

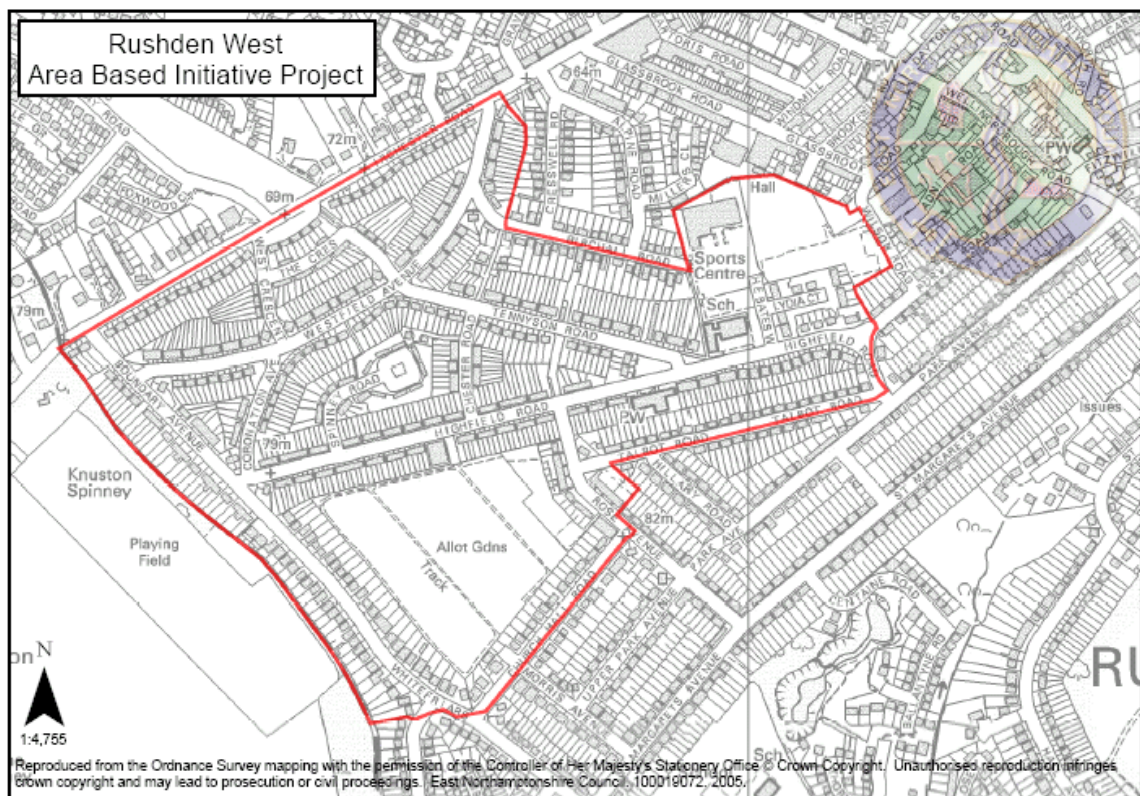


Highfield Improvement Project

The Highfield Improvement Project (HIP) was the first Area Based Initiative (ABI) set up by East Northamptonshire Council, working with a range of partner organisations.

ABI are set up to improve the social, economic and environmental well being of local people by concentrating time and resources on a particular area.

In 2005 it was decided to start with the Highfield area in a targeted area of 1000 households. The map below shows the roads included in the HIP project.



The partners involved are East Northamptonshire Council who provide the Area Based Initiative Officer (currently Lucy Hawes), Groundwork North Northamptonshire Trust, (Andy Corner) Northamptonshire County Council, the Housing Associations in the area - Spire and Rockingham Forest, the Community Safety Partnership including Fire and Police services, Neighbourhood Learning, Rushden Town Council, Cultural Community Partnership and many more who get involved when required.

The aim is to help the community get to a stage where they will be self sustaining and confident in contacting relevant agencies and organisations themselves in the future. The community will then be in a position to apply for funding in its own right and to draw from the contacts made throughout the project period. Project periods are usually around 3 years.

Since 2005, and following the initial consultation with residents, a whole range of initiatives have been set in motion to improve the area. New play equipment has been installed in the local park, the Tuesday Coffee Shop has been set up and is now successfully run by HIPCA, community tidy days, health days and walking groups have happened, the Neighbourhood Learning Centre has developed and courses been ran and most importantly the support and establishment of HIPCA - The Highfield Improvement Project Community Association.

Many of the activities are based from the Church as it is a central point within the HIP area. Future activities and events will be decided with the help of the HIP Annual Survey and from the work HIPCA do.

East Northamptonshire Council along with its ABI partners will move to work in different areas of the district where evidence shows that particular help is needed .

For more information contact Lucy Hawes, Area Based Initiative Officer on 01832 742268 or email lhawes@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk