

## TurnaroundProjectUpdateApril2008 - suppliedbyDebbiePike,TestwayHousing

The Turnaround project was set up in 2005 following the publication of the social indices of deprivation which showed a stark difference between the Alamein Ward and the rest of the Test Valley area. The Alamein ward falls within the lowest quartile in the country, including the lowest 6% for education and the lowest 18% for child poverty. This then has many associated issues e.g. health and personal aspiration.

Following the publication of this report and the set up of the Turnaround project, a 3 month consultation exercise with residents was carried out. Over 500 people were involved in 2005, and suggestions covered 3 main issues:

### 1. Feeling safe when outside

Better street lighting, safe play areas, more things for young people to do

### 2. Feeling proud of the neighbourhood

Less rubbish and dog mess, more support for local schools, more chance to learn and find employment

### 3. Feeling part of a strong community

Playing a part in deciding what happens, better links between local services and organisations, encouragement for people to achieve their ambitions, a community meeting place.

With the results of the published indices and feedback from the community, Turnaround created an action plan and over the last 18 months have delivered on a number of projects, including:

- £250k invested in 2 play areas
- A Neighbourhood Activities Co-ordinator employed to work solely in the area
- High profile police teams introduced (and crime reduced by 15% in the years so far)
- A one-stop community information shop, open to provide advice, support and an outlet for Turnaround partners
- A programme of education and IT sponsored by BT (set up as an internet café in the Askalot shop)
- Free arts, drama and music events for young people
- Free sport training for children, held in the neighbourhood
- A Darts Academy – the first in the country set up to give young people a focus on and help with their maths
- Almost 50 people joined an education programme and pilot set up in partnership with the Chartered Institute of Housing
- Home link workers now working at local primary schools
- A youth club started for 11-19 year olds
- A new Environment group involving local people, looking at green spaces, well lit streets,
- 400 people attended a fun family day
- Promotion of recycling with 170 members of the community making pledges to recycle more
- Turnaround partners held high visibility activities for 5 days in a row
- 35 graffiti jobs were completed

- 40 households advised on how to keep their garden tidy
- 2,500 tons of fly tipping removed
- 100' of local youngster took part in the skip to befit project in their school
- A positive parenting programme
- A mediation service is currently being trialled
- A breastfeeding clinic is being set up to help more mothers breastfeed for longer
- A community allotment is being set up to encourage people to get involved in a community project and eat more healthily.

Alongside this, some of the outcomes also include:

- A local residents association
- A revitalised committee of local people who run the community hall

In 2007, we carried out a community audit across the whole of the Alamein Ward, cross-referencing the questions asked with those asked at the original 2005 events so that we could trends some comparable data.

The results of the 2007 questionnaire were significant in that we had a 45% higher response than 2005, plus a wider representation of views from the community.

The positive changes that the community highlighted were:

- Making the area feel safer, both during the day and at night
- Football pitch
- Park and play area

There is a level of detail that sits behind these headlines, however the significant problems that the community highlighted remain as:

- Parking
- Street lighting
- Litter and dog mess

In all these areas, the problems for King Arthurs Way ward are higher than those for the Alamein Ward as a whole. To enable us to get underneath the headline information with more detail, we have taken the opportunity at a recent event to ask supplementary questions. This information is to be fed into a workshop preview of the Turnaround Action Plan on 22 May.