BPCA to organise The Pitsea Community Christmas event this year (2024).



'Thank u so much for putting on the Christmas event in Pitsea.'



LITTLE MONSTERS & YOUTH YOUNITY

Another of Heart of Pitsea's proudest projects is our Youth Clubs.

Running every Wednesday from 4pm-5pm for 5-10 year olds and from 5.15pm-6.15pm for 11-17 year olds at Pitsea Leisure Centre, they are hugely popular, with around 50 fabulous members attending each week.

The clubs offers everything from board games and craft activities to the freedom to run around and let off steam playing dodgeball or nerf gun wars.

Our older group offers a much needed, friendly, inclusive, safe space where young people can take part in activities, or simply sit and chat.

We are so pleased that both youth clubs will continue under the care of the Basildon, Billericay & Wickford Council for Voluntary Service with the help of a funding grant from Heart of Pitsea.



YOUTH YOUNIQUE GENERATION

Youth YOUUnique Generation have been operating since 2015 and is the Heart of Pitsea's youth forum.

Using their own budget of £60,000, local young people aged 13-19 who wanted to make positive changes to the lives of young people in their community, have funded over 40 projects in Pitsea.



The forum has proved to be a unique platform for young people in the area who were prepared to devote their spare time to helping other young people achieve and flourish.

Just some of those projects the forum funded include free outdoor activities for young people during the Summer and outdoor events at the launch of the Legacy Park. They have also funded extra curricular projects at Northlands Primary School, bought the school a much-needed defibrillator and contributed £1500 towards educational materials for pupils stuck at home in quarantine during the pandemic who didn't have access to the internet.



They have funded a Christmas party for the Basildon & Pitsea Carnival Association, a Teen Gym at Pitsea leisure centre, Youth Market Challenges in Pitsea Market for youngsters to demonstrate their entrepreneurial skills, plus Internet Safety workshops and interactive dramas based around crime within schools.



Youth YOUUnique Generation also supported the Heart of Pitsea A.C.T.I.O.N. programme by contributing funding for Internet Safety workshops and interactive dramas based around crime within schools.

CONTINUING OUR JOURNEY



In Pitsea

Although Heart of Pitsea will scale down now that our funding from the Big Lottery Community Fund is ending, we are incredibly excited to be working hard to bring a Men's Shed Hub to Pitsea.



We have formed a new charity, with several of our existing resident members on board as trustees, to build the Men's Shed Hub. It will provide a space where men can connect, chat and create and where other community activities can take place.

Interested In Getting Involved?

The Men's Shed Hub will be built next to The Chalvedon Community Centre. If you have building skills and experience and would like to volunteer with the fit out of the shed or running activities when it opens, please contact Tracey on 07572 001671.



The Hub will support the continuation of our Walk & Talk group, which meets every Tuesday at 12.30pm outside Chalvedon Community Centre for a gentle stroll around Northlands Park and the Pitsea Pots volunteer group, who meet fortnightly on Thursdays at 11am to maintain the round planters on Northlands Pavement.



If you are interested in getting involved in the Walk & Talk or the Pitsea Pots groups, please call Tracey on 07572 001671.

How We Communicated

Keeping in touch with the local community and building friendships with residents has been hugely important to us.



Over the years we have delivered regular newsletters and information and event leaflets to residents within our boundary.

Our website has been constantly updated and we have established a strong Facebook presence with over 2,200 followers - 1,460 living in Pitsea and Basildon.

And we have conducted a number of community surveys and public consultations too.



But the most beneficial engagements have always been during face-to-face meetings with our lovely residents at our many events and pop-ups.



HOW WE SPENT OUR FUNDING

A million pounds is a lot of money to spend in 12 years.

To decide what to spend the money on, we surveyed the residents in our area to ask them what their priorities were. We did this 4 times throughout the past 12 years.

From the results of the early surveys, we came up with 4 objectives, Skills, Health, Community and Partnership.

Our money was split between the 4 objectives, then we went about looking for organisations and services that can deliver projects within those objectives for us.

After a few years and more surveying, we re-evaluated our themes and slimmed them down to 3 objectives, more broader themes of Health & Wellbeing activities, Safer and cleaner community, and Partnership.

The last small amount of money we have left will be given out in grants to continue our free youth clubs, crime awareness project, an inflatable fun day and the Pitsea Community Christmas event.

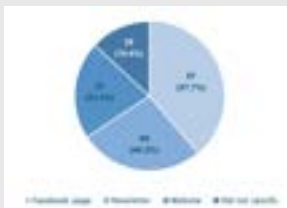
Every penny has been spent in Pitsea, and we hope many residents have benefited in some way.

HEART OF PITSEA RESIDENT SURVEY

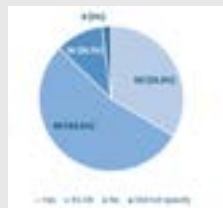
Our final resident survey was conducted at end of 2023 and completed by 149 people, with the majority (86) living or working within the Heart of Pitsea boundary. This is particularly important to us as our lottery funding was given specifically to support residents in this area.

We wanted to see what impact, positive or negative, Heart of Pitsea has had in the community during the past 12 years. Below are some of the findings...

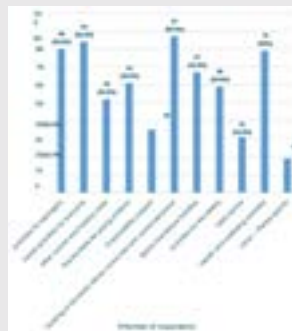
Have you seen or looked at the Heart of Pitsea?



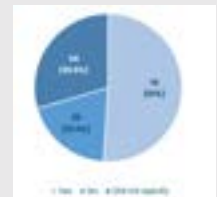
Do you love where you live?



Which of the following would you like to see in our community?



Are there any issues or challenges currently affecting your family?



To read the full 2023 survey report and also a comparison report on all of the Heart of Pitsea surveys, visit www.heartofpitsea.co.uk

Heart of Pitsea has always been resident led

Heart of Pitsea has been run by a passionate partnership of volunteers. All residents within the area, their local knowledge, enthusiasm, ambitions and skills came together to shape the project and they decided how Heart of Pitsea spent its funding.



The current Heart of Pitsea Resident Partnership has 7 members - Paul (Snoopy) Nagle (Chair), Carole Turkson (Vice Chair), Pete Dickson, Keith Bobbin, Andy Florence, Peter Wagner, and Tracey Griffith.

And our sincere thanks to all of our previous dedicated Partnership members, especially Sue Houghton, who was Chair of Heart of Pitsea for 10 years.

Also thanks to our current Coordinator, Tracey Griffith, our long-standing Administrator and Project Support Worker Gill Buttwell and our Local Trust Representative, Jan Stobart who has been a great support for us.

Thanks to each and everyone of you for your contribution over the years and for helping Heart of Pitsea through to the end of its Big Local journey.

Also huge thanks to all our paid staff over the years, including Suqie Banwait and Helen Davis and previous Coordinators Simon Johnson and Stephanie Vella.

And not forgetting our other wonderful volunteers, including local residents Pearl and Elaine, who have supported us continually over the years.



Collaboration has been key to our success



Working with local businesses and organisations has helped us enormously over the years. Tapping into a mixture of their local knowledge, expertise, experience, skills and energy, has enabled us to plan, design and deliver our projects to the community in Pitsea.

And we would like to thank each and every one of them for their incredible friendships, partnerships and support!



THANK YOU FOR YOUR FEEDBACK!

We were so thrilled to hear from everyone!

Facebook 2019

"Had amazing day I recommend it to anyone and come and join. Thanks to heart of Pitsea well done guys."

Pitsea Community Christmas 2022

"Thanks again for a fantastic event on Saturday."

Facebook 2018

"Love what they do in the community for the kids and the adults...keep up the good work."

Facemask Distribution 2020

"Thank you so much your all doing a great job for our community keep it up."

Summer Events 2021

"My children had a great time today!! Thank you to you and the team."

Easter Trail 2023

"Thank you so much for organising the Easter trail my children loved it my little girl of 6 was super excited and it even got my 15year old autistic son out the house to solve some clues."

Facebook 2016

"Love it. Local clubs, groups and sessions for local people of all ages. My son has gained so much confidence since attending youth club sessions. Thank you" x

Online Training 2020

"I have thoroughly enjoyed the effective training and gained my certification. My sincere thanks to your team for providing me an opportunity to upgrade my skills for a better future."

Self Defence Classes 2022

"Thank you so much for this amazing opportunity. It gave me much more confidence and increased my self esteem!"

Resident Survey 2023

"An amazing job, lots of activities and community events, crime prevention, holiday clubs. Lots of really positive stuff for our community."

Internet Safety Awareness Workshop 2022

"All the content was a real eye opener as to how vulnerable you can be on the internet."

Facebook 2017

"Friendly group , thankyou it was nice to feel part of it and enjoy community spirit."

Summertime TEN 2024

"Was a great day thank you and thank you for all you do for our children" x

Pitsea Community Christmas 2017

"Thank u so much for putting on Christmas event in Pitsea today. It was so well organised & my kids age 1 & 3 loved it! I was so impressed!."

Resident Survey 2023

"Bringing the community together providing support and activities for young children, the elderly. Heart of Pitsea is a million times more beneficial than our local council"

We really appreciate all the positive comments and insights we received from our community over the years.

THE HEART OF PITSEA BOUNDARY

The area in green includes the 3,500 homes and businesses that the Heart of Pitsea National Lottery Fund funding covered.



Vision

“We have a vision and our vision is for an engaged community that creates opportunities for everyone and feels good about itself”

Priorities & Themes

Safer & Cleaner
Community

Health,
Wellbeing &
Activities

Partnership

Heart of Pitsea has been supported by the Basildon, Billericay and Wickford Council for Voluntary Service, through Big Local and administered by Local Trust for the National Lottery Community Fund.