

# Public Document Pack

## **Portfolio Holder Reports**

HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL  
COUNCIL  
17TH APRIL 2013

Dear Councillor

I am now able to enclose, for consideration at next Wednesday, 17th April, 2013 meeting of the Council, the following portfolio holder reports that were unavailable when the agenda was printed.

<b>Agenda No</b>	<b>Item</b>
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| 7. | <b><u>Cabinet Portfolio Reports</u> (Pages 1 - 34)</b> |
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**Portfolio Holder  
Reports  
Supplementary  
Information**

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## **Portfolio Holder Report – Council 17 April 2013**

**By Cllr Tony Briggs – Leader**

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### **IESE Conference**

I attended an IESE conference on 6 March entitled “Council 2018” – Radical change requires radical thinking. The event included various speakers including a very interesting session on the Financial Conundrum: How do you make local authority budgets work now and in the future and a Strategic Panel Discussion on the Future Sustainable Councils and what are the new innovations of the future?

### **South East 7 Conference**

The Chief Executive and I attended this conference on 7 March. It gave the opportunity to hear first hand from the South East Seven (SE7) Councils\*, central government, partner organisations and the private sector as to how this flexible approach to partnership working is enabling the SE7 to respond to the challenges facing local government and to take full advantage of emerging opportunities. The SE7 partnership is working with Government to develop innovative responses to the reform of public services, whilst delivering significant savings for the benefit of our 5.5 million residents. What was particularly complimentary to us was the fact that Havant was mentioned by several of the speakers during the day and the Plaza was highlighted as best practice to others. The final speaker of the day was the Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP, Secretary of State for Communities & Local Government.

### **Meeting with David Willetts MP**

Sandy Hopkins and I met with David Willetts on 22 March. The meeting gave us the opportunity to discuss various issues with our MP including: housing pressures, new Welfare Reform and its impact, Dunsbury Hill Farm development and other economic development opportunities.

### **Local Government Chronicle Awards and other Awards**

In January, Sandy Hopkins and I presented our submission to the judging panel under the partnership award category “Recognizing Innovation”. Following this we were shortlisted to the final eight, and along with Cllr Mike Cheshire, Sandy Hopkins, Gill Kneller, Jackie Batchelor and Louise Weaver, we attended the awards ceremony at the Grosvenor Hotel, Park Lane, London. Sadly we didn’t win our category but our work was acknowledged on the “big screen” on the night!

I am delighted to announce that we have now been shortlisted for the competitor local government awards 2013 – Municipal Journal. We will be making our pitch in early May – watch this space.

Other work I have been involved in recently include:

PUSH Economic Development Panel

PUSH Employment & Skills Board  
PUSH Joint Committee

Councillors joined me on 25 March to continue our work on developing the Council up to and beyond 2020.

## **Portfolio Holder Report – Council 17 April 2013**

**By Cllr Jackie Branson – Governance and Logistics**

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### **Internal Audit**

The Internal Audit partnership with Southampton and the Hampshire County Council went live on 1 April. An audit plan for the year is now agreed and the first audits are underway.

### **Revenues and Benefits**

#### **Council Tax Support scheme / empty property changes**

These changes have been implemented successfully. Council Tax bills for 2013/14 including the revised levels of Council Tax Support and the revised empty property charges were sent out on schedule during March 2013.

#### **Benefit Cap**

The introduction of a cap on the total amount of benefit that working age people can receive. The cap will be set at £500 per week for out of work couples and lone parents and £350 per week for single out of work adults. The cap will not affect working families, pensioners and those on disability benefits. It is expected that these changes could affect around 100 households in the Borough who will see reductions in their Housing Benefit.

The Government have now confirmed that the national roll-out of these changes will take place from 15 July 2013 following on from the initial roll-out in four London Boroughs on 15 April 2013.

#### **Size criteria for social sector Housing Benefit awards**

These new rules have now come into effect and details of the revised level of Housing Benefit have been sent all tenants affected by the changes.

Shortly before the implementation date, the Government announced its intention to change some of the rules affecting foster parents, families with grown up children serving in the armed forces and situations in which disabled children might be expected to share a bedroom. Details of these changes were included in the Councillor newsletter issued on 20 March 2013.

## **Legal, Democratic and Electoral**

### **2 May 2013 - Hampshire County Council Elections:-**

Six Divisions ie Hayling Island, Bedhampton & Leigh Park, Emsworth & St Faiths, Cowplain & Hart Plain, Waterloo & Stakes North and Purbrook & Stakes South. Each division has one councillor except Bedhampton & Leigh Park, which has two.

#### **Key dates:-**

26 March - Publication of Notice of Election

Noon, 5 March - Close of nominations

17 April - Close of applications for registration and postal votes

18 April - Issue of postal votes

24 April - Publication of Notice of Poll

Day of Poll - 2 May

Verification and Count - From 10pm, 2 May – to be held in The Hurstwood Room at the Plaza.

Two by-elections are also planned for this day for HBC Councillors in Bedhampton and Emsworth. These will follow the same table.



## **Portfolio Holder Report – Council 17 April 2013**

**By Cllr Michael Cheshire – Marketing & Development**

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### **Marketing & the Customer**

#### **Digital Environment**

The Havant Borough Council website is receiving favourable comments from users with the general consensus that our customers feel that the new website is easier to use and more intuitive than the old one. We have started to work with each service to improve their end to end service on the web to bring in more e commerce and to improve workflows internally.

#### **The Plaza's Suites**

Councillors will be pleased to know that we have been extremely successful in the marketing of our Suites. The final income generated for the first year of trading was £16,014. This is nearly double the amount first articulated in the Plaza's Business Case, and the FM and Marketing teams should be congratulated.

#### **The History of Havant**

We felt that the Havant History booklets that were previously all available to view on the old Havant Borough Council website were located in the wrong digital site. As a result of negotiations with the authors the booklets from the Local History Group, penned by Cllr Cousins and other local history authors, will be placed on at least two local websites which already hold the 'History of Havant' and the 'Havant Heritage' in their content and menus. Havant.gov.uk will link to these sites to ensure we will continue to support access to local history information.

An exciting opportunity may arise in the near future for the Local History Group to have its own website which would be a first for Havant as the Borough does not currently have a History Website.

#### **Customer Services**

Customer Services have continued to maintain excellent service levels. We are aiming to collect more data at our face to face service points to be able to further improve our channel shift work – making sure customers who require face to face services still receive them but moving customers who do not want or need to come in onto the new website.

## **Customer Access**

The management of the Beachlands visitor information point is to be transferred to the Marketing & Development cluster and will be referred to as a customer access point. We will focus on helping our customers in the south of our Borough to reach the face to face council services that they need at Beachlands, Hayling Island.

## **LGC Awards**

With the support of the communications team, the Public Service Plaza was shortlisted for the LGC 'Public Sector Partnership' Award. Being placed in the top nine entrants for this category is a sound recognition for the Council.

## **Human Resources**

### **Councillor Development**

Trialling of the councillor e-learning portal has continued and is in the process of being agreed for implementation in the early part of 13/14. The demonstration for Councillors on this e-learning tool was due to be held on 8th April, 2013, however as attendance rates for this session were low due to other pressing organisational priorities, this will be re-arranged. All Councillors will receive a further invitation and are encouraged to attend.

A review of training needs for Councillors has taken place with Councillor Cheshire and Councillor Phillips in conjunction with Human Resources and Democratic Services. This information will now be used to put in place a development programme for Councillors which will be implemented during May 2013.

The Councillor Conference has been postponed. A further date will be set in the future and all Councillors will be sent details in due course.

### **Human Resources (HR) Strategy & Transaction**

Work continues on the implementation of activities contained within the People Plan. Key achievements delivered during Quarter 4 12/13 include the delivery of training sessions to help staff deal more effectively with change; review of the occupational health service; development of an alcohol and substance abuse procedure and the development of a revised pay policy statement.

A significant amount of HR advice and support continues to be provided to the change programme to enable Service Managers to progress with their service reviews. This has included Finance; Housing; Economic Development; Community; Operational Services and Planning Policy.

Work has been underway to develop HR Service Level Agreements for HR administration processes. This will ensure that internal customers across the Council are fully aware of the HR service they can expect to receive.

## **Staff Learning & Development**

Mandatory courses have been rolled out for all staff to complete through the e-learning system. Data Protection and Display Screen Equipment courses have been completed during December and February respectively. Equality & Diversity and Customer Care is scheduled for April.

Managers/Team Leaders and Supervisors have been attending absence management workshops. These have been delivered in-house by the HR team to raise management awareness of how to effectively deal with absence issues. These workshops have been well received.

## **Business Improvement**

### **Electronic Diaries**

There have been some queries regarding the timings of meetings in electronic diaries, and the actual start time, which has caused some confusion. The team have now identified a fix for this, which will be implemented week commencing 29th April. Meanwhile, the democratic services team are finalising preparations to introduce a new democratic service IT system which will simplify the management and communication of meetings.

### **IT Partnership**

The team recently held two IT drop-ins for Councillors at Havant and East Hampshire. This was a good opportunity to pick up on any IT issues, and to assist with using devices such as iPads to access the Council's systems. We have agreed to hold further sessions throughout the year to provide everyone with this continued support.

### **Corporate Programme Office**

The Quarter 3 Performance Health Check has been considered by JEB, the Cabinet, and by the Scrutiny Panel Leads during February and March. This is now available on the Councillors Area on the intranet <http://holli/holli-3005>.

### **Performance Highlights for Quarter 3:**

- **Planning Applications** – there has been further improvement in the figures recorded against the processing of planning applications; all of the performance indicators for the Planning & Built Environment cluster are now on target.
- **Complaints responses** – in the previous Quarter, this indicator had been highlighted as an area to focus improvement; this performance indicator is now exceeding its target for all Havant Borough Council clusters.
- **Housing Benefit overpaid debt** – there has been a significant reduction in the overpaid debt for Housing Benefit. The Overpayment Team has been very proactive in trying to reduce the debt outstanding. This again had been an indicator highlighted for required improvement for this Quarter.

- **Criminal Damage** – the number of reported incidents has continued fall, which contradicts the anticipated upward trend.
- **Council tax collection rate** – the collection figures again show a slight improvement, when compared to those for Quarter 3 last year.

#### Areas to focus improvement on in Quarter 4 2012/13

The following have been identified as key areas which require improvement, based upon the performance figures for Quarter 3:

- **Recycled waste** – the percentage of contaminated recycled waste has improved slightly, but still doesn't meet the agreed target for 2012/13. A countywide initiative is being discussed at present, to help reduce this figure, by means of a 'partnership compact'.
- **Council Tax arrears** – the arrears **reduction** for Quarter 3 has slowed; the figure is now significantly more than at the same stage last year.
- **Non domestic rates arrears** – there has only been a marginal fall in the arrears figure. However, this currently includes an amount of debt in respect of empty properties, where the owners are overseas.

#### Safer Havant Partnership

Following the recent fact finding visit by the Police and Crime Commissioner to Havant the Partnership have secured £9,000 in funding to support crime reduction initiatives such as Junior Citizen and targeted work to reduce the impact of crime and antisocial behaviour in the Borough of Havant.

The Partnership has identified domestic abuse as a key area for work during the next year and is joined with Southern Domestic Abuse Service and Police in conducting research into gaps in service delivery relating initial reporting and the availability of support for victims.

Key areas of work currently being undertaken are in relation to crime and antisocial behaviour in the Greywell area of Leigh Park and drug and substance related crime and anti social behaviour in the vicinity of Hayling Seafront.

## Portfolio Holder Report – Council 17 April 2013

By Cllr David Collins – Environment & Neighbourhood Quality

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### Operational Services

#### Vehicle Maintenance Workshop

We have been successful in achieving the 'Van Excellence' accreditation for 2013/14. For the second successive year Havant Borough Council has successfully demonstrated the high operational standards required to achieve this accreditation by demonstrating that we have adequate systems in place to ensure that;

- Our vehicles are maintained in good/clean condition
- We have good administration/record keeping processes and this enables us to clearly identify our vehicle drivers
- We provide safe working conditions
- We implement regular driver licence checks
- We undertake regular reviews of driver competence, behaviour and compliance.

We are the first local authority within Hampshire to gain this accreditation.

#### Waste & Recycling

##### Vehicles

As part of our ongoing vehicle replacement programme we have taken delivery of a new Refuse Collection Vehicle, the new vehicle will be used in parts of Hayling Island, Leigh Park and Emsworth.

##### Garden Waste

The renewal of Garden Waste Collection Licences is going extremely well, as of end of March our customer numbers were ;

New Customers = 324	(end of March 2012 = 333)
Renewals = 5269	(end of March 2012 = 4894)
Total = <b>5593</b>	(Total end of March 2012 = 5227)

##### Project Integra

The Hampshire Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy and Project Integra Action Plan 2013/16 were presented, approved and adopted at Cabinet on Wednesday 20 March 2013. Copies of these documents will be placed on the intranet by the end of April.

## **Street & Open Space Cleansing and Parks & Open Spaces Maintenance**

The front line teams within both of these services are currently being restructured as part of the ongoing need to deliver efficiencies, the full restructure will be completed as of 1 May. Our customers should not notice any changes.

## **Street Scene Enforcement and Gypsies and Travellers**

The rangers continue to patrol hotspots in the Borough and for the last financial year issued 33 fixed penalty notices for littering offences. The team also continue to carry out joint patrols with the Beachlands officers who have been trained by the rangers to issue fixed penalty notices for dog fouling. This will help to focus attention on Hayling Island in order to help alleviate dog fouling issues associated with the beach.

Fly-posting can be an issue in the Borough and currently it is the County who has responsibility and the powers to remove it. We are currently working with the County and Legal Services to establish if the rangers can act on their behalf to remove fly-posting when it has been identified.

The team continues to work closely with Portsmouth City Council Housing supporting their Estate Service Officers both in Leigh Park and Wecock Farm. Recent success stories include the removal of a significant number of discarded tyres in Warren Park and identifying perpetrators of fly-tipping in Wecock Farm. Through effective partnership working issues are being addressed and resolved across these areas.

The recent unauthorised encampment in Emsworth was resolved in five days with Havant Borough Council acting on behalf of Hampshire County Council Highways. The locking system on the barrier has also received an upgrade, this work was completed soon after by a local contractor.

Street litter bin provision is being reviewed around the new McDonalds drive-thru restaurant under construction in Larchwood Avenue. We are hoping that installation of new bins can be kept to a minimum and existing bins utilised or re-positioned. Ranger patrols around this area and towards Southdowns College are in place, the team will also work with the college to ensure students are informed about the penalties.

## **Environmental Health**

*(Including Licensing, Food Safety, Private Sector Housing, Pollution, Health & Safety, Pest Control, Animal Welfare)*

The UK Food Surveillance System has been launched in Havant and can now be used by the Commercial Team. Installation of the software was funded by a grant from the Food Standards Agency. The system enables accurate information to be sent electronically to the laboratory that processes food or swab samples. The electronic record is linked to the unique number bar coded label on the sample delivered to the laboratory. Results of the testing carried out on the sample are entered into the system by the laboratory.

The system has the advantage of being able to record information accurately and reliably, and the website can be interrogated to find the results of any particular type of sample across the country or within a specific area.

## **Parking and Traffic**

Good news for parking.

The Shared Parking Team submitted an entry into the 'Parking Partnership Award' category for the British Parking Awards in December showcasing what achievements the Shared Service has reached and how the service works. These awards are central to the parking industry and cover many sectors including entries from both the private and government sectors, even an entry from Marks and Spencer was submitted!

We were pleased to hear we made the first cut down to nine entries. Then in February the shortlist was published and we were really excited to have made it into the last four. The awards finale was held in London at the Lancaster Hotel on Friday 8 March and was well attended. Unfortunately we did not win but did receive a 'highly commended mention' from the judges. We are a very happy and proud team and as the winners were the LOCOG Olympic team, we didn't feel too cheated!

Traffic Team have worked hard this year and have successfully implemented 21 Traffic Regulation Orders and are hard working on next years programme already

## **Transport & Implementation**

### **Park Road South, Havant Enhancement (HBC / HCC S106 Funded)**

Following Cabinet approval on 6 February, this project has been tendered and Caroway Contractors Ltd of Rowlands Castle appointed. Work is planned to start on site in late April, lasting three months to finish at the end of July. The project sees a new toucan crossing replacing the existing pelican crossing between McDonalds and HSBC, reconfiguration of the carriageway whilst maintaining capacity for traffic, creation of the 'missing link' of NCN22 on the west side of the road, and significant and extensive environmental enhancement works including new footway paving and bespoke decorative railings to match the railings either side of Park Road North.

### **Park Road North, Havant Enhancement (HCC Funded)**

In parallel with the Park Road South scheme, this project has been awarded to Caroway Contractors Ltd and work started on 25 March for completion by the end of April. This project sees the reconfiguration of the carriageway to improve conditions for pedestrians and cyclists whilst maintaining traffic capacity by marking the carriageway into three lanes.

### **Hayling Billy Trail Phase 4 Bridge Approaches (Sustrans / HBC / HCC S106 Funded)**

Following completion of works outside the Ship Inn late last year, two projects now remain to complete the unbroken cycle route between Hayling and the mainland. The project for the section from the south end of the bridge to the 'Texaco' garage is

in design and fully funded. Implementation is expected in winter 2013/14 once additional work required following the outcome of environmental studies has been included within the design. The project for the section along the frontage of the Langstone Sailing Club HQ building has design approval, but additional funding is being sought to complete the widening to connect to the Langstone Bridge. Assuming this funding gap can be closed, implementation would be within the same timescale as work at the southern end. Between these two schemes an off-road cycle route of minimum width 2.02m will exist from Havant Station to the Station Theatre on Hayling.

#### **Morelands School (HCC Funded Safe Routes to School)**

The scheme has been split into two phases. Phase 1 has been awarded to Caroway Contractors Ltd of Rowlands Castle and sees the creation of a pinch point on Crookhorn Lane to improve safety for the school crossing patrol, and footway widening in front of the School grounds. This work starts on 2 April for completion during the Easter school holiday. In phase 2, which sees improved drop-off facilities in the Golf Club car park, and the widening to shared cyclist / pedestrian status of the path linking Crookhorn Lane to Liddiards Way, discussions are ongoing with Portsmouth City Council, although HCC Estates have approved the dedication of school land for highway purposes to allow the Liddiards Way works to proceed. Phase 2 is likely to be on site during the school Summer holiday.

#### **West Beachlands Resurfacing Works (HBC Funded)**

Work to resurface the toilet car park and café bench area was completed in early March and the remaining funds will be utilised in the repair of the road surface leading to both Beachlands and West Beachlands from Inn on the Beach.

#### **Eastoke to Beachlands Footpath/Cycleway**

Work has commenced on the construction of a pedestrian / cyclepath from Eastoke corner to Coastguard car park, and is proposed to be complete by Easter. This will help to meet one of our Blue Flag aims for this year to improve sustainable transport links to the beach.

#### **Frendstaple Road Cycle Route (HBC Green Transport Funded)**

Design on this scheme to provide a cycle route from A3 London Road to Park Lane via Highfield Avenue, The Glade and Tempest Way utilising the existing highways and footpaths wherever possible is complete. A bid to Hampshire County Council to extend this project to Park Lane and Sapphire Ridge has been successful. The project has therefore been put on hold until April 2013 so as to combine the projects.

#### **Footpath 88 Hayling Island – Mill Rythe / Hayling College to Tournerbury Lane (HCC Funded SRtS / Access Team)**

Construction work to widen this path and to improve the quality of the surface commenced on 18 February and will be complete by Easter. The footpath has been closed during the duration of the works. The local and county councillors are in agreement with the project.

#### **Havant New Lane Cycleway, Havant (HCC Funded)**



Construction work started on 19 November 2012 to implement an on road cycle lane the length of New Lane which includes an off road link to Crosslands Drive and a pedestrian refuge adjacent to Littlegreen Avenue. Completion of the works completed by February 2013. Lining and signing works to be completed by mid April 2013

### **Trosnant Schools (HCC Funded Safe Routes to School)**

Design work to improve safety outside Trosnant Schools is nearing complete. Safety Audit has approved the design and now looking to go out to tender by mid-April and construction is expected to start by mid May

### **Hambledon Parade Improvements (S106 Funded)**

Cabinet agreed to the project brief and for the Design and Implementation team to carry out preliminary designs, public consultation and implementation of the works. Consultation expected to commence by end of May 2013 and construction on site by Autumn 2013.

### **Community Safety including CCTV**

The main focus of work for the Community Safety Team is currently centred upon developing effective working relationships with the Local Children's Partnerships and through them with the schools across the Borough of Havant. The purpose of this work is to ensure that the necessary links are in place to develop the Supporting Troubled families programme as it moves into its next stage.

Areas of concern currently being tackled with our Partners are:-

- The Seafront Hayling Island where drug and alcohol related activity is impacting on residents quality of life and
- The Greywell where groups of teenagers are using local flats and public areas to gather intimidating residents and businesses alike – Leigh Park Police are currently undertaking the necessary consultation required to implement a Section 30 order to enable them to disrupt groups seen to committing anti-social behaviour.

The subject of Public Space CCTV is to be raised with both the Joint Executive Board and Members during the month of April as part of an ongoing best value review of the service.

### **Sustainability**

#### **WWF Earth Hour**

The Council has supported the WWF earth hour campaign on Saturday 23 March 2013. We powered down all non essential lighting on Saturday evening to support this event at The Plaza and at Southmoor Lane Depot. This campaign was promoted to staff and residents

#### **Insulate Hampshire**

Last month Insulate Hampshire won the Best Local Initiative category, ahead of two London-based programmes at the Climate Week awards in March.

The end of Project Report for Senate will be available in early April and will give us more detail of the outcomes for residents.

### **Energy Company Obligation (ECO)**

We are working with Yorkshire Energy Services (partner of the Insulate Hampshire project) on targeting particular areas in Havant that qualify for ECO funding. The first area is being targeted in early April. Letters are being sent to over 500 households followed by door knocking to target these homes. We have worked with Trading Standards and residents will be offered a central number to call to confirm that the scheme they are being offered is backed by the Council.

### **Switch Hampshire**

We are partners in a project with Hampshire County Council, the Hampshire District and Borough Councils, and Portsmouth and Southampton City Councils to set up a 'collective energy switching scheme' which aims to help residents save money on their gas and/or electricity bills.

Switch Hampshire will encourage residents to join together and use their combined purchasing power to negotiate a better deal on their energy tariffs. Residents only need to register, and the rest will be done for them. It is completely free to take part, and there is no obligation to switch supplier.

The average Hampshire household energy bill is just over £1000 a year - this equates to annual spend of over £800m on domestic energy across Hampshire. Typically, consumers in Hampshire could save between £60 and £200 a year on their energy bills by participating in a collective energy switching scheme, depending upon their current tariff(s) and their personal circumstances.

Sign up campaign: Marketing and promotion of Switch Hampshire will be really important, in order to encourage people to sign up and take part. Clearly, the more people who sign up, the more negotiating power we will have - so it is vital as many people as possible register for the scheme. Just two per cent of Hampshire's 760,000 households, for example, amounts to around 15,000 energy customers.

Please promote Switch Hampshire where you can. More details about the scheme and how people can register will be announced in the next month. In the meantime further information can be found at: <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/collective-switching> or by contacting Pennie Brown.

Nationally, collective energy switching is supported strongly by the Department of Energy and Climate Change, the Local Government Association and consumer groups including Consumer Focus.

# Report to Council 17 APRIL 2013

By: Cllr David Guest, Planning & Development Portfolio Holder, Design & Heritage Champion

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## Planning Policy

### Local Plan Allocations

The policy team are continuing to work on the Local Plan Allocations document. The document will have to be formally submitted to the Planning Inspector for scrutiny. We are hoping that the pre submission document will be finalised by the end of August. We will be undertaking a formal public consultation exercise during October and November. Submission to the Inspector should take place in January 2014 and we hope it will be adopted by July 2014.

### Community Infrastructure Levy

The Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule was approved by Cabinet in February. In March Cabinet approved the Instalments and Exemption Policy. This means that we can now move towards introducing CIL and starting to charge. We are the second Local Authority in Hampshire to have a Charging Schedule approved (only Portsmouth City Council as a Unitary Authority has CIL in place).

The team have worked extremely hard to progress this work and it will involve considerable staff time to ensure that there is a smooth transition from collecting the traditional developers' contributions to collecting CIL. CIL will take effect from 1 August 2013. In effect this means that all planning applications submitted after 1 May are likely to come under the new regime.

We will need to start considering how CIL will be spent and what are the local priorities for our spending plans. Councillors' seminars will be held on 20 May and 03 June in order to discuss this matter. This will very much be the start of the process and it is hoped that the spending plans will be agreed and in place by April 2014.

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## Development Management

### Major Developments – Progress update

2012/12 saw the submission of a significant number of planning applications and pre-application submissions for major development proposals. The following is an update on the progress of the various schemes which have either been considered as pre-application proposals at the Development Consultation Forum, or as formal planning applications at Development Management Committee.

#### Residential schemes

St Michael's Convent London Rd, Waterlooville - 82 dwellings, including conversion of listed building - approved autumn 2012. Development commenced January 2013. First houses have now reached roof level.

St Michael's Convent, London Rd, Waterlooville - 10 dwellings - Pre-application enquiry February 2013 for developing remaining part of the allocated housing site.

Hampshire Farm, Emsworth - 248 dwellings - approved 2011/2012. Development commenced end of 2011 and has reached the second phase. The allotments are currently being created as per the approved plans.

Land at Oak Tree Drive, Emsworth - 48 dwellings - approved 2012 - Demolition of existing building and preparatory works commenced March 2013.

Woodcroft Farm, Eagle Avenue, Cowplain - allocation for 300 dwellings -

Development Consultation Forum took place early 2012. A planning application is now expected in the near future.

Raebarn House, London Rd, Waterlooville - 34 dwellings - approved 2011/2012. This is a conversion scheme of a prominent 1960s office block. The scheme was implemented 2012/13 and included re-cladding / rendering which has greatly improved the appearance of the building.

Raebarn House former car park, London Rd, Waterlooville - 14 dwellings - approved at appeal 2008 and renewed 2012. Discharge of conditions submission now received, indicating that implementation of the development is imminent.

Mary Rose House, Woolston Road, Leigh Park - 25 dwellings - approved 2012, pending commencement on site.

Portsdown Retail Park (Homebase & AMF Bowling) - 86 dwellings - application received recently but currently invalid.

Scratchface Lane, Bedhampton - 98 dwellings - Outline permission granted. There are two current applications seeking to vary conditions which are likely to be considered by Development Management Committee in the near future. Scrub clearance is underway on site.

Copseys Nursery/Manor Farm, Havant - 191 dwellings - application deferred at the meeting of Development Management Committee held on 7 March 2013 due to an objection from the Environmental Agency (EA) re: flood risk issues. The EA has now informed us that they have removed their objection. The application is likely to be reconsidered by the Development Management Committee on April 25th.

Ranelagh Road, Havant - 81 dwellings - on-going discussions continue between the applicant and the Council on development viability and ecology issues. The application is likely to be considered by the Development Management Committee in the near future.

Purbrook Park, Purbrook, Waterlooville - 81 dwellings - work well under way on site with a number of dwellings completed and sold.

Land east of New Lane, Warblington - 78 dwellings - planning consent granted subject to a satisfactory S106 Agreement now nearing completion.

West of Waterlooville MDA - Design Codes for Grainger development area now approved. Phase 2 application (in HBC area) expected in summer 2013.

Taylor Wimpey - about to commence phases 3 and 4 residential elements.

### **Commercial schemes**

Dunsbury Hill Farm - 61,000sqm mixed B1, B2 & B8 plus 95 bed hotel/conference facility - application resolved for approval by Committee 28th March 2013

Officers working with HCC Highways and applicant to complete S106 and resolve ecology issue ahead of issuing notice of planning consent.

BAE site, Waterlooville - mixed redevelopment - current application resolved for approval by Committee autumn 2012. S106 has been produced and is with the applicants awaiting their action.

Solent Retail Park, Havant - redevelopment of site for new retail outlet - recent resolution to grant permission and S106 negotiations are now nearing conclusion.

Solent Trade Park – Havant - redevelopment of site for new employment premises (including Emsworth Mould Polishers and Havant Motor Factors) - permission issued. Applicant is currently seeking to discharge planning conditions prior to commencement of development.

Bosmere Field, Langstone - Budget hotel and restaurant - S106 negotiations involving Hampshire County Council as Highway Authority are nearing conclusion.

### **Planning appeals**

The Kench, Hayling Island – conversion of barge - Appeal against enforcement notice - Public Inquiry scheduled for June 2013

Goldring Close, Hayling Island - 130 dwellings - application refused on policy grounds under delegated powers - Public Inquiry being scheduled for mid-May.

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### **Building Control**

Work on the Building Control action plan to create a shared service between Havant and East Hampshire is continuing.

In the last month the focus has been on staff training to develop new skills in areas where there is a growing market. Key staff from both authorities have completed the intensive training and are due to undertake exams in the next few weeks. (Code for Sustainable Homes and Fire Risk Assessment) Later in the year once the relevant staff are qualified and the systems are in place these new services will be marketed to generate new income streams for the Council as well as providing internal expertise to the Council where it is required.

Because of this training other parts of the action plan; namely, mapping of processes, procedures and documents with a view to harmonising them between the two authorities have temporarily slowed or stopped as staff resources are employed to continue to deliver existing services whilst other staff undergo training.

A customer interaction survey to quantify the most used methods of customer interaction has been completed. The results of this survey will be one factor in determining views and recommendations about future delivery mechanisms of the service.

Additional services are being provided to the Coastal Team, carrying out pre-condition surveys on existing properties where the Eastoke Coastal Scheme is about to start. This work is funded by DEFRA and based on current workloads it is anticipated that this will generate income of approximately £10,000 towards the Building Control budget. The income will be received in the 2013/14 financial year.

The Building Control Team Leader recently attended the National Local Authority Building Control Conference. This was the first time for a number of years that someone from the authority attended. It proved to be very useful, with a number of ideas for improving the service being obtained.

The service continues to run in a business-like way, although work has been somewhat hampered in recent weeks with unplanned staff absence due to family bereavement; however, through good teamwork it is anticipated that performance will have not been unduly affected.

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### **Coastal Engineering**

#### **Eastoke Point Coastal Defence Works**

The tender period for the Eastoke Point scheme has now closed with all four shortlisted contractors submitting full compliant tenders. Tender evaluation has been undertaken by the Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership and selected Raymond Brown Construction Ltd the preferred bidder at a Target Cost of ~£5million (all met by Environment Agency

grant). In line with EU procurement regulations there is a stand-still period until 2 April 2013. A pre-contract meeting with Raymond Brown was held on 8 April 2013.

HBC Building Control are progressing the pre-construction surveys of seafront properties adjacent to the site and are due to complete all surveys and reports by the end of April 2013.

The MMO (Marine Management Organisation) licence decision is expected the week commencing 2 April, feedback from the MMO is that they expect to issue the licence without problem.

HCC are currently progressing consent for HBC to undertake construction work on HCC land: this is expected to be issued by the end of April 2013.

The Eastoke Point Steering Group is due to meet in late April. The Raymond Brown site manager will be invited to this meeting.

A further press release and letter to residential properties adjacent to the site will be issued in late April 2013 informing the appointed contractor, planned start date and emergency contact details. Construction is expected to commence in May 2013, and take six to seven months to complete.

### **South Hayling Beach Management Plan (BMP)**

The first phase of the BMP operation was completed on Friday 8 March 2013. The operation was brought forward this year to remove the beach profile "cliffing" along the Eastoke frontage. The operation involved a combination of Beach Recycling and Nourishment, recycling approximately 15,000m<sup>3</sup> of material from the beach to the west of Eastoke, plus importing c 3,100m<sup>3</sup> of shingle material by road. The initial budget approved by the Environment Agency was £124,000; however, the Team successfully gained approval to spend a contingency sum increasing the available budget to £161,000. HBC claimed payment of £124,000 in January and will be making an additional claim for the rest of monies at the end of financial year; estimated total expenditure on the project is £158,000.

A total of £54,000 was claimed and received by HBC for writing the Beach Management Plan (BMP). The full £75,000 for writing and producing the South Hayling BMP will be claimed by HBC by the end of financial year 2012/13. This income recovers the Coastal Partnership Officers' time drafting and project managing the development of the BMP.

### **Portchester Castle to Emsworth Strategy**

The Cabinet resolved to adopt the preferred Strategy policy option for the Havant frontages on 20 March 2013. The Environment Agency will now take the Strategy through their own formal adoption process and advertise a Post Adoption Statement and Statement of Environmental Particulars. The Strategy will be a valuable tool to facilitate future funding bids for Coastal Flood and Erosion Risk Management works along the Havant frontage.

### **Coastal Defence Maintenance**

The annual Timber Maintenance Works Contract for the Southern Hayling Frontage has been let through the Minor Works Framework and started on-site on 28th February 2013. These works are expected to be completed during April 2013. The condition of the existing West Beach timber revetment is being monitored. Asset inspections are planned during April and May and will help to advise development of Asset Investment Plans by the end of May. The reports will contain a series of maintenance recommendations, summarised in priority order and with an associated estimate cost.



## **Coastal Monitoring**

The regional monitoring surveying for 2012/13 is now complete, with an anticipated income of £76,000; an increase of over £30,000 from the estimate at the start of the year due to the re-negotiation of our Service Level Agreement (SLA). Purchase and use of new echo sounders produced a vast improvement on signal reliability and speed of hydrographical survey processing. Programming and scheduling of the 2013/14 surveys is now underway.

Tracer studies continue around our partnership coastline. Tagged pebbles were introduced to the Fareham and Gosport coastline with funding met by the GBC/FBC Strategy budget. The partnership also received £4,000 from SCOPAC through their minor project funding (bids were voted upon at the Southern Coastal Group meeting).

## **Coastal Communities Adapting to Change (CCATCH ) - the Solent**

The CCATCH project will raise awareness and understanding amongst Solent communities of coastal change and in particular sea level rise. Climatic changes predicted over the next few decades may increase sea levels and the frequency and magnitude of storms, which would increase the risk of coastal flooding and erosion.

Through consultation, communication and engagement, the CCATCH project will help coastal communities most at risk to coastal change, understand the process of coastal change which will enable adaptation to increase flood resistance and resilience to their homes and properties (ways to keep water out and also limiting water damage). These coastal communities comprise residents, local businesses and landowners.

The CCATCH officers have now contacted and organised a Local Engagement Group (LEG) meeting for Langstone which will take place on 3 April 2013. The project is now moving forwards and the Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership will remain a key contact throughout. The engagement strategies for each site are being established and the summer should see the local communities briefed and fully involved in achieving the project outputs.

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## Portfolio Holder Report – Council 17 April 2013

By Cllr Yvonne Weeks – Economy & Communities

### Economic Development

#### Unemployment figures

There has been another rise in unemployment last month from 2524 (3.4%) to 2562 (3.5%) Unemployment is increasing across Hampshire although stable at a national level.

<b>Unemployed Claimants and Residential Unemployment Rate:</b>						<b>February 2013</b>
<b>Havant</b>						
<b>Census Area Statistic Ward</b>	<b>Males</b>		<b>Females</b>		<b>Total</b>	
	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
Barncroft	167	9.3	60	3.1	227	6.1
Battins	208	10.7	100	4.8	308	7.6
Bedhampton	87	3.2	45	1.6	132	2.4
Bondfields	170	8.2	69	3.3	239	5.7
Cowplain	59	2.1	34	1.2	93	1.6
Emsworth	68	2.9	46	1.8	114	2.3
Hart Plain	141	5.1	61	2.0	202	3.5
Hayling East	125	5.0	48	1.8	173	3.4
Hayling West	77	3.6	39	1.6	116	2.6
Purbrook	67	2.4	41	1.4	108	1.9
St Faith's	87	3.5	52	2.0	139	2.7
Stakes	159	5.1	84	2.6	243	3.8
Warren Park	221	10.8	110	4.6	331	7.5
Waterloo	96	3.4	41	1.5	137	2.4
<b>Havant*</b>	<b>1,732</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>830</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>2,562</b>	<b>3.5</b>

#### Business start up grants

The 2013/14 grants programme will open on 2 April 2013 with funding for 50 grants. Since the grant programme started in 2010 some 203 businesses have applied for funding of which 190 have received the grant. There is a double page feature about the grant scheme in the current edition of Serving You. The most popular types of business that the scheme has supported over the last three years are:

- Electricians (5)
- Cleaners (5)
- cafes and restaurants (7)
- photographers/video (5)
- training providers (4)
- website designers (4)
- hairdressers (5)

## **Mayors Civic Business Day**

On Tuesday 16 April 2013 the Mayor will host a Civic Business Day. The mayors of all districts of Hampshire will tour: PETA training centre, New Lane, Basepoint Enterprise Centre, Harts Farm Way and Langstone Technology Park. They will then take part in an awards ceremony at Public Service Plaza for small businesses who have received the HBC Business start up grant.

## **Emsworth / Hampshire Farmers Market**

The first two farmers markets have been very successful despite the weather. Havant Borough Council has secured parking for the farmers' vehicles thanks to the Emsworth Baptist church allowing them to use their land to the south of the church hall. Havant Borough Council have installed a lockable barrier to the land and have cleared the area of debris. There has been a reported increase in footfall to the town centre on market days with many shops increasing their sales.

## **Events**

The Staunton Festival will replace the Hampshire Water Festival and takes place at Staunton Country park on 20 / 21 July (<http://www.stauntonfestival.co.uk> ). Following the success of the Water Festival, the Staunton Festival will feature fun and informative ways of conserving vital resources such as water and power. Visitors will enjoy a fun family day out with free sports activities, delicious food and a great programme of entertainment!

## **Tourism**

The National Watersports Festival will take part on Hayling Island between 30 August and 1 September 2013. Further details to be confirmed.

Visitor Information Centre figures for visitors to Hayling Island for summer 2012 (14367 callers) are roughly the same of 2011 (14449 callers).

A new brochure will be printed this month for the Hayling World War 2 Heritage Trail which will feature a map and descriptive information regarding the six interpretation boards and the COPP monument.

## **Funding**

Hayling Island Sailing Club has been awarded £20000 by LEADER (EU Rural funding) for their Thursday youth sailing club. Stoke Farm, Hayling has also been awarded a further £5689 for the farm shop. The LEADER programme has now ended and a new programme is scheduled to begin in 2015.

## Communities

### **Meals on Wheels (MOW) from April 1 2013**

From 1 April meals on wheels are being provided by a company called apetito. Meals will no longer only be available to residents with an assessed need, but anyone over 55 can receive meals providing they meet one of the following criteria:

- They are finding it difficult to cook for themselves
- They have just come out of hospital
- They are caring for someone else and need a break from cooking
- They are feeling unwell, either physically or mentally
- They cannot get out to the shops

Apetito will deliver a hot two course meal. Customers are able to choose from a menu of 4 options. Special dietary requirements including medical and faith needs are catered for. Customers can choose their meals to be delivered on as many days of the week as they like.

The meals will cost £3.50 a day for all new customers.

Apetito's delivery drivers are able to plate up, ensure they have a drink and in some cases cut up food for customer who need additional help. They are not able to assist with feeding individuals. Delivery drivers have all CRB checked and trained to carry out short wellbeing checks with each customer at every delivery. If they identify a problem they know how to escalate it appropriately.

#### Making a Meals on Wheel referral

Referrals can be made by an individual, a family member or neighbour (with permission) and relevant professionals e.g. GP's nurses, adult services, district council and housing association staff. Referrals are still made **only** through the completion of the online achieve form at, [www.hants.gov.uk/meals-on-wheels](http://www.hants.gov.uk/meals-on-wheels)

-   
apetito Ltd  
Unit 2, Abbas Business Centre  
Main Road  
Itchen Abbas  
Winchester  
SO21 1BQ  
Phone: **01962 779338**  
Email: [hampshire.office@apetito.co.uk](mailto:hampshire.office@apetito.co.uk)

#### Cancelling a Meals on Wheels referral

All cancellations to be made by telephone or email directly to apetito. There is an answer machine for out of office hour messages.

## Food and Friendship volunteer led befriending service



Launching alongside meals on wheels is a volunteer led befriending service **Food and Friendship**, which is coordinated by Age Concern Hampshire. Any existing customer or any new customer who has received a meals on wheels for two weeks can request a regular volunteer visit. Regular means every week, fortnight, month but not daily. This service is a one year pilot.

### How to make a Food and Friendship referral

These are also made via the achieve referral form at [www.hants.gov.uk/meals-on-wheels](http://www.hants.gov.uk/meals-on-wheels) and the necessary details are sent securely to Age Concern Hampshire. Age Concern Hampshire will have service level agreements in place with local voluntary organisations who will provide the regular visits.

**The referral process will be reviewed after three months. Please feed any comments back to [Alex.burn@hants.gov.uk](mailto:Alex.burn@hants.gov.uk) 01962 847279**

## Sports Development

### Sport and Physical Activity Alliance.

The Sports Development Officer commissioned SPORTSMITH consultants to carry out a review of the Havant SPAA. This culminated in a consultation event on 27 February where representatives from voluntary groups, professional sport and educational establishments had input into strategic outcomes. The result of the review will see a strategic action plan developed for all local partners to align the outcomes to.

### Sports Awards

The Havant Borough Sports Awards took place on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February at Park Community School. This successful event celebrates local sporting achievement across 16 different categories. The Sports Development Officer is working closely with the Havant Borough Sports Association to develop the awards further in 2014.

### National Watersports Festival

The Sports Development Officer has been working closely with other relevant HBC officers and the event organisers to support the planning process for 2013. The event organisers have now confirmed that the National Watersports Festival will take place between 30 August and 1 September and will include a number of additional water based sporting disciplines.

The Sports Development Officer will continue to work with the event organisers in the lead up to the festival.

## Facility Development

On 6 February Cabinet took the decision to release section 106 funding to support the development of an artificial turf pitch for football use at Park Community School. The Sports Development Officer and the Open Spaces Team Leader will be working with the school to implement the new facility.

The Sports Development Officer is working with a number of schools and sports clubs regarding the development of new sports facilities.

## Active Workplace

The Sports Development Officer and Human Resources Officers are working in partnership with Sport Hampshire and IOW to develop an Active Workplace scheme.

## **West of Waterlooville – Major Development Area**

Havant Borough Council now employ the Community Officer post which is funded from developer contributions. The Community Officer has made strong links with partners and resident groups in the area as well as the key Officers at both local authorities.

## Old Park Farm Residents Association

In the past month the Chair and secretary have both stood down, an Acting Chair has been appointed who is working with the Community Officer to discuss proactive way forward for the Resident Association. There is a willingness to encourage the involvement of new residents and to clarify the roles and responsibilities of members.

The proposed priorities are:

- 1 The adoption of roads, pavements and road management
- 2 Influencing the development of the open space opposite The Crescent.
- 3 Addressing the problems at the Play Park.
- 4 Developing a visual Phase II Management Plan.

The Association is working towards formally adopting its constitution at an open meeting in the next couple of months.

## Easter Family Day

An event was arranged in partnership with Radian Housing and the Public Art Programme to provide activities for children and families during the Easter Holidays. This was an opportunity for residents to meet the Community Officer, to take part in consultation and help inform priorities for the area. It saw the installation of the first Community Noticeboard, designed using local residents ideas and funded through the Public Art Programme.

## Education and Early Years

Discussions have been taking place with HCC Early Years about future need for childcare places. Before the occupation of 250 units land must be made available for a nursery setting and discussions on clarifying the process for identifying a provider have started. The existing provision in the Waterlooville area is in high demand, so it may be an interim measure is required. Planning permission has been granted for the new school, with a planned opening in Sept 2014. The school is likely to be a sponsored Academy and the process for identifying a provider has started.

## Youth Engagement

There is a reported issue regarding youth nuisance in the area, although this needs substantiating. At present there is no provision for young people in the immediate area. Discussions are taking place with Motiv8 to deliver some detached youth work in the area which should start in the next few weeks. This will initially determine need and focus and will enable an informed funding application to be submitted for a longer term project.

## Play Area

Significant damage has left the Taylor Wimpey Play Area unusable, and this has been the case for some time. Residents believe damage is being caused by local people from outside of the development, but there is a reluctance to use 101 to report incidents due to concern there will be a impact on household insurance premiums. Once up to standard and inspected, Havant Borough Council will maintain it.

## Launch of Berewood Site (adjacent to the Asda roundabout)

Building of Phase 1 has commenced, a total of 194 houses. The Sales Office is open and there has been a good level of interest. It is anticipated the first occupation will take place in June/July 2013. A Portakabin has been installed as temporary accommodation for the Community Officer.

The consultation strategy has been drafted by Grainger and is now with the Community Officer for comment who will support this process. The consultation will explore ideas for the facilities to be included in the Town Park, which is included in Phase 2. In particular this will focus on the skate park giving local young people the opportunity to influence the equipment that is included.

## **Waterlooville (including Cowplain, Stakes, Purbrook & Widley)**

### 'Community Development in Waterlooville' Facebook page

The Community Facebook page for Waterlooville has attracted another 110 new followers totalling 516 people. Interaction from members of the public has increased greatly.

## Waterlooville Community Forum

The Steering group organised a 'Plenary' meeting in March, 70 members of the public attended. Cllr Buckley gave an update on the Forum's progress to date. The Waterlooville Community Led Planning group and the Waterlooville Events team ran workshops to discuss ideas for the future. Other local community groups such as Motiv8, Billy's Lake project, Waterlooville Community Association, Community Safety, Age Concern, Havant Area Disability group and the Waterlooville Business Association attended.

## Waterlooville Community Forum Events Team

The Events Team are currently focusing on organising four Community events for 2013. These events will include a Summer Fayre, a Waterlooville Arts Trail, regular musical Bandstand events in the town centre and a Christmas Grotto. Regular meetings are being held to plan these events.

## Community Led Planning

A Consultation survey has been finalised and printed and is currently being distributed across the 5 wards in Waterlooville by members of the Community Led Planning team. There are local drop off points such as the Waterlooville Library and local Community centres.

There is also an online version of the form:

[www.havantsurveys.info/hbc/community/waterlooville.htm](http://www.havantsurveys.info/hbc/community/waterlooville.htm)

The group are aiming for 1,500 surveys to be completed in total by 31 May 2013.

## Billy's lake

Saturday morning Conservation Workshops are still being held at Billy's lake. A planning application has been submitted to Winchester City Council for the installation of footpaths. Two members of the Steering Group who are local Wecock residents have plans to start the 'Off the Hook' fishing club. The team held a Billy's lake open event at the Acorn centre to update local residents on the work that has been completed so far.

## Big Local - £1 million Lottery grant, Wecock

The Interim Steering group have organised three Consultation Events in the Wecock area, two events have been held at Woodcroft School with the final one at the Acorn centre on 20 April. The aim of these events is to engage with as many residents as possible.

## **Hayling Island**

### Hayling Island Community Led Plan

The consultation period is complete, the results analysed and draft action plan has been formally agreed as the final plan by members. The plan now needs to be produced and launched, this will also lead to agreement of a new

constitution, election of an executive committee and recruitment of new members.

### Hayling Billy 50

Unfortunately, the application to Heritage Lottery has not been successful. As usual, the number of applications were very high and the application was against stiff competition. We will review the feedback and consider what other options could be available.

HCC are running a Life on the Line Project, targeting schools near local railway line. This fits perfectly with the school work planned as part of the Billy 50 project, David Bond (County Archives & Records Office) is the lead contact on this project. David attended the Havant LCP (Hayling Island and Warblington) and the project was well received by local schools.

There are numerous events planned on Hayling Island to support the Hayling Billy 50 project and you can see a list of the events confirmed so far at: <http://www.haylingbilly50.co.uk/events>. As well as Havant Borough Council, there are a number of community based groups and organisations also supporting the commemoration. There is a planned visit of a Terrier Tank engine to Hayling Island 1-3 November inclusive and we are working with the Regeneration and Events Officer to look at possible sites and logistics.

### **Havant & Bedhampton**

The Havant & Bedhampton Community Network held an open public meeting at the Plaza to discuss the way forward for developing a community led plan. The event was well attended by nearly 70 people and residents came forward to support the two steering groups. The decision had been made to split the network between Havant/St Faiths and Bedhampton, ensuring the two groups work closely together to maintain contact and tackle issues affecting the larger area. Further from the public meeting, Bedhampton will invite those who expressed interest to meet to discuss election of officers and review the constitution. The Havant Civic Society are interested in developing a Neighbourhood plan for Havant town and meetings will take place to explore the possibilities.

### Bedhampton Social Hall

The Annual General Meeting of Bedhampton Social Hall was held on 14 March and attended by 45 people. There was an issue around lack of Trustees for the association; the Community Officer attended the meeting and to provide support and information. An exceptional general meeting was proposed for 8 April where we will support to readdress the constitution and support the election of officers to enable the organisation to move forward.



## **Emsworth**

### Emsworth Residents Association

The new chairman Peter Tier has expressed some interest to explore community led planning and the neighbourhood planning process. The association are also very interested in the Community Infrastructure Levy.

### Emsworth Community Association

The fundraising group continue to seek funding opportunities to make improvements to the building for the benefit of Emsworth residents.

### Buzz Youth Club

The Community Officer is working with the Steering Group to further promote and expand this detached youth provision which is based at the Jubilee Recreation Ground in Emsworth on a Friday evening.

## **Leigh Park**

### Leigh Park Community Led Planning Survey

The closing date for the survey is 30 April 2013. A mini survey of six questions relating to children and young people was held during the Leigh Park ACE – Cackle n Pop disco on Thursday 7 March 2013 at Park Community School. 86 pupils attended the event with 83 pupils completing the survey.

### Barncroft Community First Panel & West Leigh Community First Panel

A workshop was held on Tuesday 19 March for both panels to roll out the second year of grant allocations for the benefit of Barncroft and Bondfields wards. Through the Community Development Foundation each ward has allocated £8,489.00 for community groups to apply for, with grants ranging from £250.00 to £2500.00 for the benefit of residents living in that ward.

### Leigh Park Community Forum

The next meeting will be held on Monday 15 April 2013. Portsmouth City Council will attend to discuss garage sites across Leigh Park and to give further information about potential budget for new equipment in some of the play areas across Leigh Park.

### Leigh Park Community Association

The popular Leigh Park Network Meeting will be held on Thursday 11 April 2013 in Leigh Park Community Centre from 12.30pm

### Leigh Park Free Rangers

The partnership have submitted their second proposal to the Big Lottery - Reaching Communities fund for a three year outdoor play development programme in Leigh Park.

## Children & Young People

The Youth Council and students from Warblington school have collaborated successfully and completed the Heritage Trail podcast. The interactive launch event was held on Saturday 30 March. It can be downloaded for free at [www.havatheritagetrail.wordpress.com](http://www.havatheritagetrail.wordpress.com)

For the second time a youth council member has used his volunteering time with the youth council to complete his Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award.

All youth council members have now been trained as basic first aiders.

Hampshire & IOW Youth Options have offered the youth council the opportunity to participate in several fully funded projects including a 'Building Leaders' programme which will lead to a Level 2 OCN award in leadership and the 'Inspiring Enterprise' project. Young council members will learn about areas of enterprise and marketing and will develop an idea that can be developed. The group will be supported by a local business mentor and will be entered into a competition.

## Housing Development

Quarter 4 (January - March) of 2013 has seen a total of 26 new affordable housing units delivered across the borough, 15 Affordable rented homes and 1 Shared Ownership home at Wellington Park in Waterlooville, 9 Shared Ownership homes at Purbrook Place and 1 Mortgage Rescue property. This means that the totals for the year are as follows:

	Affordable Rent	Shared Ownership	Mortgage Rescue	First Buy	
Totals	19	15	11	9	54

Despite very difficult economic conditions and delays due to weather conditions Havant BC has managed to exceed its target of 50 new affordable homes.

## Current development sites

Looking to the development programme for 2013/14 the following sites are in already in contract or on site.

- **Hampshire Farm, Emsworth**- 75 affordable units, mixed tenure, 2 phase development over a three year period provided by First Wessex . Construction now in progress, estimated completion of first 10 units was between January and April 2013 but delays in connection of services have put this back till May 2013.
- **Purbrook Park School site**- Developer - Barratts. First Wessex is now in contract with Barratts to provide 23 affordable units, mixed tenure. 9 Shared Ownership flats now completed with 5 already under offer.

- **Mary Rose House, Woolston Road**- 25 affordable units, mixed tenure, to be delivered by Guinness Hermitage. Planning permission granted 31/08/2012.
- **St Michaels Convent**- Linden Homes, RP Guinness, 25 affordable units

Future development sites listed below detail the potential affordable units Havant BC should have access to should they all progress over the coming years.

- **Little Oaks, Emsworth**- originally 14 affordable units but now revised to 6 following viability assessment.
- **Former Cricketers pub site, Leigh Park**- 10 units, all Affordable Rent
- **Dukes Meadow** Phases 3 & 4, Taylor Wimpey, 88 affordable units, mixed tenure, application pending
- **Warblington School**-23 affordable units.
- **Manor Farm/ Copses Nursery**- 67 affordable units across 2 phases.
- **Barncroft School site**-12 affordable units
- **Ranelagh Road**-24 affordable units
- **Scratchface Lane**- 36 affordable units, mixed tenure.

### **Hampshire Home Choice**

The draft Allocations Policy has been approved by Cabinet and was adopted by Full Council in March. Work will now begin on the IT changes which will be required so the new policy can be introduced.

### **Homelessness**

Numbers being placed into B&B have continued to rise with there currently being six households staying in B&B. During Quarter 4 a total of 15 households were placed into B&B. The number placed was unusually high but this reflects the complexity of a number of the cases which resulted in an intentional – negative – decision being made, meaning no long term duty to accommodate being placed on the Council but an interim duty to provide B&B.

B&B is only used as a last resort and placement outside the district is often a necessity as there are very few suitable establishments that can be accessed locally. Households are spending longer periods in B&B whilst enquiries are being made and alternative accommodation sourced.

Prevention continues to be the priority. Work is done with the customer to look at alternative ways in which their Housing problem can be resolved without them having to go into B&B accommodation. The target for

successful prevention interviews for this year was 600 and the team has completed 249 this quarter meaning an overall total of 829. This reflects the increase in the numbers of customers currently facing housing issues but is also an excellent achievement by the team exceeding the target by 179.