

# Public Document Pack

## **Portfolio Holder Reports**

HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL  
COUNCIL  
24 JULY 2013

Dear Councillor

I am now able to enclose, for consideration at next meeting of the Council to be held on 24 JULY 2013 the following portfolio holder reports that were unavailable when the agenda was printed.

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| 9. | <b><u>Cabinet Portfolio Reports</u></b> (Pages 1 - 32) |
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**Portfolio Holder  
Reports  
Supplementary  
Information**

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**Cllr Briggs**

**Leaders Report to Council**

**24<sup>th</sup> July 2013**

### **Community Open day**

The vibrant Community Open Day and opening of our Public Service Plaza by HRH Princess Royal on the 16<sup>th</sup> July was a great success, it was a culmination of a lot of work by many people and organisations - a great example of partnership working at its best and joined up public services. This follows our achievement as finalists in all the local government industry awards this year - two in the MJ and LGC Awards.

### **End of year accounts**

The accounts were completed by end of June; there is increasing pressure each year on the processes and requirements for this. Thanks to the team, particularly as they were going through their service review process as part of our work with sharing services with East Hampshire. We await the outcome from our external auditors. I would like to take the opportunity to thank Simon Little, our new shared Service Manager (Finance) for his valuable contribution in finalizing the accounts

### **Mayor's Charity Golf match**

Was held on the 29<sup>th</sup> June a very successful day, enjoyed by all

### **Property**

The Property team is under taking a review of all properties to ensure that we maximize investment opportunities. They continue to explore a number of opportunities for regeneration and economic development for the benefit of our communities, residents and businesses. For example Leisure facilities, self-build housing initiatives and further development of our public service village vision.

### **Partnerships**

Strategic Partnerships continue to be a key focus and to that end I have attended various meetings with fellow Leaders across the country and within Hampshire. Some good news in

this regard:-

1. Hayling Island has secured £60k investment from PUSH (Partnership for Urban South Hampshire). This is thanks to HBC staff and their writing of a bid to enable improved cycling facilities.
2. I am now a member Local Enterprise Partnership Transport Board representing District Council's and I hope this will add value to our work to develop Dunsbury Hill Farm and the jobs that this should bring to our local communities.
3. Hampshire Senate met under a new HCC Leader Roy Perry and a positive outcome is the commitment to further development of working together for the benefit of Hampshire residents. I shall be taking a keen interest in pushing for such opportunities in this borough for example Havant has been selected as a partner to the next tranche of community budget pilots and our economy and community team are now progressing this under the sponsorship of our Chief Executive and Service Manager for Community, Claire Hughes.

## **Portfolio Holder Report – Council 24 July 2013**

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

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### **Legal, Democratic and Electoral**

The Constitution has been adopted and will be placed on the Councils web site shortly ensuring that the links make it easier to access. Staff training on the changes will be taking place during September and October.

### **Audit & Governance**

The new internal audit arrangements continue to work well. Our new Chief Internal Auditor, Neil Pitman, introduced himself to the Joint Governance Committee on 29 May and told them about the new service.

### **Revenues and Benefits**

#### **Welfare Reform**

##### **Size criteria for social sector Housing Benefit awards (Bedroom tax)**

These changes, which the national press are calling the “bedroom tax”, have now been fully implemented. Figures in June showed that 477 households had a 14% reduction in Benefit because of 1 excess bedroom and 100 households had a 25% reduction because of 2 or more excess bedrooms. The average deduction amounted to £16.73 per week.

##### **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. The cap will be applied as a deduction from the households Housing Benefit payments.

The Government have now confirmed details of how these changes will be implemented. For Havant Borough Council implementation commences on 15 July 2013 and should be complete by 16 August 2013. The Department for Work & Pensions will control the process which will be phased over this five week period. Each week we will be sent details of a number of the households affected. We will then be responsible for applying the deduction to the Housing Benefit entitlement and advising the claimant of their revised Housing Benefit payments.

The latest estimates show that 72 households are likely to be affected by the cap with an average reduction of £61.59 per week.

## Discretionary Housing Payments

The welfare reform changes have created a significant increase in the number of applications for Discretionary Housing Payments. The team dealt with 164 applications in the period March – June 2013 compared to 43 in the same period last year.

## Universal Credit

The first Universal Credit pathfinder was launched on 29 April 2013 when Ashton-under-Lyne job centre began accepting new claims for Universal Credit from single newly unemployed job-seekers. A second pathfinder commenced on 1 July 2013 in Wigan with a further two due to start on 29 July 2013 (Oldham and Warrington).

The progressive national roll-out is due to start from October 2013 and, on 10 July, the Government announced details of the next phase which will comprise three strands:

- six more Jobcentres will begin to take new claims to Universal Credit (Hammersmith, Rugby, Inverness, Harrogate, Bath and Shotton) following the approach taken in the pathfinders;
- At the same time, the other components of Universal Credit that will support the cultural transformation, such as the Claimant Commitment and enhanced jobsearch support will roll out across the country; and
- There will also be 10 in-work conditionality pilots and improved access to digital services will expand across the Jobcentre Plus network.

Further details will be outlined in the autumn with the roll-out due to be completed in the UK by 2017. On the basis of these plans, it seems unlikely that we will see any new claims to Universal Credit in the Borough before 2014 at the earliest.

## Facilities Management

### **Tree Sculpture**

Chain saw artist, Matthew Crabb, completed the artistic tree sculpture outside the Public Service Plaza, Civic Centre Road, Havant. Owing to a limb falling in the strong winds last year the tree was reduced to a stump for health and safety reasons. It was decided, at that point, that this should be carved into a work of art.

A planning condition also stipulated that some of the funding for the refurbishment must be used to commission a piece of art dedicated to the completion of the refurbishment project.



## **Portfolio Holder Report – Council 24 July 2013**

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

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#### **Marketing**

The communications team have been focussing on Marketing the Community Open day and Royal visit in preparation for the 16 July.

Marketing promotions include a significant leaflet and poster campaign, a town crier to bring people in on 'the day', advertising the event on Angle Radio and mailings to the businesses on the contact list used by Economic Development.

Havant Borough Council was shortlisted as finalists for two awards for the Municipal Journal. The awards were for 'Delivering better Outcomes' and 'Community Investor'. Although there was no winning award for us on this occasion, however the event highlighted how our work is being recognised nationally and how we are delivering projects with customer benefits that can match services and projects delivered by much larger organisations.

#### **Customer Services**

The Customer Service team, delivered through Capita, continues to deliver well, with any complaints being handled in a timely way and are meeting the agreed service level agreement.

#### **Human Resources**

The 'People Plan' for 2013/14 has been finalised and identifies the programme of work for the HR team for this financial year.

Key focus in recent times has been on the sourcing of providers for the corporate training programme and the development and implementation of a staff discount scheme which enables staff to access discounts on a variety of products and services [this facility is also available to Councillors].

A review of Occupational Health services and ongoing monitoring of the services provided is planned along with the development of a coaching programme for staff to become trained coaches.

Work continues to streamline HR administration processes and improve efficiency and effectiveness. In addition to this the HR team have developed and implemented HR Service Standards to enable internal customers to be fully aware of the service level agreements in place with regards to the provision of HR service. Monitoring of this will take place by the Service Manager [HR] on a quarterly basis.

## Learning & Development

The corporate training plan schedule has been developed and communicated to staff. This enables staff to view the training courses that are available throughout 2013/14. The training plan signals the clear investment the Council is making in staff development. This message has been communicated to staff as part of the roll out of the programme.

Training courses which have been delivered so far include Mental Health Awareness; Appraisal Setting; Job Evaluation; Managing Change and Managing Sickness Absence.

The provision of e-learning continues to be developed. In recent months, HR have developed a 'course of the month' programme which consists of mandatory and non mandatory courses. Topics covered so far have included Equality, Diversity & Customer Care [mandatory]; Data Protection [mandatory]; Display Screen Equipment [mandatory]; Managing Stress [non mandatory]; Appraisals [non mandatory].

A learning & development resources library is now accessible in the HR area of the Plaza for all staff. This allows staff access to learning materials to support their continued development.

A programme of development for Councillors is underway which supports Councillors in the roles they undertake. Sourcing of external providers for the delivery of some elements of the training plan will continue over the coming weeks.

## Business Improvement

### ICT

The governance arrangements for the IT Partnership are well established and working well. Each Quarter the Team track customer satisfaction, and consider trends on user issues. The last survey, reported in June, highlighted that the satisfaction levels in the majority the IT service areas had improved, which indicates that the new approach to IT is beginning to benefit teams and services across the Council.

### Performance Management

At the end of May, the Cabinet considered the Performance Health Check for Quarter 4. The Scrutiny Panel Chairs also considered this information on 1st July. Here are some highlights:

- The number of major **planning applications** determined in 13 weeks has improved every quarter of the year. In the final quarter 80% of applications were processed in this time period, compared to the 60% target;
- Services have continued to provide good customer care ensuring that responses to **customer complaints** in the 10 day target has been met every quarter of 2012/2013. Quarter 4 has shown a further improvement in performance with

Havant Borough Council now responding to 97% of corporate complaints within ten days;

- The amount of **non domestic rates arrears** has exceeded the year end target of £199,000. This has improved from being red in quarter 3 of 2012/2013 to green and meeting target by the end of the year;
- The average number of days for processing **Housing and Council Tax benefit new claims** is 10.82 compared to the 13 day target, despite the pressures of the current economic climate; and
- The number of **Missed Bins** has been below the target of 35 missed bins per 100,000 collected, for every quarter of the year, providing a good quality service for Havant Borough Council residents.

As always, we also take the opportunity to review performance to identify areas to focus on looking forwards. Officers are currently collating all performance data for Quarter 1 2013-2014, and based on our recent review, we will be monitoring the following areas in particular:

- The percentage of **Recycled waste** that was contaminated was 14.36% for Quarter 4 compared to the 12.4% quarterly target. Performance has improved slightly compared to the last 2 quarters of the year. The service is to review and increase future monitoring to reduce contamination more significantly for the next quarter;
- The amount of **Council Tax arrears** has not met the target for the year – whilst good progress has been made in reducing the level of arrears, the economic climate is impacting the ability to recover arrears to the anticipated target. Work continues to recover any arrears in an understanding and flexible way;
- **Homelessness** and the number of households in bed & breakfast has exceeded target of 12. Despite large numbers becoming homeless, prevention work has meant as few as possible have been placed into B&B.

### **Safer Havant Partnership**

#### **About Turn Project Hayling Island**

The Safer Havant Partnership have joined forces with the Probation Service and voluntary sector to deliver a project in support of people who are drug and alcohol dependent on Hayling Island. The project which is operated on a weekly basis from Hayling Community Centre has been developed as a result of concerns raised by Police in respect of the Seafront area of Hayling Island where drug and alcohol related Crime and Anti Social Behaviour has been a priority subject for the past year.

The project utilises volunteers and specialist staff to support people in overcoming their addictions – it also gives guidance on key issues such as housing and employment as

well as providing a hot meal for attendees – early indications are positive with up to 12 people attending the weekly sessions.

### **Divert Project Greywell**

The Partnership has commissioned MOTIV8 to deliver a project specifically targeting young people who are most at risk of offending and impacting on the quality of life of both residents and businesses in the Greywell area. The need for the project was identified as a result of Partnership meetings and information sharing which identified a particular group of 12 – 18 year olds who were distressing residents of local flats and targeting the shops in the area. The project will provide a number of activities during the school holidays specifically designed to change the individuals behaviours through visits to prisons and Police custody units as well as providing positive role models as mentors for the group.

## **Portfolio Holder Report – Council 24 July 2013**

**By Cllr David Collins – Environment & Neighbourhood Quality**

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### **Environmental Health**

Staff took an active part in Food Safety Week, an annual initiative led by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) . Social Media was used to promote the event as well as a press release resulting in a newspaper article. The theme this year was “Kitchen Check” .

Posters and leaflets were obtained from the FSA and distributed throughout the Borough. A teaching pack aimed at young children with various activities was available to download from [www.food.gov.uk/kitchen-check](http://www.food.gov.uk/kitchen-check).

In addition a display was manned in the Plaza foyer with a quiz “where should the food go” using an interactive display and a real fridge, but with fake food. Participants were asked to match the different foods to the places where they should be stored in the fridge and were rewarded with a sweet or two!

During the week 130 persons visited the display and took part in the quiz at the Plaza. In addition 32 teaching packs were given out whilst the display was manned to individuals engaged in education and also to a variety of groups that were attending meetings at the Plaza, which included a Newly Qualified Teachers meeting, the EC Roberts Centre and a Learning Disability Meeting.

### **Parking Strategy/Management & Traffic Management**

The parking team continues to enforce the Borough with the main issues still being around the charges. There will be a petition heard at Council on July 24 regarding the recent increase in charges.

The charges for the motor homes staying over night will be changing as follows after a 28 notice has been on site. The current charges are £20 per night for March - October and £10 per night for November - February. We would like to change the charges to £15 per night for March - October and leave the £10 charge for November - February.

The Traffic Team continues to work through the list of TROs they have and we just received some good comments in the news regarding making permanent the new restrictions in London Road Waterlooville to make more parking for the businesses.

The experimental Order in Kinnell Close, Emsworth was made permanent from 8 July 2013.

The new restrictions in Chaucer Close junction Milton Road were made operational on 17 May 2013

The additional parking in Queens Street, King Street and Tower Street, Emsworth will be operational on 9 August 2013

### **Public Realm Enforcement, including travellers**

The rangers continue to supply as higher level of patrols as possible in town centres and busy parks, while occasionally supporting the Beachlands officers on their targeted patrols. Four fixed penalty notices have been issued in the first quarter.

The next issue of Serving You will be the launch pad for our 'No Ifs No Butts' Campaign. It contains an article on cigarette butt littering which will then be followed up with specific, targeted work by the Ranger team around trying to reduce the problem in the borough.

A few small encampments have been reported but have been resolved without recourse to legal processes or have been on private land. With several large groups still in the area, regular visits are taking place to ensure that defences are in place and undamaged. The team asks that any damage to parks or car park infrastructure be reported as soon as possible to allow for repairs or extra defences, such as concrete blocks, can be put in place.

The team is still working in support of other teams in operations, neighbourhood quality and community development providing a flexible response and operational assistance in many projects.

### **Sustainable Transport & Implementation**

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

Work is well underway in the transformation of this main route into Havant. At the time of writing, the lay-by outside McDonalds had been removed ready for the creation of a new bus stop, and kerbs were being laid on the west side of the road. The new toucan crossing is expected to be installed in week commencing 15 July, with resurfacing of the whole road (between Solent Road and West Street) to follow from the 17 July onwards. Due to the requirement to clear the road for the Plaza Open Day on 16 July, this surfacing operation (which cannot be 'spilt' into sections) has had to be moved later than expected, and will impact on the finish date of the project (originally expected 26 July). Allowing for 'compensation events' allowed in the contract for days lost to wet weather, it is now expected that works will be completed in mid August.

Work to create a new frontage to Bosmere Pond, with bespoke 'water' design railings, has been delayed and will be carried out under a separate contract later in the autumn after the school holidays are over. This is partly due to the need to design special foundations for the fencing.

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

At the time of writing, the new three-lane layout on Park Road North has been operating for four weeks and has resulted in an approximate 11% increase in

capacity with corresponding reduction in delays. The whole west side footway, and a short section of east side footway, was changed to 'shared status' on 14 June so it is now legal for cyclists to share the space with pedestrians. We were able to add the move of a street lighting column to the works, which has removed a 'pinch point' south of the railway bridge. Remaining work to be completed are three areas of slab paving to define the extent of the shared status footway, and resurfacing of a 1m wide strip in front of the new kerb line, along with the approach to the roundabout and the section between West Street and Elm Lane; all this is programmed to be completed by the end of July.

#### 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 old 'Texaco' garage is in design and fully funded following the outcome of environmental studies. Implementation is expected in winter 2013/14. 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 now been split into phases. Phase 1 has been completed and phase 2, comprising the widening to shared cyclist / pedestrian status of the path linking Crookhorn Lane to Liddiards Way, is at the time of writing out to Tender with a return date of 16 July. Construction is due to be carried out between 5 and 30 August. Discussions with Portsmouth City Council to use part of the Golf Club car park for dropping off children attending the School have not progressed to a satisfactory conclusion as yet, and if agreed will have to form a future 'Phase 3'.

#### 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.

#### West Beachlands Surface Dressing Works (HBC Funded)

Work to apply a surface dressing to the access road to Inn on the Beach and the access road leading from Central Beachlands to Inn on the Beach was started on 25 June and completed on 27 June. It is anticipated that the Contractor will return after a minimum period of 2 weeks to sweep the surplus chippings up. Once the surface has been swept, arrangements will be made to re-instate the road markings.

### Eastoke to Beachlands Footpath/Cycleway

Work has commenced on the construction of a pedestrian / cycle-path 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 HCC extend this project to Park Lane and Sapphire Ridge has been successful. Work is anticipated to re-commence in August 2013 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 was completed on 22 March. The footpath was closed during the duration of the works. The local and county councillors are in agreement with the project.

### Car Park Slurry Sealing (HBC Funded)

Work has commenced to procure the slurry sealing of 4 No. car parks within the Borough, these are South Street Emsworth, Greywell Car Park Leigh Park, Rockville Drive and Wellington Way Waterlooville. It is anticipated that each car park will be either fully or partially closed whilst the works are carried out and all necessary white lining works completed before the car parks are opened. There will be extensive consultation with the Parking Partnership to ensure that any disruption is kept to a minimum. Work is anticipated to be completed before September 2013 but is subject to Contractor availability.

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

The new advisory cycle lanes along New Lane, the central island refuge crossing New Lane to Littlegreen Avenue and improved off road cycle lane from New Lane to Crosslands Drive is nearing completion. Third Avenue bridge works are to start in late July 2013 and will be completed by the August 2013.

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

Improved pedestrian crossing works are start outside Trosnant School along Stockheath Lane at the beginning of the school summer holidays in July 2013 and to be completed by end of August 2013.



## Hambledon Parade Improvements (HBC S106 Funded)

A Public consultation is to be carried out on the 11 July 2013 and detailed design will be commence immediately after. Construction is expected to commence in winter 2013 and to be complete by March 2014.

Purbrook Way off Road Cycleway Study is Underway. (HCC S106 Funded)

## Community Safety

### **CCTV review**

Joint Executive Board (JEB) considered the matter on 16 April 2013. It was agreed

- that the staffing and maintenance contracts be continued in line with the existing contracts until June 2014 (included in budget);
- that a review of the service be undertaken forthwith in order that it may inform the 2014/2015 budget setting deliberations; and
- It is intended that this review be completed by Autumn 2014.

Before progressing it is intended that the views of the Environment and Neighbourhood Quality Panel be sought.

Key areas for consideration identified to date

- Are the current objectives in keeping with HBC priorities?
- Is CCTV supporting Council needs - i.e. Emergency Planning (are the cameras in the right locations)?
- What other benefits could CCTV bring to HBC - Plaza?
- To identify opportunities to reduce the net cost to the Council.

Work undertaken since 17 April

- Draft public consultation questionnaire developed.
- Meetings held with key officers re HBC Economic Development, Estate and Emergency Planning needs
- Contact made with Local Government Association to identify whether other work ongoing elsewhere
- Peer review to identify best practice commenced across Hampshire and IOW
- Review of trade magazine – CCTV user group
- Review of developments on internet.
- Consultation of key partners i.e. The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner commenced.
- Future of Public Space CCTV scheduled for discussion at the Safer Havant Partnership strategic group meeting (17 June 2013)
- Meetings held with CCTV staff to inform them of the review.
- Meeting held with landlord to inform them of the review.
- Attendance at the Westminster Briefing event on 19 June to get updated on new legislation and network with National contacts.

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## **Portfolio Holder Report – Council 24 July 2013**

### **By Cllr Mike Fairhurst – Operational Services**

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#### **Waste & Recycling Strategy & Management**

All refuse/recycling teams are working well and have recently been called upon to assist each other as a result of several vehicle breakdowns, this had resulted in them working longer than normal on several occasions to ensure that all work was completed on the designated day, minimising the impact to our customers.

Havant Borough Council, in partnership with Weeecare, organised an event to collect small electrical items for recycling, the event was held at The Plaza staff car on Saturday 22 June. Members of the public were invited to bring along unwanted or broken small electrical items - such as toasters, hairdryers, mobile phones, televisions, cameras, lawn mowers, irons, hoovers, kettles, laptops, printers or electrical DIY equipment that may be lying about gathering dust at home. It was a successful event and the team filled two large cages. Several community centres were also involved and provided facilities for members of the public to drop items off for collection by the council.

#### **Streetcare, Open Spaces (Including Cemeteries & Coastal Recreation)**

Operational Services have been involved in preparing the grounds around the Plaza ahead of the community open day.

We have recently undertaken work for outside organisations: Horndean Parish Council (reinstating football pitches and cutting grass in open spaces), and Havant College (cutting the grass on their sports field, loaning and delivering planters for the opening of their new building). We are keen to pursue any opportunity for bringing in additional business/income.

Trees have been planted in Havant park to replace existing trees that had to be cut down.

As a result of the ever changing profile of the beach near to Hayling Island golf club there was a need to relocate several beach huts. The owners of the huts were advised of the need to move their huts and the Engineering Works Team moved and relocated the huts on behalf of the owners. Several meetings were held with the hut owners to ensure the that work was carried out to everyone's satisfaction.

#### **Vehicle Workshop & Fleet Management**

We are continually seeking additional business from outside organisations and have recently undertaken work for:

- Chichester District Council (major repairs to refuse collection vehicles)

- Horndean Parish Council, and Havant College (service and maintenance of vehicles and machinery)
- Crookhorn College, Trosnant Schools and Front Lawn School (service and MoT mini buses).

We are actively looking for more such work to increase our income.

## **Sustainability**

### **Switch Hampshire**

The council has worked with other Hampshire authorities to set up a 'collective energy switching scheme' which aims to help residents save money on their gas and/or electricity bills. The first Switch has just closed with over 5,000 Hampshire residents registering. Following the registration period in May, a selection of energy suppliers submitted their most competitive tariff based on the number of residents who had signed up to the scheme. Initial average figures show that within Havant, a monthly dual fuel direct debit customer can make the savings of £81 a year. Further Switch Hampshire schemes are planned for Autumn and Winter.

### **Havant Goes Greener**

The council is working with Havant Friends of the Earth to run the third Havant Goes Greener family fair. This will be held in Havant Park on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September, and is a free event celebrating a Greener Havant. There will be free activities for children, live music, stalls, food, demonstrations, competitions and fun for the whole family. There will be a programme of activities throughout the day from 10am to 4pm, with activities previously spread over a week concentrated into one day.

### **Fuel Poverty Figures Released**

Statistics have just been released by the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) on the number of households living in fuel poverty on a local authority level. The DECC data shows that 9.6% of households in Havant are in fuel poverty compared with 11.6 % the previous year. This compares with Hampshire wide figures of 9.3 % of households living in fuel poverty in Hampshire.

# Report to Council 24 July 2013

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

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## Planning Policy

### Local Plan (Allocations)

Work on the Plan that identifies the specific sites for employment and housing sites together with policies that will supersede all the old saved local plan policies is progressing well, with more evidence gathering particularly on highway impacts, viability of development and mitigating impacts on protected habitats.

Seminars were held on 22 and 23 July to update all councillors on the Plan.

Two further seminars are being arranged for late August/early September prior to consideration by Cabinet and Council. These seminars are aimed at getting all Councillors involved prior to their formal consideration through Cabinet on 2 October and a Special Full Council immediately after Cabinet.

The Local Plan would then be published in mid-October and then it will have significant weight as a planning policy document.

Planning applications may then be considered for the identified sites prior to the programmed adoption in summer 2014.

### Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

This is a major change in the way developer contributions are dealt with and the 1 August CIL implementation day is very close. All planning applications for new housing determined on and after 1 August will be liable to CIL.

The Regulation 123 List setting the broad range of items that CIL could be spent on is recommended for agreement at this Council. This is a general list that gives flexibility to the Council to use the CIL funds for whatever is the future priority. Section 106 contributions will continue to be sought on a more limited basis for infrastructure that is directly required to service particular developments.

CIL collection will take some time to accumulate any significant amounts. It is not intended to propose any CIL spending until April next year.

From August to April officers will be developing the infrastructure requirements lists for Councillors to consider and prioritise allocation of CIL funds. Seminars on the ideas for schemes and priorities have been arranged for 30 September and 14 October.

It is important that Councillors get involved to understand the process and set infrastructure schemes and priorities.

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## **Development Management**

### **Major Developments – Progress update**

#### **Residential schemes**

Land at Oak Tree Drive, Emsworth - 48 dwellings

Approved 2012 – work now commenced on site.

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

Development Consultation Forum took place early 2012. Developers have advised that the formal application would follow in summer 2013 – not yet received.

Mary Rose House, Woolston Road, Leigh Park - 25 dwellings

Approved 2012 – work now commenced on site.

Portsdown Retail Park (Homebase & AMF Bowling) - 86 dwellings

The application is under consideration and is likely to be reported to a meeting of the DMC in the near future.

Copseys Nursery/Manor Farm, Havant - 191 dwellings

Application for part outline and part full permission approved at the meeting of DMC on 25 April 2013. Discharge of conditions application has been received. The developer started clearance works on site in July and is undertaking required archaeological investigations. A detailed application for the northern part of the site, which has outline planning permission, is expected this summer.

Ranelagh Road, Havant - 81 dwellings

DMC resolved to grant permission in June 2013. The S106 Agreement is nearing completion and it is anticipated that the formal decision will be issued in the near future.

Purbrook Park, Purbrook, Waterlooville - 81 dwellings

Work is continuing on site with a number of dwellings completed and sold. An application for further residential development on the smaller, western part of the site is expected in the near future.

Land at Station Road, Hayling Island

Outline application submitted in late June for 60 dwellings and 1250sqm of Class B1 business space. The applicant has previously undertaken independent community consultation/exhibition.

Land east of New Lane, Warblington - 78 dwellings

Permission was granted in spring 2013. Works to construct the site entrance are planned for the summer holiday period to minimise disruption during school term time.

### **Commercial schemes**

Dunsbury Hill Farm - 61,000sqm mixed B1, B2 & B8 plus 95 bed hotel/conference facility

DMC resolved to grant permission at the meeting held on 28th March 2013. Negotiations on the detailed S106 wording have continued in parallel with further ecology survey work required to meet legal tests according to HCC Ecology. A planning performance agreement is in place with applicant (Portsmouth CC), with target of issuing permission in late July.

PCC has prepared marketing plans for the site and is due to take to market autumn 2013. The national funding bid for the ASDA roundabout improvements in May 2013 was, unfortunately, unsuccessful. A further bid is proposed for regional funding.

BAE site, Waterlooville - mixed redevelopment

The application for mixed commercial development was resolved for approval by DMC autumn 2012. S106 has been produced and is near to completion (late July 2013). Pre-application discussions have been held to consider other possible forms of development on the land.

Permissions have been issued in recent months for:

Solent Retail Park, Havant (the redevelopment of the site for new retail outlet);

Solent Trade Park, Havant (redevelopment of site for new employment premises);

Bosmere Field, Langstone (budget hotel and restaurant)

### **Planning appeals**

The Kench, Hayling Island – conversion of barge

Appeal against enforcement notice - Public Inquiry took place in June and has been adjourned until early August.

Goldring Close, Hayling Island – 130 dwellings

This application was refused on policy grounds under delegated powers. An appeal was lodged and a Public Inquiry concluded June. The Inspector's decision is to allow the appeal. This will have implications for the council's housing land supply and site allocations work.

## **Delegated planning application reports**

The Planning Officer's reports on planning decisions made under delegated powers have been available to view online from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2013. This will assist a wide range of customers from agents and applicants to interested neighbours.

## **New Permitted Development Procedures**

On 30th May the Government rolled out a number of important changes to the 'permitted development' regime, which allows a variety of developments to take place without the need to go through the normal planning application process. The principal changes of relevance to Havant are:

- (1) Householder extensions - the depth of rear extensions that can be built under permitted development are being increased from 3m to 6m (in the case of terraced and semi-detached properties) and from 4m to 8m (in the case of detached properties). A 'light-touch' prior approval consultation process is however required to be undertaken by the Council with adjoining neighbours, and where objection(s) are received the planning officers are required to assess the impact on neighbours' amenity before deciding whether the development can go ahead;

There is no charge payable by the householder for going through this process, despite the administrative and professional costs that may be incurred by the Council. This change applies to development undertaken and completed by 30 May 2016;

- (2) Commercial extensions - the floor area limits relating to extensions to offices, shops, catering, financial or professional services establishments, industrial and warehouse developments are all being relaxed. No prior approval process is required; again this change applies to development undertaken and completed by 30 May 2016;
- (3) Residential conversions - changes of use of office premises to residential use can now take place as permitted development, subject to seeking the prior approval of the Council in respect of matters only relating to highways, flooding and land contamination. This change applies to development undertaken and completed by 30 May 2016; the prior approval process will incur a fee from applicants from 1st October this year;
- (4) Conversions of agricultural buildings - buildings of up to 500sqm may be converted to uses comprising retail, financial and professional services, restaurants and cafés, business, storage and distribution, hotels or assembly and leisure uses subject to seeking the prior approval of the Council in respect of matters only relating to highways, flooding, noise and land contamination.

There is no time limit applied to this development; the prior approval process will incur a fee from applicants from 1st October this year.

- (5) Temporary uses - the new permitted development regime introduces a wide-ranging permission for many types of existing commercial premises to convert to retail, financial and professional services, restaurants and cafés, or business for a temporary period of two years. There is no time limit applied to this



development; nor any prior approval process - however the permission is subject to a floor space limit of 150sqm.

## **Summary of Changes to Local Requirements Checklist**

Recent government legislation has focused on streamlining the planning applications process; requiring that planning authorities should only request information that is relevant, necessary and material to the application. As part of this new legislation, planning authorities have an obligation to revisit the requirements of their 'Local List' at least every two years and any authority that has not done so before 31<sup>st</sup> July 2013 will only be able to validate applications on the basis of national requirements. Since it has been some time since Havant Borough Council published their local list, a comprehensive review was necessary.

The review has been carried out in three stages; firstly, an internal review leading to a draft document; secondly, a public consultation; and thirdly, changes implemented further to consultation responses prior to publication.

The reaction to the consultation document was generally positive; ten comments were received, two from agents and eight from consultees. Amendments to the consultation document have been made to reflect the recent changes to planning legislation and to incorporate any changes to wording or guidance offered by the consultee responses and should be published on or around 24<sup>th</sup> July 2013.

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## **Building Control**

Work on income maximisation is continuing. This includes the development of new specialist consultancy services (Code for Sustainable Homes Assessments and Fire Risk Assessments) which are due to be marketed by the end of summer to customers. Also, the team is carrying out condition survey work for the coastal team.

Income for the first two months of 2013/14 is approximately 20% up on 2012/2013 from £24,000 to £29,381

Work is continuing on creating the infrastructure for a future shared team with East Hampshire, including work on creating a Shared Senior Technical Support Officer post and harmonising processes, procedures and documentation.

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## **Coastal Engineering**

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

Raymond Brown Construction Ltd was successfully appointed by HBC as the Principal Contractor to the Eastoke Point Works in March 2013. Construction began on site in May 2013 and continues to progress well despite a 4 week delay to the initial rock delivery due to adverse weather conditions delaying the barge. In total 24,500 tonnes of rock has been delivered to the foreshore on the Eastoke frontage. Four dilapidated timber groynes have been removed, 4,500 tonnes of existing rock recovered for re-use and just over 170m of rock revetment has been constructed, along with one new stub-groyne and the seaward end of two further full length groynes. The current contract target cost is £5,094,020.30, which is within the approved budget for the scheme. HBC

has to date claimed and received £4,500,000 in grant aid from the Environment Agency for the scheme and further claims for the remaining cost will be made in the coming months. £2,369,939 has been paid out by HBC to the contractors to date. The project remains on programme for completion in October 2013.

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

All funding for BMP Activities in financial year 12/13 have been claimed and received by Havant Borough Council to the sum of £161k.

The next beach management operation for recycling and import is proposed for March 2014 with an approved expenditure sum of £293k.

Talks and investigations have been on-going with Chichester Harbour Conservancy and the Hayling Island Golf Course in respect to sourcing further shingle material to place on our beach at Eastoke Point. We are investigating carrying out a navigational maintenance dredge to the approach channel of Chichester Harbour on behalf of the Harbour Authority for the purpose of maintaining safe navigation as well as gaining this material onto our shore instead of importing it via road for the Eastoke Point Construction contract. We are also in talks with the Golf Course with regard to recycling shingle material from Gunner Point, Hayling Island, which could provide a good source of local coarse beach material.

### **Coastal Defence Maintenance – West Beach Hayling Island**

The Timber Maintenance contract for Eastoke, Hayling Island was completed May 2013 at a cost of ~£69k from the HBC coastal maintenance budget.

Works to remove 150m of sloping timber revetment at West Beach, Hayling Island is progressing well with all affected beach huts successfully relocated further back and in line with the huts relocated in March 2012. The works began on the 5th June 2013 and were completed on the Friday 5th July 2013 with an estimated expenditure of £72.5k. An application for EA funding for £55.7k has been submitted and a decision is expected at the end of July 2013.

The Friends of Norebarn Woods have managed to secure the majority of the funds required for the second Phase of works, laying of Armourloc Revetment to protect the footpath and woods along the Nore Barn Woods frontage. Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership will again project manage and oversee this project which is proposed to occur before the over wintering birds season this year (October - February).

## Portfolio Holder Report – Council 24 July 2013

By Cllr Yvonne Weeks – Economy & Communities

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### Housing Services

#### Development Update

Quarter 1 (April-June) of 2013 has seen a total of **57** new affordable housing units delivered across the borough:

10 Affordable Rented homes  
16 Shared Ownership homes  
21 First Buy  
10 Help to Buy units.

These units are spread across various sites:

Redlands Grange Emsworth  
Wellington Park Waterlooville  
Purbrook Place, Waterlooville  
Berewood, Waterlooville (MDA)

#### Current development sites

- **Hampshire Farm, Emsworth**- 75 affordable units in total, all units now delivered in Phase 1, Bellway. Phase 2 under construction with a further 49 affordable units to be delivered by Bloor Homes in partnership with First Wessex. Timescales to be confirmed.
- **Purbrook Park School site**- All 23 units now delivered by Barratts in partnership with First Wessex. 9 Shared Ownership 2 bed flats (8 either sold or reserved to date) plus 14 Affordable Rent homes.
- **Mary Rose House, Woolston Road**- 25 affordable units, to be delivered by Guinness Hermitage. Start on site achieved.
- **St Michaels Convent**- 25 affordable units to be delivered by Linden Homes in partnership with Guinness Hermitage. Completion expected from 12<sup>th</sup> November 2013 but anticipate slippage due to unexpected asbestos issues within demolition.
- **Dukes Meadow**- Phases 3 & 4, 88 affordable units, mixed tenure to be delivered by Taylor Wimpey in partnership with Radian, application granted 28/06/2013. Start on site achieved.
- **Berewood, Waterlooville MDA**- Phase 1, Bloor Homes (194 units in total), 78 affordable homes, rented to be delivered by Guinness Hermitage (Social & Affordable), intermediate to be delivered by Grainger. First completions anticipated September 2013.

#### Housing Advice and Homelessness

During Quarter 1 the Team has had to place a total of 14 households into B&B accommodation whilst enquiries were being made and alternative

accommodation sought. At the end of the quarter there were still 8 households in B&B waiting for an offer of alternative accommodation. Despite this number going into B&B there were 116 successful prevention interviews carried out. This means that the Team worked with 116 households facing homelessness who did not have to go into B&B and to ensure that they did not lose their home or that alternative accommodation was found. The Team has successfully represented a number of families in Court and negotiated payment plans with landlords to ensure they are not evicted. In addition, mediation has been invaluable in resolving family and landlord disputes. A total of 1,317 customers approached the Housing Team for advice during Quarter 1.

### **Hampshire Home Choice**

The revised Allocations Policy went live on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2013 and the new assessed bedroom need is now being applied in line with the changes to Housing Benefit following the Welfare Reform.

### **Sport**

The Hampshire Games took place on 22 June at the Aldershot Military sports facilities. Havant took a total of 5 teams covering squash, basketball, swimming and girls football. All of the sports linked with local clubs to encourage life long pathways into sport. All of the teams did well with the Havant Girls Football Team winning the competition.

On Saturday 20 July 'Get Active at the Staunton Festival' took place at Havant Academy. Over 20 sports clubs and organisations offered free taster sessions for families to 'come and try' a variety of activities. The organisation of the event was supported by Innovations Fitness and Havant Academy.

The National Watersports Festival will this year take place from Friday 30 August – Sunday 1 September. This year the festival will take a larger area of land at Beachlands to offer competition and taster sessions in 4 watersport disciplines. Havant Borough Council will once again be providing the opportunity for local residents to book onto windsurfing taster sessions over the course of the weekend.

### **The Community Officer (Leisure and Sports Development)**

- has been representing Havant Borough Council on the community access to schools strategic group. This group is driving a Sport England pilot project looking at how best to utilise school sports facilities for community use, linking in with local sports clubs. The group has gained a variety of information from school sites and will be working with local sports clubs at an engagement evening on Thursday 18 June.

- has developed a partnership with South Downs College to develop a coach education programme. The initial pilot saw 20 participants from local sports clubs attend a Safeguarding and Protecting Children workshop. A variety of workshops and education programmes will run from September 2013.

- is working with a variety of sports clubs and organisations, including schools, on developing their sports facilities and infrastructure. Many of the projects are at different stages of development, covering a number of different sports and activities.

## **Community Development - WaterlooVille**

### **Facebook page**

The 'Community Development in WaterlooVille' Facebook page now has 717 followers, this is an increase of 200 people since March. The page is proving to be a popular and effective way of communicating information to the WaterlooVille community.

### **The WaterlooVille Community Forum**

The Events Team which is resident led has grown in numbers. The team are organising a 'Waterlooville Community Summer Fete' which will be held on 18 August.

The WaterlooVille Community Planning team have been working hard consulting with local people. 1,130 consultation surveys have now been completed. The surveys are in the process of being scanned and analysed. A community plan will follow later in the year.

### **£1 million Lottery funding for Wecock (Big Local)**

A 'Big Local' group in Wecock has now been set up which consists of local residents and partners that work in the area. This group is still in the consultation process asking residents how they would like the £1 million lottery money to be spent. There are now 4 active sub groups that report to the 'Big Local' group on a monthly basis. The residents have decided that a project officer is required part time to lead on this project, this will be funded through the £20k 'getting started' grant.

A new website has also been designed [www.webiglocal.org](http://www.webiglocal.org).

### **Billy's Lake Community Project**

There has been an increase of local residents taking on specific roles such as fishing wardens and litter pickers. The volunteers work alongside John Welford who is the Conservation officer from the Acorn centre. There has been a reduction in litter and anti social behaviour as a result. The Princess Trust and Highbury college are supporting the project and a series of 'bat/moth' workshops are planned for the summer.

### **Loan Shark awareness events**

£2,000 has been awarded to the Wecock and Stakes area from the POCA (proceeds of Crime Act). The Illegal Money Lending Team (IMLT) which is a Trading Standards Project, prosecutes loan sharks and helps victims.

The funding was used to provide free fun activities at 2 large summer events to engage with members of the community. The main aims were to raise awareness of the dangers of using loan sharks, it is aimed specifically at men and will help promote legal, affordable credit options to prevent people from using loan sharks and to help promote financial management/budgeting.

### **Community Development - West of Waterloo**

Since the last Old Park Farm Residents Association Forum meeting the Community Officer has supported the Residents Association to adopt their constitution and identify key priorities:

1. Working with Taylor Wimpey on the pavements and road management.
2. Being involved in the development of the Western Open Space.
3. Addressing the problems at the Play Park.
4. Creating a Phase II Management Plan and encouraging residents to take pride in their community.

With a new, proactive Chairperson they are recruiting new members and at a Social Evening in June there were over 20 residents present. The Residents Association have taken responsibility for the two noticeboards on the development and continue to keep them up to date. To complement the 'Friends of Old Park Farm' Facebook page there is now an Old Park Farm Residents Forum which has become a useful way of sharing information and improving relations.

Two events took place in the spring, an Easter Event saw the installation of the first community noticeboard and was very well attended. A 'Play Safe' event was arranged in May with the Winchester Community Safety Team and other partners to address general concerns of local residents about how children were playing on the development, however the weather was atrocious and this impacted attendance. Further events will be held in the summer through the Public Art Programme.

There has been an increase in anti social behaviour over the past few weeks, with a group of young people on push bikes visiting the development and accessing the building site. A multi agency task force has been formed with the Winchester City Council Community Safety Team, the Police, HCC Accredited Community Safety Officers, Radian, Happy Valley Children's Centre (Denmead) and Motiv8. It is hoped an increase in police presence on the development will deter the young people and reassure the residents, and that pressure on Taylor Wimpey to review security of the building site will help resolve this problem. Work with Radian to address issues with a very small number of properties is ongoing as is the development of a short term youth work programme with a view to securing funding for a longer term project.

The Portakabin for the Community Officer is now ready and furnished on the Berewood site. This will provide a base on site for the Community Officer, however as it is situated within the active part of the building site it will not be accessible to the public for sometime.

Several Churches in Waterloo have been working together to secure funding for a Community Minister for the MDA. Rev. John Thompson will

represent the Churches of Waterlooville and take up his post in September. Meetings have taken place with Grainger and it is likely the Minister will occupy one of the houses on Phase 2, in the meantime it is likely he will live off site. It is anticipated he will offer an open house approach to residents and will play an active role in supporting the development of the new community working alongside the Community Officer.

### **Community Development – Emsworth**

Emsworth Community Association held their next Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 17 July 2013 in Emsworth Community Centre.

Emsworth Residents Association held their committee meeting on Monday 15 July 2013 in The Brookfield Hotel and the HBC Communities Team will be giving a short presentation on Community Led Planning.

Emsworth Museum are seeking funding for a new floor in the museum. The HBC Communities Team are supporting them with applications.

### **Community Development - Havant**

The Denvilles & Warblington Stakeholder meeting was held to discuss a new community building on the Copse Nursery site. Barratts Homes will apply to HBC for planning approval after some public consultation has been carried out.

Havant Tiles are working with local business in the area to find extra financial support for this community project.

Havant 50+ Forum are working with the HBC Communities Team to further promote the forum to new groups and residents across the Borough.

### **Community Development - Hayling Island**

The Hayling Island Community Network have finalised and launched their first community plan. The next step will be to start working on the priorities and contacting the relevant agencies.

The Hayling Island & Warblington Local Children's Partnership held a thinking and planning workshop on 18 June 2013 to identify a clear purpose and how they want to look in two years time. The focus will concentrate on Transition, Attendance, Speech Language & Communication, Leadership & Networking.

The Hayling Billy 50 Project group are in the process of completing a second funding application to the Heritage Lottery Fund which HBC will submit on their behalf. The group have also submitted a Veolia application and HBC and HCC have given some match funding towards the project.

### **Community Development - Leigh Park**

A day was held to interview and recruit a new Community Officer for the Leigh Park & Bedhampton area. The new appointee will start in August 2013.

The Barncroft Community First Panel and West Leigh Community First Panel have both allocated their second year of spend and are now in the process of putting together a community plan for each ward to qualify for the third year of spend.

Community Led Planning in Battins and Warren Park has an extended deadline for the rest of the summer due to a low number of completed surveys being returned.

The Havant Local Children's Partnership & Leigh Park Cluster have decided to hold their meetings on an annual basis with the working groups continuing to meet more regularly, these are the Persistent Absence Working Group and the 0-5 Working Party Group.

A Barncroft Community Fun event organised by residents was held on Saturday 13 July, on the Community Green by St Michael's Road, St Christopher's Road, St Nicholas' Road and Ernest Road (PO9 3TJ)

### **Economic Development/Business Support**

#### **Unemployment figures.**

Unemployment continues to fall. In Havant it is down from 2403 (3.3%) in April to 2244 (3.1%) in May.

| <b>Unemployed Claimants and Residential Unemployment Rate:</b> |               |            |                |            | <b>May 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  | 147           | 8.2        | 58             | 3.0        | 205             | 5.5        |
| Battins  | 182           | 9.4        | 88             | 4.2        | 270             | 6.7        |
| Bedhampton   | 64            | 2.4        | 40             | 1.4        | 104             | 1.9        |
| Bondfields   | 155           | 7.5        | 70             | 3.4        | 225             | 5.4        |
| Cowplain   | 52            | 1.8        | 26             | 0.9        | 78              | 1.4        |
| Emsworth   | 57            | 2.4        | 39             | 1.5        | 96              | 1.9        |
| Hart Plain   | 122           | 4.4        | 56             | 1.9        | 178             | 3.1        |
| Hayling East   | 85            | 3.4        | 47             | 1.8        | 132             | 2.6        |
| Hayling West   | 64            | 3.0        | 31             | 1.3        | 95              | 2.1        |
| Purbrook   | 70            | 2.5        | 31             | 1.1        | 101             | 1.8        |
| St Faith's   | 62            | 2.5        | 42             | 1.6        | 104             | 2.0        |
| Stakes   | 142           | 4.6        | 82             | 2.5        | 224             | 3.5        |
| Warren Park  | 192           | 9.4        | 101            | 4.3        | 293             | 6.6        |
| Waterloo   | 94            | 3.3        | 45             | 1.6        | 139             | 2.5        |
| <b>Havant*</b>   | <b>1,488</b>  | <b>4.1</b> | <b>756</b>     | <b>2.0</b> | <b>2,244</b>    | <b>3.1</b> |

The Economic Development Team has organised a series of business support seminars in partnership with the Government's Growth Accelerator



coaching programme. Events have been held in May and June focused on strategy, sales and marketing. The events were very well received by the local companies who attended. Future Growth accelerator events are scheduled for September 2013 at Havant BC.

HBC Business start up grants. Since the programme re-opened in April 2013 some 43 new businesses have been signed up. The grant scheme will be fully subscribed by the end of July 2013.

Businesses in Waterlooville have received a boost after controversial traffic restrictions have been lifted for good. Leaders at Hampshire County Council decided to permanently scrap old parking restrictions in London Road South following a six-month trial. It sees the introduction of 30-minute waiting bays that allow shoppers easier access to the local shops. Vehicles are also able to turn around in London Road and trade vehicles are now able to load and unload in a designated loading bay. This has been actively supported by HBC and the local business association.

The Hampshire CC bid to the government for pinch point funding to improve the ASDA roundabout in Bedhampton was unsuccessful. The only Hampshire project to get funded was the Queens Roundabout, Rushmoor which was awarded £4 m. Further opportunities to deliver the scheme which is linked to the development of Dunsbury Hill Farm, are now being explored.

From August this year, Traineeships will be available to young people aged 16 - 19 who want to work but need extra help to gain an Apprenticeship or a job. South Downs College and other local training providers will be involved in the delivery of this scheme.

Homebase have closed their store at Havant Retail Park, Portsdown Hill Road, Havant. Approx half of the 40 staff have been transferred to other stores. Staff from Jobcentre Plus and SJ Training have visited the store to assist staff with CVs and job search.

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