



## The quarterly newsletter for Bracknell Forest Partnership

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Copies of the Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement can be obtained by telephoning 01344 352108

### Future Partnership Meetings

Regular two hour workshops:

11 March 2010

08 June 2010

09 September 2010

07 December 2010

10.00am start with refreshments from 9.45am  
Easthampstead Baptist Church, Bracknell

Prepared by Bracknell Forest  
Borough Council on behalf of the  
Bracknell Forest Partnership.

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The views expressed within this  
publication are those of the contributors  
and should not therefore be taken as  
either Partnership or individual partners  
policy.

Deadline for next regular issue:  
11 March 2009



**Welcome**  
**Mary Purnell**  
**Assistant Director - Locality**  
**Development**  
**Bracknell Forest Council**

Many thanks to everyone who attended our special Place Survey event. We had a great turn out and the electronic voting (the results of which are included in this newsletter) provided to be a huge success. The Place Survey presentations and workshop highlighted resident's views on Bracknell Forest Council and partners, as well as the borough as a whole, and the results of the workshops will be used and discussed by the CCEWG and CDRP at future meetings.

Our next meeting will be held on 11 March 2010 including a workshop on site allocations of new housing by the Infrastructure Reference Group.

### Comprehensive Area Assessment

Bracknell Forest Council is **Performing Well** overall and is consistently delivering above the minimum requirements as determined by the Audit Commission under the new Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA).

The CAA is about public accountability, with the



assessments combining the views of six independent inspectorates to create a single snapshot of an area. It looks at what a council and its partner organisations want to achieve on important local issues, such as crime, affordable housing, people's health and the prospects for improvement.

The CAA consists of two elements; an Area Assessment (AA) that focuses on what public sector bodies in an area are achieving together, and an Organisational Assessment (OA) which replaces the previous Comprehensive Performance Assessment approach and focuses on how the council performs as a business. The AA is assessed over the three themes set out in the Sustainable Community



Strategy: Cohesive Communities; Desirable Place and Thriving Population.

## Organisational Assessment

There are two parts to the OA – Managing Performance and Use of Resources. In these Bracknell Forest Council achieved a **Performing Well** for Managing Performance and **Performs Adequately** for its Use of Resources.

### Area Assessment

As well as telling a story about an area Oneplace sometimes uses green and red flags: green to indicate exceptional performance or improvement that other public services could learn from; red to signal significant concerns about performance and prospects for improvement where more, or something different, needs to be done. The Bracknell Forest area has no green or red flags.

Elizabeth Hale, Oneplace spokesperson for Bracknell Forest, said:

'People in Bracknell Forest are being supported by their local public services through the recession, and encouraged to get more involved in their community through volunteering. The health of local people is being improved and the gap between the least and most healthy people is narrowing. Support for vulnerable families and carers has also improved. Whilst it is a safe place to live, crime levels are rising against the national trend of reduction. The redevelopment of the town centre is progressing slowly, there is a shortage of affordable accommodation and more work is needed to reduce traffic congestion - all issues of concern to local people.'

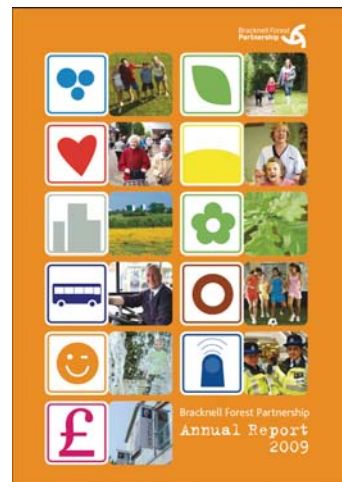
To download a copy of the full assessment report, visit the Oneplace website [www.direct.gov.uk/oneplace](http://www.direct.gov.uk/oneplace). The website provides an independent overview of local public services. It will help people see how well their local services, including councils, police and the NHS, are serving their needs and how well these services are working together to improve an area's quality of life.

## BFP Annual Report 2009

The Partnership Awards event on November 27 saw the launch of the first Bracknell Forest Partnership Annual report. Covering each of the themes of the Sustainable Community Strategy, the report aims to show a snapshot of all the good work going on across the partnership and many of the award winners from the event are used as case studies in the report.

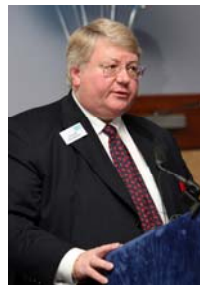
A copy of the annual report can be found online at [www.bracknellforestpartnership.co.uk](http://www.bracknellforestpartnership.co.uk)

For a hard copy, please contact Gemma Tizzard at [gemma.tizzard@bracknell-forest.gov.uk](mailto:gemma.tizzard@bracknell-forest.gov.uk) or on 01344 352173.



## BFP Awards 2009

People from a wide range of public, private and voluntary organisations gathered at the Grange Hotel on November 27 for the Bracknell Forest Partnership awards. This is the first and only set of awards within Bracknell Forest that are dedicated solely to the recognition of the vast array of joint working in the borough.



Bracknell Forest Partnership is all about being a champion of partnership working – promoting the benefits and encouraging new ways of working. The awards were designed to celebrate this joint working, recognising the additional benefits that are brought by people co-ordinating their efforts and sharing skills, expertise and knowledge.

16 projects were awarded prizes for the excellent joint work they have delivered in a range of fields including tackling climate change, reducing crime, and safeguarding children. The three Gold awards were presented to....



- **Bracknell Shopmobility** in the People category
- **Breathing Places** in the Place category
- **Be Heard** in the Community category

The Silver awards were presented to....

- **Children's Centres** in the People category
- **Home Energy Monitors** and **The Pines School Allotment** in the Place category
- **Sandhurst Pride** in the Community category

The following entries also received Highly Commended certificates:

- LSCB Raising Awareness sub group
- Sexual Health and Teenage Pregnancy team
- Anti-bullying group
- Telehealth
- Home-Start
- Carers emergency respite scheme
- Bracknell in Bloom
- Bracknell Mela
- CADIS (Community and Nuisance Disorder Information System)



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## BFP Awards 2009 Workshop Results

The workshop that took place at the Bracknell Forest Partnership Awards on November 27th 2009 asked the delegates present to each write down their main priority, hope and fear for the future. A wide range of responses were given, giving an insight into the vast array of work going on in the borough in the public, private and voluntary sectors. However, there were a few themes that were repeated several times that are clearly the key issues for the people who live and work in Bracknell Forest.



In the 'Priorities' section, unsurprisingly, many people felt that the regeneration of Bracknell town centre was a priority, linked in many cases to the economy in general and our attempts to mitigate the recession impact on residents. This was linked to another key priority that was mentioned by many people – to keep delivering services through the recession to make sure that everyone, particularly the more vulnerable sections of our community such as children and young people, receive the continuation of care, support and services that they need. Another key priority was to make Bracknell Healthspace a reality, and many people stated that building on partnerships and strengthening community relationships and involvement was a priority for them.

The 'Hopes' of people, as is to be expected, were that many of their 'priorities' come to fruition and happen. People are hoping for economic recovery, and therefore a start on the town centre regeneration, and that their partnership working will strengthen and improve. Adequate funding is a key hope, so that good work will continue or even expand.

Therefore, it would make sense that people's 'Fears' are the opposite; and they are worried that their priorities will not happen. People fear that the economy and the recession will get worse, and as a result the Bracknell town centre regeneration work will not go ahead.



There is also a worry that the financial climate will mean that funding stops to some projects, causing cuts on frontline services and resulting in people not getting the support or care that they need. There is also a fear that the recession will have an



adverse effect on the delivery of the Healthspace. An unemployment rise and businesses leaving the local area is also a concern, as is

the fact that we may be unable to change negative perceptions and residents may lose faith and forget all the hard work that the Council and its partners do.

The information gathered from the workshop and the above themes that have come out of it will now be used by us in our forward planning and in the review of our Sustainable Community Strategy, so thank you to all of you for taking part.

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## Place Survey Event

On December 8<sup>th</sup> the Bracknell Forest Partnership gathered for a workshop on a couple of the key Place Survey results. The Place Survey is a postal survey of local residents designed by central government. It is carried out every two years and seeks views on the whole borough, not just Council services. The last survey was carried out in September 2008, with the results published in September 2009. The survey was sent to 3,500 Bracknell Forest residents chosen at random with a 47% response rate, which is above the national average.

It is easy to dispute the methodology of a survey like this, but it is the same survey that is used throughout the country and can therefore be used comparatively. It is a test of the impact of public services and does give us an understanding about what is important to our residents and how our services fit these needs. It is also useful to use as a comparison between public perception and actual performance. The results of the Place Survey should be taken into account for all partners' service planning.

As an overview of our results, 18 key results can be compared nationally. Of these, ten are above the national average and eight are below, with two results in the best quartile nationally and three in the worst. Five of the results can be compared to a

2006 survey, where four have improved and one has gotten worse since 2006.

The Place Survey also allows us to see the priorities of our residents. The most important things to our residents are level of crime, health services and clean streets. The things our residents think need the most improvement are traffic congestion, activities for teenagers and shopping facilities. However, the general satisfaction in the area is high, with 83% of residents fairly or very satisfied with the local area, which is higher than the 80% national average. This is a significant increase from 2006, when the figure was 77%. Key drivers for satisfaction include satisfaction with their home; clean streets, satisfaction with shopping facilities and satisfaction with the way anti-social behaviour is dealt with.

As far as 'extreme' results, Bracknell Forest are in the worst quartile for the percentage of people who feel that they belong to their immediate neighbourhood, the percentage of people who have been involved in decisions that affect their local area in the past 12 months and the percentage who think that older people in their local area get the help and support they need to continue to live at home for as long as they want to. We are in the best quartile for the percentage of people who agree that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together and the percentage who say that their health is good or very good.

The purpose of the workshop was to focus on two areas to look at in more detail, under the themes of Community Cohesion and



Engagement, and Community Safety, to see if our results in these areas were a surprise or concern to people, and what we can do about them before the next Place Survey in September 2010.

## Community Cohesion and Engagement

The Place Survey results tell us that Community Cohesion is strong, with 82% of people believing that people from different backgrounds get on well together, which is a top quartile result. There has been an improvement in the number of people who do **not** think that people treat each other with respect. This is now 30% (down from 48% in 2006) and better than the national average. Also, 21% of residents volunteer at least once a month.





The computer was able to collect everyone's vote and generate a graph depicting everyone's answer. The full results of the electronic voting can be seen in Annex A which is attached to this newsletter.

For each of the two themes we asked the audience 4 questions; 2 yes/no questions about a key result in the Survey and 2 multiple choice questions which asked participants to pick what they felt was the most important issue to them.

Under the theme of Community Cohesion and Engagement 68% of voters were concerned that just 28% of people felt that they could influence decisions in their area. Active voluntary and community sector representation and partnership working on community engagement were voted as our top two strengths in terms of community involvement in decision making with 33% and 27% of the vote respectively. Inconsistent/poor feedback to consultees and communication: providing information on how to get involved voted as our two weakest areas with 29% and 26% of the vote.

Under the theme of Community Safety 81% of participants voted that 26% of people agreeing that the local council and police deal effectively with crime and anti-social behaviour was concerning.

Dedicated neighbourhood policing teams and low levels of crime and anti-social behaviour were voted as the areas key strengths with 49% and 29% of the vote. Keeping people informed and visibility of neighbourhood officers were voted as our key weaknesses with 42% and 23% of the vote.

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## Updates and Forward look from Theme Partnerships

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### Bracknell Forest Partnership Board

September to December 2009 has been a particularly busy time for the Bracknell Forest Partnership Board.

On 27 November 2009, the Board hosted the first ever Partnership Awards, recognising and rewarding the vast array of joint working that takes place across Bracknell Forest. The award ceremony was also used to launch Bracknell Forest Partnership's first Annual Report, which sets out

our progress in delivering both the targets in the Local Area Agreement and the wider vision within the Sustainable Community Strategy.

Performance analysis against the Local Area Agreement continues and has led to detailed discussions around some of the targets proving to be challenging in the current economic climate including those Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET), fuel poverty, carers' support and the assault with less serious injury crime rate. The Board has also been involved in discussions/debate with the Audit Commission to finalise the Area Assessment element of Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA), which was published online on 9 December 2009.

In October 2009, the Board completed a self assessment and agreed an associated action plan to ensure the continuous development and improvement of the mechanisms that support partnership working in the Borough. As part of this, a successful bid for funding was made to Progress through Partnerships (PtP) to part fund the BFP Awards, annual report and web development.

The process to review and refresh the Local Area Agreement (LAA) has begun, and this will focus particularly on refreshing those LAA targets that were not locked down in last year's refresh, namely the two housing delivery targets and the economic growth target. This work is due for completion in February 2010.

Other discussions held and decisions taken by the Board include the agreement to establish a new Infrastructure Reference Group that will supercede the Transport Partnership, agreement in principle of a commissioning model to handle any reward money that may be received from the current LAA, adoption of an improvement plan for Community TV based on the independent evaluation and ongoing monitoring of the economic indicators for the borough.

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### Climate Change Partnership

The Climate Change Partnership held its quarterly meeting in the Council Chamber, Bracknell Town Council on 29th October 2009. Helen Barnett, Bracknell Regeneration Partnership and Phillip Montague, Chamber of Commerce attended for the first time and were welcomed by the Chairman.

















