



Safer Swansea Partnership

Working Together

**High Street
Swansea**

**Public Service Board
11th February 2021**

Context

The issues affecting the High Street and surrounding area are not uncommon to those that affect many of our communities.

However, there are some unique to this area which has attracted the attention of the national press and increased public scrutiny.

Four work streams established in July 2019:

- **Criminality and Anti-Social Behaviour**
- **Substance misuse, drug dealing and County Lines activity**
- **Street sex working and exploitation of vulnerable people**
- **Public realm**

The surrounding locations affected are:

High Street; Croft Street; Matthew Street; Griffiths John Street; Prince of Wales Road; Baptist Well Street; Kings Lane; The Strand Tunnel; Jockey Street Tunnel

Finding the right balance





OUTCOMES

Work together to safeguard the most vulnerable in the community

Provide reassurance to the residential and business community

Work closely in partnership and make sure our most vulnerable have the appropriate support networks



Proposed use

We have the opportunity to invest in the empty properties to create a community space and to improve the public realm.

Currently, five closed/boarded up units and a Chinese Takeaway.

Plan to refurbish three units to a standard where they would be safe and functional and to include Wi-Fi

Housing will use the two remaining units to relocate the DHO

Revenue Costs for the converted Units

The premises footprints are small enough to qualify for 100% business rates relief. Ideally, once a Community Trust or Social Enterprise is established to manage and support the functioning of the community space it will be able to attract different opportunities for funding streams



Proposed use of the Community Space

Proposals for use/service delivery will go out for consultation/engagement. The consultation will include the community itself, Safer Swansea Partners, Regeneration Swansea partnership, 3rd Sector, Private Sector, Local authority services and anyone else who could contribute to development and service provision.

The main purpose of the consultation is to establish what the community space could become and some suggestions already put forward for consideration are:

Social Enterprise – possibility to be community owned and led

Café/Shop/Bakery

Grow your own projects in the yard space behind the units

'Pop up' space for creative activities

Safe Space for Outreach work – to include evening work with the SWAN project

Space for Youth Engagement 2/3 times a week – Youth Justice team interested

Wider community provision in the day – space for community engagement and activities

Multi-agency hub for Partnership working/hot desking





As an example, it is anticipated the type of services who would use the space would come from:

Housing advice and support

Substance misuse agencies

Health care and support for sex workers and vulnerable people

Partners from the Safer Swansea Partnership; Private and 3rd sector

Employability support and training

Capacity building (business start-up, financial planning etc.)

Student involvement in running creative activities

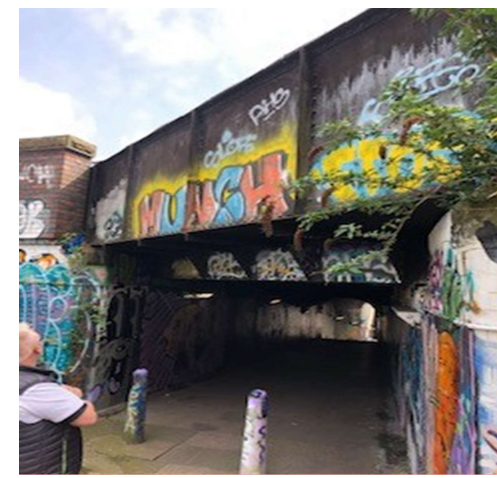
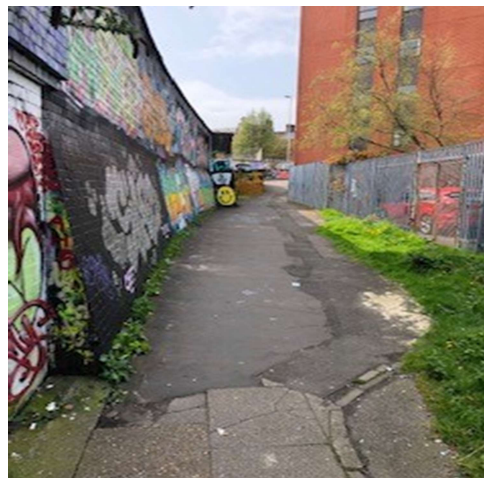
City Centre Rangers



Short Term

- **Community engagement**
- **Funds in place now**
- **Provide a base for mix of uses/services to enable flexible co-location**
- **Link to meanwhile use opportunities across Swansea (Regeneration Swansea Partners)**
- **Appointment of dedicated Ranger with extended reach for High Street**
- **Rotate use of meanwhile spaces between Partners if necessary**
- **Consultation space**
- **Public Realm Assets**

Strand Tunnel

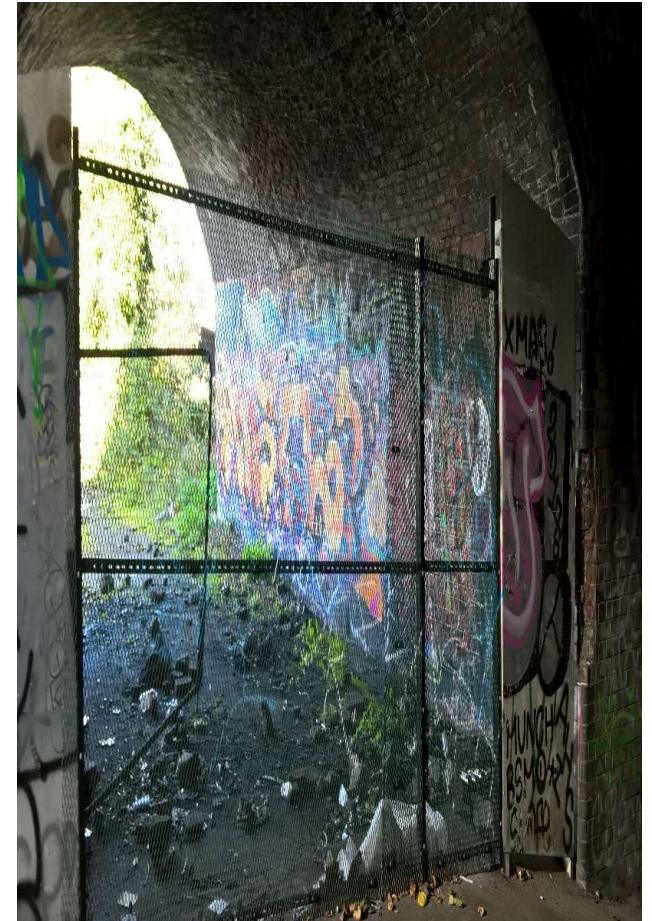
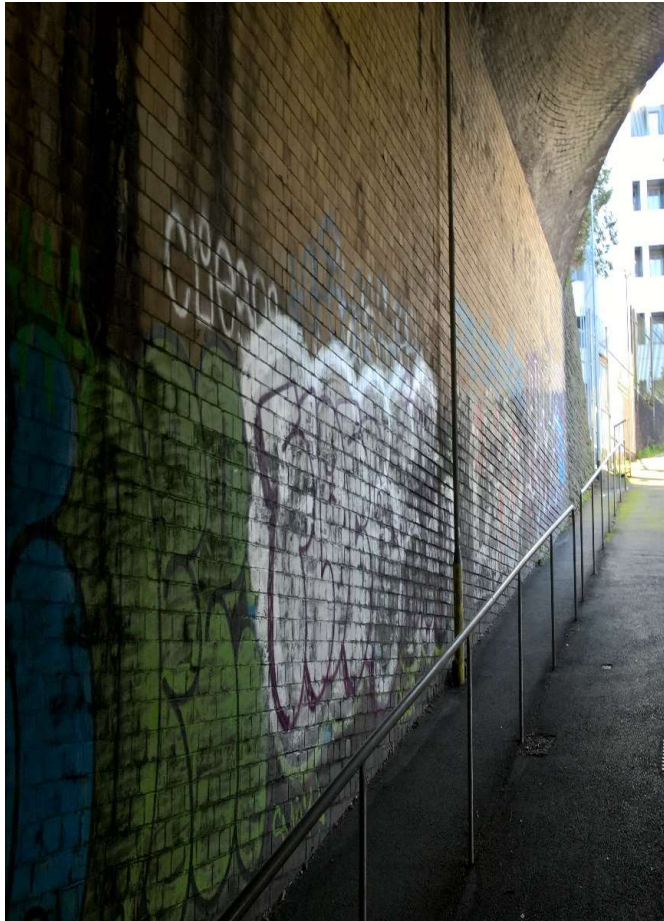




Medium to Long Term

- Closure of the Strand Tunnel as part of the Public Space Protection Order (consultation closed 25th January 2021)
- Improve the Jockey Street Tunnel – lighting/security/CCTV
- Tests approaches, involves community and partners: ownership
- Better plans that will build on what works
- Work in partnership to develop long term strategy
- Confirm role and ‘identity’ of street
- Improve perception of area
- Reduce crime and improve community safety

Jockey Street Tunnel





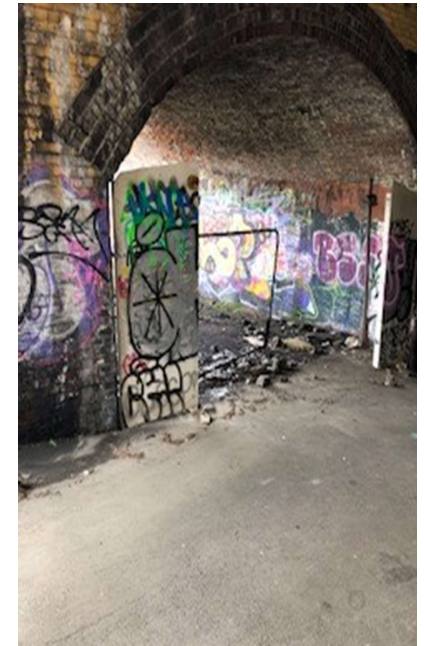
Success To Date

- SWAN outreach out 4 evenings a week. BAROD, BBV nurse and sexual health continuing to go out with van
- Food deliveries over Xmas break to women due to grant from Swansea Council
- 6 women signed up with RAPS, 3 of whom have reduced their time on the streets
- Dyfodol contacted regarding a formal partnership
- A number of drug warrants have been carried out in Matthew St over the last few months. Excellent relations with the partnership has led to effective exchange of intelligence and partnership working
- Engagements and patrols continue at High Street with the business district. The NPT team are carrying out Joint patrols with the City Rangers during the day and during the evenings with the NSU at Matthew Street. Utilising Social media communications via Twitter and Facebook has enabled officers to provide effective reassurance to the local community
- Joint operation planned with BTP officers the first week of February aimed at County Lines within the location

Success to Date

- A syringe log has been created to collate info about the collection of syringes across the City Centre a critical mass of which are located on High St. Opportunities for partners to access and update this log are being explored
- Work to commence on Canoldre site as high levels of drug paraphernalia and damage to hoarding around site – security of site needs to be reviewed (Private land/Council land)
- Palace Theatre has been purchased by the Council and is subject to a 2 year plan to bring it back into use. Among the actions carried out since then are survey work, retrieval of historic assets, safety measures to make access safe and planning permission being submitted as a base for tech start up and creative businesses
- Meetings undertaken to explore and improve joint working arrangements between Rangers and SWP. Among the agreed measures, this has led to Ranger and SWP joint patrols being reinstated with a focus on High St. Weekly *check-ins* are also being undertaken plus monthly ASB Rangers reports shared with NPT (and SV MARAC). Social media has been undertaken and ongoing to promote this work.

Jockey Street Tunnel –adjacent land





Governance

Critical Incident Group (CIG) established in June 2019

Four work streams support delivery of the CIG action plan

Actions and Outcomes reporting to Safer Swansea Partnership

Public Service Board have oversight on strategic outcomes and progress

Swansea Regeneration Board



Outcomes

- Partnership approach to addressing risks and concerns
- Opportunities for new ideas
- Regeneration and Investment
- Opportunity for Public Service Board members to partner with the project
- Work stream groups problem solving and delivering positive outcomes

Future

- Persevere
- Don't shy away from challenge



Thank You

Diolch yn fawr iawn