

Portfolio Holder Reports

HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL
COUNCIL
19 FEBRUARY 2014

Dear Councillor

I am now able to enclose, for consideration at next 19 FEBRUARY 2014 meeting of the Council, the following portfolio holder reports that were unavailable when the agenda was printed.

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Portfolio Holder Report – Council 19 February 2014

By Cllr David Guest – Planning and Built Environment

Planning Policy

The Allocations Local Plan was submitted to the Government and the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) on 20 December, ahead of schedule. This is a significant milestone and gives the Allocations Plan a little more weight in the consideration of speculative planning applications.

The Allocations Plan Inspector Sue Turner was appointed by PINS to conduct the Examination in Public. Sue Turner is an experienced inspector having handled numerous Core Strategy Examinations including East Dorset, Eastbourne and Lambeth.

The Inspector has agreed dates for the Examination scheduled to start on 29 April in the Council Chamber, sitting programmed for up to 4 days. This is extremely positive from PINS. If they had any significant concerns with the Submitted Plan they would have asked for a preliminary meeting rather than giving us firm dates for the Examination to commence. PINS are likely to set questions for the Examination by mid-February and give the Council and other participants 7 weeks to prepare statements prior to the start of the Examination.

An 'Emsworth Forum' seeks qualification for designation as the first in the Borough to produce a Neighbourhood Plan. A qualification findings report will be brought to Council in the summer following a six-week consultation.

The Council has sent notices for more than £200,000 CIL payments. Work on developing spending priorities and procedures will be a major focus following the completion of examination.

The PUSH Joint Committee agreed the published PUSH Strategic Housing Market Housing Assessment (SHMA) on 28 January. The SHMA is available at: http://www.push.gov.uk/work/latest_joint-committee.htm. This major piece of housing requirement evidence will feed into a full review of the PUSH strategy, and our future housing target review.

Building Control

Building control continues the strategy of income maximisation whilst not increasing costs. Actual income to the end of December was £211,974 compared with £188,482 at the same time the previous year: an increase of approximately 19%. This is due to the additional consultancy work undertaken by our Building Control service outside of their core Building Regulation work, as well as an upturn in workloads from core Building Regulation work as the economy slowly improves.

Coastal Management

- **Eastoke Point Coastal Defence Works**

Construction of the Eastoke Point Coastal Defence Scheme was completed in November 2013 on time and within the allocated budget.

Officers are currently agreeing the final account with the contractors Raymond Brown Construction Ltd, The current forecast cost for completion of the project including all ESCP staff time is £5,326,173.30.

Ongoing survey and monitoring is being undertaken to gather data on how the new scheme performs, and what effect it has on the local sediment pathway.

ESCP are currently assessing if any adaptive works will be required at Groyne 2 to better control the sediment movement and manage the near shore currents in this area. The project will remain open through the summer 2014 while this assessment is made as additional spend from the approved EA project contingency fund may be required to undertake any necessary minor adaptive works.

The scheme design and construction has performed extremely well in the last few months of adverse weather, with very little overtopping experienced in even the most extreme conditions. No flooding occurred to the area from the scheme frontage.

The scheme attracted positive feedback from the local community and stakeholders. Areas of “sink holes” on the crest of the structure are now fenced off, and are regularly monitored and infilled; this is expected to be a short-term issue whilst the structure is settling into its environment.

- **South Hayling Beach Management Plan**

We received priced contracts for beach recycling works in March 2014 and will be meeting the preferred bidders for a pre-contract meeting on Feb 6th.

We have sent out mini competition documents to our Framework contractors for the term service contract to provide periodic dredging of the Chichester Harbour entrance channel. Dredged material will be deposited on the Eastoke frontage.

Planning consent will now be sought for the use of material from Gunner Point following successful talks with Hayling Island Golf Club. We also hope to incorporate the Hayling Sailing Club land into our Beach Management Plan (BMP) area in order to recycle material from Black Point to Eastoke.

- **Winter Storms**

The Christmas period saw a high frequency of severe storm events resulting in gradual draw down of the design beach profile. After weeks of poor weather, the storms during the first week of January saw very large swell waves (which affected much of the Southern and South Western UK coastline) overtopping the beach crest. As expected, the promenade flooded with water. This was allowed to steadily flow through our floodgate system to be dispersed by highway drainage. The Coastal Team worked alongside the Engineering Works Team to ensure shingle was cleared from the promenade to allow sufficient drainage of trapped seawater.

Much of Southwood Road and Creek Road had floodwater on the highway; although regrettable, only one report of internal flooding was received from a seafront property on Southwood Road.

Inspections of the new £5.1m rock armour scheme at Eastoke Point during these events reported that the new structure performed excellently, with minimal overtopping. This in turn considerably reduced the floodwater that would have added to Southwood Road, whereby the cumulative volumes would historically have caused much higher flood levels with the events that occurred.

Within 2 days of the peak storm; as beach levels became critical, the Coastal Team liaised with suppliers from their Minor Works Framework in order to initiate immediate emergency works to restore adequate beach levels until the next Beach Recycling contract in March 2014.

Funding for emergency works will be received via the Flood Defence Grant in Aid, either via contingency on our already agreed Beach Management Plan, or by a business case put forward to the Environment Agency for emergency funding in light of the recent conditions. Approximately £50k was spent on the reactive emergency works.

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Portfolio Holder Report – Council 19 February 2014

By Cllr Yvonne Weeks – Economy & Communities

Housing Services

Development Update

Quarter 3 (October-December) of 2013 has seen a total of 10 new affordable housing units and 22 Help to Buy units delivered across the borough:

These units are spread across various sites:

Redlands Grange Emsworth

Wellington Park Waterlooville

Purbrook Place, Waterlooville

Berewood, Waterlooville (MDA)

The target of 100 for 2013/14 has already been exceeded which is really positive news.

Housing Advice and Homelessness

During Quarter 3 the Team has had to place a total of 16 households into B&B accommodation whilst enquiries were being made and alternative accommodation sought. At the end of the quarter there were still 2 households in B&B waiting for an offer of alternative accommodation. Although households are still going into B&B, it is for shorter periods of time as alternative solutions are found as quickly as possible. Despite this number going into B&B there were 211 successful prevention interviews carried out. This means that the Team worked with 211 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.

Hampshire Home Choice (HHC)

Band 5 was removed in October 2013 following extensive consultation and approximately 500 households were removed – those having no housing need or outstanding debts to partners or ourselves. Work has been done on reviewing all the transfers cases who were registered with Guinness Hermitage (GH) and they are gradually being reassessed and placed onto Hampshire Home Choice meaning that 100% of GH's stock will be advertised through HHC moving forward.

Community Development

LEIGH PARK

Community First Funding Panels The Barncroft and West Leigh Community First Panels are now co-ordinating their forth and final year of funding. Each

panel has £11,300 to distribute to local groups for projects taking place during the 2014/2015 financial year. The deadline for applications to be submitted is the end of February 2014 with the next panel meeting to be held in early March. Officers are working with groups to enable them to submit applications and to support those who might find this process challenging. They are also making contact with groups who have previously received a grant, to follow up with the work they are doing and make sure they've completed their monitoring report form.

Leigh Park Community Led Planning Consultation has now been extended until a greater number of surveys have been completed. Approximately 350 surveys have been completed and the group's aim is to try and obtain 1000. Plans to increase survey up take took the form of some outreach days at Asda Havant, although only a hand full of volunteers were able to support the days which resulted in a small amount of surveys being completed. The group met again in late January with around 10 in attendance; good numbers in comparison to previous meetings. Concerns were raised but all parties involved represent members of the community and they are still keen to gain further surveys and see the project through to completion.

Leigh Park Activity Challenge Enterprise (ACE) Support has been given to the Leigh Park ACE group to help them obtain charitable status. The group are well on their way to achieving this.

Big World Impact (BWI) A new organisation has recently started to work in the area with the aim of providing youth services specifically in Leigh Park. BWI is predominately funded by an entrepreneur who used to live in the area and wants to support positive activities for young people. A project officer has been appointed and the Community Team have met with them on a number of occasions providing support and advice.

Bedhampton Social Hall have employed a part time volunteer co-ordinator. Being a new role for the Hall and for her, support has been given to provide her with the relevant information and contacts to further progress in the role.

Leigh Park Festival: The Festival is due to run again this year with different events happening from 19th - 26th May at a variety of locations in Leigh Park. The main event and Carnival will be held on Saturday 24th May and Car Boot Sale on Sunday 25th May, both at Stockheath Common.

Warren Park Play Park. The play area at Warren Park is due to be developed. Although PCC owned, officers have worked with a friends of the park group, the 'Community Play Improvement Project' (CPIP), set up through the Parent Career Forum at Park Families, to fundraise for the area. Money they have raised and some funds from HBC are all contributing to the development which is due to be finished in April this year.

WEST OF WATERLOOVILLE MAJOR DEVELOPMENT AREA

Taylor Wimpey Site

Partnership Meetings – following on from the strategic meetings held by the Police before Christmas, the Community Officer recently met with a small

group of frontline officers from Radian, the Police and WCC. It is hoped these meetings, to be held every six weeks, will improve partnership working and enable issues to be addressed more efficiently. The first action is to carry out a Perception Survey with a Community Safety focus, the outcome of which will determine priorities to be addressed.

Anti-Social Behaviour - it is acknowledged the majority of incidents on the development can be linked back to a small group of properties. Two referrals have been made to WCC who will be working closely with the families involved. Despite considerable effort encouraging residents to report incidents to 101 and Radian, Radian are still unable to take any further action due to a lack of substantial evidence. The Housing Officer is on site on a weekly basis and it is hoped the improved communication through the Partnership meetings will help address issues as they arise.

Children and Young People - in partnership with Denmead Youth Club and Motiv8, a programme of short term detached work is being planned to support young people on the development, particularly those who may be involved with anti-social behaviour. Denmead Youth Club are keen to support this work

Horses - horses illegally grazed on the Western Open Space have caused problems for the past two years. This has escalated over the past six months, with up to 20 horses continually getting into the residential areas. The current situation sees the owner of the horses charged with seven offences and expected in court early Feb. WCC are working with Taylor Wimpey to appoint bailiffs to remove the horses from Taylor Wimpey site.

Play Area - HBC officers met with Kompan, the manufacturers of the play equipment on January 8th to discuss the issues raised in the Inspectors Report and agree way forward. Many of the issues are the result of little or no maintenance since the equipment was installed in November 2010 rather than defects of the equipment. Kompan are producing a quote for the works which will be sent to HBC for discussion with Taylor Wimpey in the hope the matter can be quickly addressed. Since the remedial work was carried out in the summer there has been no further vandalism to the equipment, although the bin and bench remain unusable.

Old Park Farm Residents Association – as a small group of volunteers, OPFRA have been very proactive and made good progress. They were awarded a grant from Denmead Parish Council and secured funding from Taylor Wimpey which enabled them to purchase and install a Christmas Tree on the development and they organised and hosted a well attended Christmas Social for all residents. Committee members have lobbied and worked with the Police to address the issue of the Horses and they continue to work Trinity to address residents' concerns with estate management bills. They have produced a summary of resident's views regarding the Planning Application for Phase 5 of the development, which has been shared with all Parish and Ward Councillors.

The Committee have built strong relationships with Denmead Parish Council, Taylor Wimpey, Trinity and the local Police.

Neighbourhood Watch - two schemes are now established with separate co-ordinators (Coulter Road/Sickle Way and Melick Way/Pimpernel Way/Darnell Crescent). Signs and stickers have gone up, purchased with the grant from Denmead Parish Council. A number of residents have expressed interest in establishing two additional schemes (Harrow Way and Foxtail Road) and it is hoped these will be established soon.

Planning Applications – Taylor Wimpey have submitted revised planning application for Phase 5 of the site, which includes 103 new dwellings.

Berewood/Grainger site

Occupations - it is anticipated at the end of January there will be around 30 occupations in Phase 1 of the Berewood Development; 15 privately owned occupations and the remaining Guinness Social Housing and Grainger Trust lets/shared ownerships. All properties have received a welcome letter from the Community Officer and a Welcome Meeting will take place in the spring.

Grainger Trust – the Community Officer has been working closely with Bill Flood, Director of Grainger Trust, the newly established Housing Provider who will be managing the majority of the Affordable Housing for Berewood development (with the exception of the Social Housing in Phase 1 which is managed by Guinness). A Councillor briefing session is being arranged for the end of February to introduce Grainger Trust and present how it intends to support and manage its tenants. More details to follow.

Berewood Primary School - Mrs Sue Patrick has been announced as the Head teacher for Berewood Primary school, and supported a well-attended session for prospective parents in the New Year. She will take up her post officially from Easter, when recruitment for the teaching staff will begin. Three “Hard Hat” Tours of the school site have been arranged for parents, and additional tours are planned local ward and parish Councillors. It is anticipated these will take place in May/June time, dates to follow.

Planning Application – Grainger have now submitted plans for Berewood Phase 2 Residential (to be built by Redrow) and also for Phase 1 of the Town Park. It is anticipated community consultation will begin this summer to explore initial thoughts and ideas for the Local Centre.

Public Art Programme. Placemaker Project - The Heritage Lottery application, led by Hampshire Museum and Galleries Trust was successful with a grant of £10,600 being awarded, match funded by £3000 from Public Art contributions. The Community Officer has been nominated by the Arts Advisory Panel to work with the Trust supporting the delivery of the project and ensuring the project links with existing groups. The aim of the project is to enable young people from the area to understand and recognise the heritage of the West of Waterlooville MDA and to use this knowledge to create a smart phone app which can be enjoyed by the wider community.

WATERLOOVILLE

Wecock Big Local (£1million Lottery Funding) There have been several developments in the ‘Big Local’ project. A Wecock resident has volunteered

and been elected to stand as Chairman of the group, this is good progress as up until now the group has been chaired by a partner agency. Plans to engage with young people has been a success, work has been carried out with Motiv8 in order to find out what the young people on the estate would like funding to be spent on.

A 'Community chest' event was held before Christmas. Groups and Individuals were invited to apply for funding of between £100 - £500 for new projects that benefit the residents of Wecock Farm. Residents voted for 4 community projects to be funded through the chest. There are 2 more Community chest events planned for this year.

The group are in the process of writing a 'Wecock Community profile' this will include a map, local priorities, local services, businesses, activities and projects that are running in the area. A photography competition has been organised to encourage residents to take pictures of the things they 'love' about the area. Some of the photos will form part of the profile and an exhibition will take place in March. A formal business plan detailing what the million will be spent on will follow on from the Community profile.

'Community Development in Waterlooville' Facebook page. The HBC 'Community Development in Waterlooville' Facebook page has 1,300 followers. On average the page reaches 15,000 people through people sharing the information onto their own profiles. The page continues to grow in popularity with all age groups using the site.

'Battle of Waterloo' event. Discussions with the library have just started taking place regarding a 'Battle of Waterloo' celebration in 2015. Several ideas about holding a re-enactment in the Town centre and an exhibition in the Waterlooville Library are being investigated.

EMSWORTH

Emsworth Resident Association held their AGM on Monday 27 Jan 2014 and a new chair person was elected – Jo Dyer. Flooding was discussed at great length during the meeting with updates from the Flood Action group and their progress working with local authorities and the Environment Agency.

The next QGM (Quarterly General Meeting) is Monday 28 April.

Emsworth Community Association have been shortlisted for a capital grant from Hampshire County Council and are down to the final 6 organisations in the county. The association have applied for £200,000 for building improvements. The association are also recruiting a part time member of staff to assist with setting up new projects Consultation is currently being undertaken.

HAYLING ISLAND

Hayling Billy Heritage Project. Havant Borough Council submitted the bid to the Heritage Lottery on behalf of the partnership and were awarded £88,900. A Tender is being prepared to enable the employment of the project officer by a voluntary sector organisation to deliver the Action Plan.

Hayling Island Residents Association & Hayling Island Community Network are in the process of merging. A workshop is being held on Saturday 8th March 2014 to manage the process and to develop and strengthen the community plan. Further promotion of the new group aims to attract more interest and to enable the group to represent more Islanders.

Hayling Island BEST held their AGM on Thursday 23 January and a new chairperson was elected. The group are considering joining forces with the Community Network and will make a decision at their next meeting which will take place in March 2014.

HICCA - Hayling Island Community Centre Association would like to extend the building and have plans to house the cricket club and football club upstairs and a community café and extra space to encourage youth participation downstairs. A proposal has been drawn up for the clubs to consider.

SPORT & LEISURE

The Community Officer (Leisure and Sports Development) has been representing Havant Borough Council on the Access to Schools strategic partnership 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. This project continues to move forwards and has now developed an information leaflet and presented the project to Havant Federation of Heads. The development of the group has made strong links with Sport Hampshire and the national Satellite Clubs programme and is hopeful of bringing funding and resource into the borough.

The Havant Borough Sports Awards are due to take place on Thursday 13th February at Havant Leisure Centre from 7.00pm. The 34th annual awards, run by the Havant Borough Sports Association, will this year be hosted by BBC Radio Solent presenter Andy Moon. The evening will also include a football freestyle display and a guest talk from Paralympics athlete Olivia Breen. Over 40 nominations were received across 16 different categories to celebrate the achievements of local athletes, sports clubs and volunteers.

The Community Officer (Leisure and Sports Development) is now attending the Horizon Leisure Board meetings and providing support where requested, specifically around facility improvements and developments.

The Community Officer (Leisure and Sports Development) has been working with the Open Spaces Team to look at the provision of activity on existing park tennis sites. Officers are in contact with external delivery agencies to look at increasing the usage of specific sites.

The Community Officer (Leisure and Sports Development) is working with a variety of sports clubs and organisation, 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.

Sport Relief Mile. Working in association with Victory Athletics to organise the Havant Borough Sport Relief Mile we aim to have around 400 runners this year, more than previous years. This involves organising the whole event from

entertainment, promotion and co-ordinating the event on the day which will raise a large amount of money for charity.

Coach Education Programme. The Havant Sports Coach Education programme has launched and has been organised by HBC and South Downs College. There are a range of courses that Sports Clubs can book onto at a subsidised rate between Dec 13 – June 14.

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