

CASE STUDY —

Building a Better Bedwell Launch Event

On Wednesday 13th March, key partners and community members convened to introduce a new initiative aimed at combatting organised crime and enhancing the wellbeing of residents in Bedwell. This scheme integrates two government initiatives, 'Clear, Hold, Build' and 'Safer Streets,' to address issues such as drugs, anti-social behaviour, and violent crime in the area. The Active Local Bedwell initiative has played a pivotal role in coordinating this event, with its primary objective being to leverage sport and physical activity as catalysts for positive change within the community.

The Herts Constabulary was directed to the Bedwell Steering Group meeting, facilitated by the Herts Sport & Physical Activity Partnership (HSP) and the Active Local Bedwell (AL) Officer. As a result of this connection, the AL Officer collaborated on the 'Building a Better Bedwell' launch event, ensuring that sport and physical activity were integral components of the event. Key partners from the sports sector were also involved in the event and have committed to the initiative moving forward. Recognising the unifying power of sports, the initiative aims to foster community cohesion and engagement.



"I would like to thank everyone who came along today to learn about this new project and how they can help take it forward. We need all the community onboard if this scheme is to succeed, as keeping crime out of areas relies on everyone getting involved and playing their part." – Nick Redfearn, Safer Neighbourhood Inspector

More than 50 attendees from diverse organisations, including Stevenage Borough Council (SBC), Stevenage Football Club Foundation (SFCF), Survivors Against Domestic Abuse (SADA), and the Police Crime Commissioner (PCC), were present. The PCC commenced the event with an update from their office, while Herts Constabulary provided insights into their progress within the 'Clear, Hold, Build' scheme. SFCF also delivered a presentation on crime diversion projects. Following these presentations, partners engaged in discussions to share their perspectives on Bedwell, the challenges faced by their service users and collaborative strategies to address these challenges moving forward as a unified partnership.

Next steps:

- Develop a directory for local Bedwell organisations, incorporating a contact list of key partners and a section dedicated to local events and sessions to enhance community awareness
- Produce a summer newsletter highlighting the various services available to Bedwell residents, showcasing local provisions and opportunities for engagement
- Collaborate with Herts Constabulary and Stevenage Borough Council to strategise and implement actions aimed at addressing the concerns raised during the event, fostering community safety and wellbeing.

"Thank you to everyone who attended our launch event for Build a Better Bedwell. This project will improve the neighbourhood by bringing residents, council officers, the police, and local community organisations together to work in partnership. We are keen for the community to be involved in making key decisions that will enhance Bedwell and make it a safer place to live for our communities."

Stevenage Borough Council Jane Konopka, Community Development Manager

