

HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council of the Borough of Havant held on 25 July 2012

Present

Councillor Shimbart (Mayor)

Councillors Bastin, Mrs Blackett, Bolton, Branson, Briggs, Brown, Buckley (Deputy Mayor), Cousins, Fairhurst, Farrow, Galloway, Gibb-Gray, Hart, Hilton, Guest, Keast, Kennedy, Lenaghan, Pierce Jones, Mrs Shimbart, Mrs Smallcorn, Smith G, Smith J, Smith K, Tarrant, Turner, Weeks and Wilson

14. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cheshire, Collins, Edwards and Johnson.

15. Minutes

The minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 9 May 2012 and the Extraordinary Meeting held on 29 May 2012 were confirmed as correct records and signed.

16. Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor gave details of past and future civic events and engagements.

17. Leader's Report

The Leader updated members on recent activities.

18. Cabinet Member Reports

Cabinet members submitted written and verbal reports on the work within their portfolios.

19. Cabinet/Board/Committee Recommendations

- A The Council considered Standards Committee minute 28/02/2012 which recommended the Council approve and adopt the Whistle-Blowing, Anti-Bribery, Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policies and the Anti-Fraud and Corruption Response Plan. It was proposed by Councillor Keast and seconded by Councillor Hilton that the minute be approved and adopted.

RESOLVED that Standards Committee Minute 28/02/2012 be approved and adopted.

- B The Council considered Cabinet minute 10/05/2012 which recommended the Council approve the abolition of the Staffing Matters and Standards Committees and the formation of new Joint Committees with East Hampshire District Council for Human Resources and Governance, together with changes to the Constitution's scheme of delegation and terms of reference for the new Joint Governance Committee to be delegated to the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Portfolio Holder. It was proposed by Councillor Briggs and seconded by Councillor Guest that the minute be approved and adopted.

RESOLVED that Cabinet Minute 10/05/2012 be approved and adopted.

- C The Council considered Cabinet minute 19/06/2012 which recommended the Council approve and adopt the new Dangerous Structure Policy. It was proposed by Councillor Briggs and seconded by Councillor Guest that the minute be approved and adopted.

RESOLVED that Cabinet Minute 19/05/2012 be approved and adopted.

- D The Council considered Standards Committee minute 6/06/2012 which recommended the Council the adoption of a new Code of Conduct. It was proposed by Councillor Buckley and seconded by Councillor Hilton that the minute be approved and adopted.

RESOLVED that Standards Committee Minute 6/06/2012 be approved and adopted.

- E The Council considered Cabinet minute 30/07/2012 which recommended the Council approve the terms of the County-wide Police and Crime Panel. It was proposed by Councillor Briggs and seconded by Councillor Bastin that the minute be approved and adopted.

RESOLVED that Cabinet Minute 30/07/2012 be approved and adopted.

20. Joint Committee Appointments

RESOLVED

- (i) That the following Councillors be appointed to the Joint Human Resources Committee:

Blackett, Hart, Hilton, Hunt, Smallcorn and Wride

- (ii) That the following Councillors be appointed to the Joint Governance Committee:

Council (25.7.12)

Buckley, Hart, Kennedy, Smallcorn, K Smith and Tarrant

21. Portfolio Holders and Chairmen's Question Time

Councillors Briggs, Guest, Weeks and Branson all answered questions relating to work within their portfolios. Questions for Councillors Cheshire and Collins were either answered by the Leader or noted for future reply. Councillors Briggs and Buckley answered questions related to minutes.

It was noted that on the Scrutiny Board minutes from 22 May 2012 Mrs Farrow should be added to the list of names at minute 48 Resolution 1 (A).

22. Acceptance of Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes contained within the Minute Volume dated 10 May – 11 July 2012 be accepted.

23. Questions

There were no questions.

The meeting commenced at 5.00 pm and concluded at 6.21 pm

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Portfolio Holder Report – Council 25 July 2012

CLlr Briggs - Governance and Logistics

Finance

Statement of Accounts

The draft Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement have been produced by the finance team and signed off in advance of the statutory deadline of 30 June. This is a major piece of work for the team. The accounts are currently being audited by the Audit Commission, prior to final approval of the Accounts in September.

Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)

The national picture for public finance is illustrating an annual deficit of £16bn per annum in local government in the future and district councils will be facing a very difficult time in the context of the pressures for adult social care and children's services. Such pressures lead us into a time when our own financial sustainability is essential. To this end I have begun work on reviewing our own MTFS with the Management Team, Rob Chambers, Service Manager for Strategic Finance and the Finance Team.

Property Services

Public Service Plaza

Handover of Block A from Morgan Sindell to HBC/HCC client was achieved as programmed on Monday 30 April 2012 which enabled the decant process and reoccupation of the Plaza to start on Wednesday 2 May as planned. Phase 1 of the Public Service Village Masterplan is now complete. All incoming staff have been given inductions, carried out by members of the Property Team accompanied by a welcome from members of the senior management team. 351 members of staff moved joined us in the building by the beginning of July which means we now have our full complement of over 700 staff operating from the same footprint that half that number occupied before. This project is a testament to the vision of Councillors and the drive and determination of the staff running this programme in-house across HBC and HCC.

Assets and Public Sector partnership working

We are working with HCC on a national pilot for public sector assets and considering the more efficient use of these across Hampshire. It is hoped that this work will release public funds to be reinvested in front line services. Tom Horwood, Executive Director is leading on this work with me.

LGA Conference

I attended the LGA Conference on 26 – 28 June with our CEO, Sandy Hopkins and Ken Moon, Leader of EHDC. The event, as usual was very informative. It was announced at the conference that there will be a £160 billion shortfall in Social Care budget over the next few years that will have a huge impact on Local Government finances as they will be squeezed even further. District Councils will need to consult with residents to determine which services they would wish to protect.

Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH)

At its last Joint Committee Meeting PUSH considered the Spatial Strategy. It was clear there is a going to be a shortfall in housing numbers and partner authorities were asked if they could consider taking an increase in housing allocations. I pointed out to the Joint Committee that HBC had adopted the original figures agreed in the South East Plan and that our LDF and Core Strategies have been found sound, so we would not be offering to increase our housing numbers. Work continues to balance the economic research that shows the housing need versus the work undertaken in the Local Plans of the PUSH area.

Hampshire Senate

The Senate heard a number of interesting presentations and debated the issues from each. The following key matters were covered:

Higher Education

The Government's policy on HE is aimed at increasing choice and social mobility. The sector is faced with a 40% cut to funding by 2014/15 and an 80% teacher funding cut. The introduction of fees has resulted in a 10% reduction in students in 2011, it is not known what impact will take effect this autumn. The Government are encouraging establishments to seize opportunities of attracting overseas students to boost income. The current policies encourage a wider range of providers so for example Peter Symonds College in Winchester now offers cut price degrees – there could be unintended consequences for Universities.

Ken Thornber asked for a prospectus outlining how the Senate can support the sector to increase market share by attracting students to the 'Place' of Hampshire. This will be considered at a future meeting.

Update on Rail Matters

Stuart Jarvis gave an update on the railways, who runs them and the Rail Investment priorities for 2014/19.

Road Safety

A presentation from the Asst Chief Officer, Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service emphasising the need to work together to create safe drivers and reduce the impact of road traffic accidents.

Hampshire Civilian Military Partnership

None of the units in Hampshire will be deleted as a result of the 2020 proposals, although there will be some changes in configuration. Hampshire is cited as an example of best practice for civilian/Military partnerships. Councils were encouraged to sign up to a covenant with local military establishments and to consider bidding for covenant grants. Around £500,000 of covenant funding has been brought into Hampshire so far, which amounts to a sixth of the national budget.

Health Service

A report was presented on the progress of implementing the national health reforms. Under the new arrangements the County has a new public health duty as from 2013. A shadow Health and Wellbeing Board has been set up to enable the County to work with stakeholders including districts and the new Clinical Commissioning Groups to identify public health priorities and develop a Health and Wellbeing Strategy. A district Health and Wellbeing forum has been set up to feed into the main Board. A draft Health and Wellbeing Strategy is now out for consultation and officers are looking at how best to engage with councillors to respond. Gill Kneller, Executive Director is taking a lead in this work for our council.

Report to Council 25 July 2012

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

Forward Planning

Proposals for possible redevelopment in central Havant Town area are to go on display in the Meridian Centre for public consultation for a week from 14th August.

Planning Policy

The Local Plan: Allocations informal consultation ended on 15 June. There were 1,431 responses to the plans, with 56% of these made online, 42% on paper forms at exhibitions and 2% through other letters. The majority of all responses came from the Emsworth area (58%), followed by Havant and Bedhampton (18%), Hayling island (15%) and Leigh Park and Waterlooville both with similar levels of response (4.5%). There was an appreciation from the respondents for the consultation and whilst the NIMBY view is strong, 92% of all respondents did choose a development option. A local campaign against a particular site strengthened the normally high level of response from Emsworth.

The main issues being raised questioned the need for more homes, the limited choices available, the impact on infrastructure, particularly roads, flooding, health and education and the loss of green spaces and gaps.

The comments will feed into the next stage where a preferred selection of sites will go forward to a formal consultation later in the year. The consultation responses will be one element in objectively assessing which of the sites should be selected.

The Council Submitted its Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule on 5 July to the Government. It will now move forward to an Examination after the summer, where a Planning Inspector will decide whether it is sound. If it is then the major work will begin on introducing the CIL into the way we work with developers, infrastructure providers and our local communities.

All local planning authorities (LPAs) have a duty to support and advise neighbourhood groups seeking to take forward a neighbourhood plan. The RTPi has put together a set of topic templates that will allow LPAs to create an 'off the shelf' resource on local evidence for neighbourhood planning, which we hope will benefit the LPAs as well as the groups.

View or download the 'Neighbourhood planning: a simple guide for ward councillors' at <http://www.pas.gov.uk/pas/core/page.do?pageId=1175309>

Development Management

- **Planning application fees**

The government has announced that there will be a 15% increase in the national planning application fees in the autumn. It is anticipated that the increase will take effect in October and that there will be no ability to charge for types of application which do not currently attract a fee. This announcement suggests that the introduction of locally set fees is unlikely to happen in the next 12 months.

- **Major planning applications**

A number of major applications have been received in the first quarter of the year which is currently under consideration. These include:

- BAE Systems, Elettra Avenue, Waterlooville – Business units, car showroom, drive-thru restaurant and hotel
- Land South of Scratchface Lane, Havant – 92 dwellings
- Land east of New Lane and west of Warblington School – 79 dwellings
- Land adjacent to Langstone Technology Park, Langstone - Hotel and family restaurant
- Mary Rose House, Havant – 25 dwellings
- Land south of Solent Road, Havant – Redevelopment for B1, B2 & B8 uses

The Development Management Committee recently resolved to grant planning permission for the development of 79 dwellings at Purbrook Park.

- **Planning application fee income**

Planning application income for the first quarter of the year was £112,260, which follows an income of £128,130 for quarter 4 of 2011/12 (income in Q2 and Q3 of 2011/12 combined was £94,929). This reflects the high number of major applications which are being submitted and suggests that developers are keen to invest in the Borough.

- **Councillor Training**

The first joint HBC/EHDC planning training session for Councillors was held on 9 July at Penns Place, Petersfield. Officers from Hampshire County Council's Transport team ran a well attended session on Traffic Impact and the role of the Highway Authority. There will be a whole day joint training session held on 28 September at the Plaza for members of the two Development Management/Planning Committees and other interested Councillors (subject to available space).

Building Control

- The new post of Shared Building Control Team Leader has now been filled with Robin Seamer starting work across both Havant and East Hampshire District Councils in May 2012, reducing costs to both authorities.
- The work on the revisions to the Building Control Charges at Havant is nearing completion and the charges will be implemented in July. It is anticipated that this will generate further income to reduce the costs of the Building Control Service.
- The proposed new Building Control Dangerous Structures policy has been approved by Cabinet and goes to Council on the 25th July. Impacts of this policy at Havant will be relatively minimal, mainly formalising what the team already do, but will increase the opportunities for work carried out on non-emergency structures to be charged to the building owner hence reducing costs to the Council.

Coastal Engineering

- **Coastal Partnership**

The new Shared Service Agreement between HBC, PCC, GBC and FBC officially started on the 1st April 2012. The recruitment campaign for the vacant Assistant Coastal Defence Partnership Manager and Coastal Engineer positions is progressing and we are aiming to be fully staffed by August.

- **Eastoke Point Coastal Defence Works**

The outline scheme was presented to the HBC Coastal panel on the 27th February 2012 and with their agreement public consultation exhibitions were held on the 18th and 19th April. The first exhibition was held at the Hayling Island Sailing Club and the second at St. Andrews church hall. There was a reasonable attendance at the exhibitions including several councillors. Support for the scheme was overwhelming with 77% of those that filled in a questionnaire being fully supportive of the scheme with 16% being mostly supportive and 10% being undecided. Nobody that filled in a questionnaire objected to the scheme. During informal discussions a few minor issues were raised that will be addressed but overall the feedback was very positive. Work is now continuing with the production of the Environmental Statement which will be submitted with the planning application. Other priorities will mean that the planning application will have to be delayed until late June. We will then finalise the scheme design and costing before submission to the Environment Agency for funding in the summer.

- **Eastoke Beach Recycling**

The Beach Recycling Operation commenced on 7th March 2012 and the site work was finished on the 28th March 2012. The project was completed on schedule and to budget (£151k), all fully funded through a grant from the Environment Agency.

Plans to re-grade the front slope of the beach are in place to rectify the “cliffing” of the beach in the required groyne bays.

- **South Hayling Beach Management Plan: Eastoke Beach Recycling**

Development of the Beach Management Plan has commenced with essential information gathering and discussion with relevant land owners. We are still aiming for technical approval from the Environment Agency over the summer period (2012) and all appropriate approvals in place by November 2012. Tendering for recycling can then take place over the usual Christmas period with works on site to be delivered in March 2013.

- **Solent Wide Scoping Study for the Strategic Network of Environmental Sites**
We have now received the first draft of this Scoping Study from our Consultants, following two successful and well attended workshops with our stakeholders. A major element of the Scoping Study is its Action Plan, which summarises further works required in order to make coastal change management decisions within the Solent, without breaking down the strategic network of environmental sites. The Action Plan indicates costs, timings, potential lead authorities and potential external contributions for further studies. Following an initial review of the draft Scoping Study in-house, it will be circulated to key stakeholders to confirm the actions. Key draft actions have already been used to populate the Environment Agency Financial Medium Term Plan, to give an early indication that we will be seeking funding for future studies. The Scoping Study has remained on budget, and we have developed some excellent links between stakeholders and ourselves through the workshops, which is of benefit to all.
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Planning Simplification Measures

The Minister of State for Decentralisation and Cities (Greg Clark) has announced additional measures to support the delivery of sustainable development by making the planning system simpler and more effective.

Proposals announced will help streamline the process of applying for planning permission, ensure (quite erroneously in my view) that planning is properly resourced and create greater engagement and accountability in the process.

Over 100 local planning authorities are working with front runner communities on neighbourhood planning. To help those communities with their neighbourhood plans the government will be providing further funding to the four organisations currently offering support on neighbourhood planning: the Royal Town Planning Institute (Planning Aid); the Prince's Foundation for Building Community; the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England, working with the National Association of Local Councils and; Locality (the Building Communities Consortium). The further funding will enable the four support providers to offer practical and bespoke advice and assistance to those leading communities with their neighbourhood plans.

In line with commitments set out in the Growth Review and autumn statement, the government has identified a number of potential changes to the Use Classes Order and associated permitted development rights. If agreed, they would provide new opportunities for development and sustainable economic growth through the reuse of existing buildings, without the need to apply formally for planning permission. These include temporary or so called 'meanwhile' use of empty commercial premises as recommended in the Portas Review.

The National Planning Policy Framework has successfully distilled over 1,000 pages of policy into around 50, with clear benefits for every user of the system. The next challenge is to do the same with planning guidance - some 6,000 pages of it.

There is also scope to make the information requirements for planning applications clearer, simpler and more proportionate. This can be achieved without undermining the ability of local planning authorities to make well-informed decisions, or the ability of the public fully to understand what is being proposed. I am publishing detailed proposals for consultation alongside this statement.

The government also intends to speed up the process for determining planning appeals with proposals to both shorten and streamline the process for all parties later this year.

It is important that local authorities, communities and Planning Inspectors can rely on the information contained in applications. To reinforce this point the Minister will amend the declaration on the standard application form so that applicants are asked to confirm that the information provided is, to the best of their knowledge, truthful and accurate.

Technical amendments to regulations are also proposed in the autumn to clarify and improve the operation of the Community Infrastructure Levy.

Providing planning departments with the resources that are required to turn round planning applications efficiently and effectively is important. The planning application fee is a relatively small component of the costs of any development, but delays by planning departments in the processing of applications can lead to substantial costs for residents and professional developers. Fees are currently set by Government and have not been increased since 2008.

Most councils are experiencing a shortfall in fee income which is failing to meet the costs of deciding planning applications which, in turn, has to be subsidised by ordinary council taxpayers, who end up subsidising the planning process. The Government therefore proposes a one-off adjustment to up-rate fees in line with inflation, amounting to around 15% since 2008. We intend to introduce new fee regulations that would make this change come into force in the autumn.

Appropriate resources must be matched by improved performance. The Growth Review announced the Government's intention to introduce a 'planning guarantee', that it should take no longer than 12 months to determine any planning application, including any appeal. The guarantee places an equal expectation on local planning authorities and the Planning Inspectorate that they deal with cases in no more than 26 weeks. The guarantee is aimed at the minority of decisions that take a significant amount of time beyond the statutory timeframes of 8 and 13 week (for minor and major applications respectively) to determine.

The government is also taking a number of steps to improve the performance of statutory consultees such as the Highways Agency, Natural England and the Health and Safety Executive. Alongside the requirement for key consultees to produce improvement plans, announced in the Autumn Statement, it is intended to take forward the commitment to ensure that there is a more effective mechanism for applicants to obtain an award of costs - if there has been an appeal against refusal of planning permission where a statutory consultee has acted unreasonably. The suggested changes to the award of costs Circular also make clear that appellants may be at risk of having costs awarded against them if the evidence on which they have based their appeal is found to be manifestly untrue.

Planning application fees will be increased across the categories/range by 15%. Regulations to implement this change will be laid shortly. This is pitifully short of what is needed to eliminate or even effectively reduce taxpayer's subsidy necessary to meet the cost of providing the planning service to the few who benefit from planning consent.

Considerable redoubled-effort is now required to deliver a more cost-effective planning service needing continued financial support from the Council.

Portfolio Holder Report – Council 25 July 2012

Cllr Branson - Governance and Logistics

Plaza Cafe opens to the public

The new cafe has opened at Havant Public Service Plaza serving visitors and staff. It is run by Wise Catering, a Hampshire based firm using locally, directly employed staff. They are dedicated to supplying a quality catering service at realistic prices from suppliers using locally sourced products.

The cafe is open from 8.30am to 3pm Monday to Friday and some evenings for meetings and events. Everyone at the Plaza is hoping the small cafe business will be a big success. and the council will work closely with the Plaza Cafe to support the venture and make it as successful as possible.

The cafe will be available to 740 staff as well as an average of 1,000 visitors to the Plaza per month.

Internal Audit

Standards Committee recently received the internal audit annual report for 2011/12. This showed that there is a sound systems of internal control and that controls are being applied consistently. The internal audit team achieved 92.5% productive time against a target of 90% and received favourable customer feedback.

Income Collection

- Council Tax collection as at 31st March 2012 was 97.3%. This is the same as the collection at 31st March 2011. For the current year the April collection rate was 10.30% (up 0.11 on last year); May collection was 20.68% (an increase of 0.12% on last year).
- Business Rates collection at the end of May 2012 was 21.00% compared with 21.02% for the same time last year. The current economic climate still continues to be a major factor affecting most businesses but fortunately the impact on collection has been kept to a minimum.

Revenues and Benefits

- Benefits caseload – has remained around 12,200 cases
- Benefits performance – processing times remain very good

Update on welfare reform issues

- **Benefit Cap** - The introduction of a cap on the total amount of benefit that working age people can receive. This is likely to be £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. Initially, from April 2013, the cap will be delivered by Councils and will be applied as a reduction to Housing Benefit payments. Longer term the cap will be delivered through the Universal Credit system. The Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) have provided details of households that could be affected by this change ahead of some national publicity. DWP staff wrote to these households during May/June. A national helpline is available. Current estimates are that, in Havant, there could be up to 90 households affected by the cap.

- **Size Criteria for Social Sector Housing Benefit awards** - From April 2013, there will be a size criteria for new and existing working age Housing Benefit claimants living in the social rented sector. Housing Benefit payments will be reduced by a national percentage rate depending on how many bedrooms the household is considered not to require. The DWP will be providing new powers so that we can share data with social landlords to help with the implementation of these changes and with the identification of which households are likely to be affected. Initial discussions with social landlords have commenced and a housing association landlord forum is to be held at the end of July to discuss the changes. The Benefits team will be working closely with social landlords and the Housing Options team to identify and inform customers who will be affected.
- **Localising Council Tax Support** - The Welfare Reform Act abolishes Council Tax Benefit. This is to be replaced, from April 2013, by a localised scheme of Council Tax support which will be introduced by the forthcoming Local Government Finance Act.

We will be responsible for designing and implementing our own scheme. The Government will continue to fund the scheme but have said that there will be a reduction in government grant of at least 10%. Pension age households will be protected from the changes. Details of the exact impact on individual Councils have not yet been announced but, as an illustration, a 10% reduction in funding for benefits paid to Havant's residents would be approximately £960,000. This reduction would be apportioned between ourselves, as the billing authority, and the major preceptors. Havant Borough Council's share of the funding reduction is estimated to be around £130,000; the remainder of the shortfall would be borne by Hampshire County Council and the Police and Fire & Rescue Authorities.

Work is underway to evaluate the savings that could be realised from adjusting the existing council tax benefit rules and calculations and to consider the potential impact that these adjustments might have on existing working age council tax benefit claimants. The Local Government Finance Bill also proposes giving Councils the flexibility to reduce the council tax discounts that currently apply to certain types of empty properties and second homes as a way of increasing council tax revenue. Options for implementing these

changes and potentially using this as a way of meeting some of the grant reduction are also being modelled.

Emergency Planning

Both May and June 2012 have been very busy months for emergency planning with a number of incidents and exercises occurring.

A possible fuel strike at the beginning of May made us consider what actions would be required to ensure the successful running of the local elections. Planning is also underway to complete a severe weather risk assessment I preparation for the November elections.

Havant's emergency planning exercise took place at the end of the month. This year's scenario was based on coastal flooding. It really tested the call out procedure and our ability to mobilise resources within the organisation so it was a very successful exercise.

At the beginning of June we received a flood warning for Hayling Island and HBC and installed the storm boards out of hours. What was surprising is that the flood warning almost exactly copied the conditions of the flood exercise. Only the initial tide height was different.

Next was the private tree that could have fallen on to a number of private houses in Purbrook.

Then the flooding at Emsworth and Leigh Park with a total of 62mm of rain in 10 hours. This caused flooding in a number of properties.

Depot staff worked extremely hard delivering sand bags with the additional challenge of the A27 being closed due to flooding.

We have had regular warnings about severe weather this month as you know and on two occasions additional staff have been placed on stand by.

Then there was the accident in Havant closing Park Road South for several hours.

A quiet month!

Business Continuity

- Stuart Pinkney and Jane Day have been working on the Business Continuity arrangements for the Police and Crime Commissioner Elections.
- Work is underway to develop a joint Business Continuity plan across both Councils to maximise use of resources.
- All outstanding audit actions up to the end of June have been completed.

Portfolio Holder Report – Council 25 July 2012

Cllr Collins - Environment & Neighbourhood Quality

Operational Services

Team members supported and attended three events on Saturday 30 June – Freedom of the Town/Armed Forces day in Havant Park, Leigh Park Carnival on Stockheath Common and the Waste Electrical Electronic Equipment (WEEE) bring event in the Plaza car park.

We have taken delivery of two new ‘caged’ vehicles for use on street cleansing; these vehicles have been bought as part of the council’s on going vehicle replacement programme.

The Vehicle Maintenance Workshop team has recently taken on the responsibility for maintaining vehicles and equipment belonging to Horndean Parish Council.

Open Spaces including Beachlands

We have been unable to undertake the normal amount of cuts of grass & the highway verges because of the exceptional wet weather which has also resulted in the grass growing much quicker. We will be bringing in additional resources in an effort to improve service delivery when the weather improves

West Beach at Hayling has received the ‘Blue Flag’ for the 20th consecutive year. This is testament to the hard work put in by the Beachlands team lead by Coral Hynard. Unfortunately due to the inclement weather the level of visitors is lower than normally anticipated for this time of the year.

New signs for ‘DEFRA’ Guidance on Bathing Water Controllers in England have been completed ready to replace the existing signs on the blue flag beach. In addition Members may have seen that, at long last, we have a conspicuous sign at the entrance to Hayling Island declaring that we have a Blue Flag Beach.

Waste Strategy and Recycling

National Recycle Week 18 – 24 June 2012

This year the team promoted the reuse and recycling of electrical items, by raising awareness that electrical items can be taken all year round to one of the borough’s Household Waste Recycling Centres: where they are then collected by WeeeCare, who work on behalf of Hampshire County Council.

Four community centres, the Plaza, and Southmoor Offices were all collection points over recycle week for small electrical items to be brought in by residents, staff and staff of local businesses. The participation was encouraging, especially at the community centres.

On Saturday 23rd July at the Havant Goes Greener – Green Fair the team promoted the public event which was held on the following Saturday in the staff car park adjacent to the Plaza. This event was well attended with WeeeCare in attendance driving away with four large crates weighing approx 800kg of small electrical items. Twitter and Facebook were used for the first time to help communicate the event. A full evaluation on this promotional activity will be circulated in due course.

Contamination Project – Leigh Park area

This work is now complete – awaiting feedback from the Materials Analysis Facility (MAF) where samples of recyclable material before and after the project are analysed to see what effect the contamination work ahead of the crews has achieved. A full evaluation on this work will be circulated in due course. Next area will be a round in Waterlooville during September/October; local members will be advised of further details nearer the time.

Environmental Health

Officers took part in Food Safety Week during June by organising activities based on the theme of food wastage including issues such as use-by dates, best before dates and the safe use of leftovers. A display was put on in the Plaza Atrium and the event was featured on the Council's website; a press release was issued and appropriate leaflets were distributed to community centres, etc.

Community Safety including CCTV

Community Tasking and Co-ordinating Group (CTCG)

The main areas discussed at the CTCG over the past three months were;

- The Park Parade Shopping Centre - Leigh Park
- Mill Road - Waterlooville
- The Orion Centre - Leigh Park
- Dunsbury Hill Farm - Waterlooville North
- Havant Park.

The referral system remained well used by our partners with 15 individual areas raised to the CTCG since January. Interestingly there was at least one referral made from each neighbourhood area.

Current research/analysis

- The Community Safety Team is currently working alongside Havant Women's Aid on a research project that will analyse the outreach referral forms of clients when they are first assessed.
- So far over 100 referrals have been inputted and initial findings have shown;
 - The average age of a client is around 34 years old with the average age of the perpetrator around 37 years old.
 - In around 80% of referrals it was stated that a child was also at the address.
 - The type of abuse varied but in many cases there were multiple types of physical, emotional and verbal abuse.
 - Over 25% of referrals showed that the client also had a mental health need.
- The Community Safety Team hope to have a further 100 referral forms analysed in the coming weeks.

CCTV

The Community Safety team is starting the annual review of Public Space CCTV cameras to ensure that individually they still fulfil their stated objectives and therefore provide best value and are compliant with the Information Commissioners guidance. Any Councillors with an interest in this area are asked to contact Tim Pointer, Community Safety Team Leader.

Environmental Quality

Working through the CTCG, the ranger team continue to patrols in hot spot areas and town centres. Two FPNs for littering have been issued and rangers are working late shifts partnered with Police Community Safety Officers (PCSOs) or HCC Accredited Community Safety Officers (ACSOs) in areas where anti-social behaviour is also an issue.

The team is also working with operational services to ensure that open space and parks barriers and defences are maintained to prevent unauthorised encampments as groups continue to arrive in neighbouring districts.

Transport & Implementation

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

The project to extend the Trail southwards from opposite 'The Ship Inn' to Langstone Bridge has been designed and the required minor land purchase is in progress. Work is expected to be carried out in the autumn and (subject to tender return values) this will complete the Trail on the mainland. Likewise the project to complete the route from the south end of the Bridge to the 'Texaco' garage is in design and a small section may be ready for construction in the autumn (again subject to funding and tender return values).

Park Road South, Havant Enhancement

Following Cabinet approval for the outline design on 13th June, detailed design is continuing with a successful launch of the proposals to the public held at the 'Havant Goes Greener' Fair on 23rd June. Subject to the approvals process, construction of the scheme is expected to be undertaken in about a year's time.

Park Road North, Havant Enhancement

In parallel with the Park Road South scheme, a project funded partly by Hampshire County Council's 'Operation Resilience' maintenance fund will see Park Road North's footways reconstructed and the carriageway narrowed to allow the creation of three lanes of traffic in a tidal flow system, overcoming the existing problems arising from the current road markings allowing the creation of four informal lanes of traffic in a road not quite wide enough for this to happen.

Middle Park Way / Petersfield Road (HCC Funded Safe Routes to School)

Signing and lining in Middle Park Way creating a cycle link between Petersfield Road and Woolston Road is to be carried out shortly.

Moreland's School (HCC Funded Safe Routes to School)

A meeting with the School has resulted in an outline design which has been submitted to HCC for type approval. Once this has been received, construction of parts of the scheme should be possible during the summer holiday, with the remainder completed by the end of the financial year. Some of this scheme requires the co-operation of Portsmouth City Council and Portsmouth Golf Club.

Eastoke Access and Disabled Parking

The timber sculptures by the plaza were installed in May. Caroway Contractors has finished construction work apart from the final bound gravel surface which should be laid in July.

Waterlooville Town Centre

Rocon Contractors finished on site in early June and the street lights and power bollards for the market have now been installed. The open sided performance structure for the central square should be ready for installation during July and an opening event is planned for September.

Hambledon Parade, Waterlooville

Local ward and county councillors attended an initial meeting and shop keepers and local residents of Hambledon Road have been consulted about current use of the forecourt and parking areas. An outline design will be produced for consultation at the end of the summer.

Havant Park Ramp, Havant

The works have been ordered and construction of the project is scheduled to start on the 16th of July 2012 and is expected to be complete by the middle of August 2012.

Havant New Lane Cycleway, Havant

Detailed design of the project is being finalised and expected to go to tender by the end of July 2012. Construction is expected to start by the end of September 2012.

Trosnant Schools

Possible options for a crossing are being considered and detailed design is expected to be complete by end of August 2012

Coastal Communities Fund Application

Unfortunately our application for funding for a Water sports Centre and associated access improvements to the beach was unsuccessful this year. The £18 million fund received applications totalling £300 million so there was a lot of competition. However, there may be more funding available to bid for next year.

Parking and Traffic Management

Traffic Regulation Orders that have been implemented recently include,

West Street, Havant – Phase 1 – Various restrictions

London Road and Rockville Drive, Waterlooville – Various restrictions

Traffic Regulation Orders at advert,

Brockhampton Lane, Havant – Working day restriction

Grove Road, Orchard Rd, Bellair, Montgomery, Connaught Roads, South Street, Havant – Various restrictions.

Traffic Regulation Orders currently being worked on include:

Homewell/Bulbeck, Havant – Loading restrictions and loading bay

Glebe Park Avenue, Havant Road (A2030), Auriol Drive & Fortunes Way, Bedhampton – Various restrictions

The team continue to monitor and patrol the Borough for vehicles parked illegally and advise the public where they can park.

Sustainability and Climate Change

Havant Goes Greener – Green Week

Havant Goes Greener organised a green week. The Group is made up from local organisations including Havant Friends of the Earth and the Havant Transition Network. The week took place between 17th - 23rd June. The aim of the week was to raise people's awareness on sustainability, climate change and promoting how people can make a difference to their environment. Various activities went on during the week and included tips on growing your own food, family Cycle rides, keeping chickens and learning about the wide variety of birds found in Langstone Harbour. The premier of the new eco play 'Bottled' was shown at the Spring Arts and Heritage Centre. The Green Team were also out and about advising shoppers on items such as recycling and renewable energy.

The week culminated on the Saturday with a Green Fair. Some 65 exhibitors provided information on adopting a greener way of life and promoting green and sustainable goods. A large amount of people attended the event and the organisers received some very positive comments and feedback. HBC's Regeneration and Events Officer Sarah Flamson assisted by Francesca Dudley a local student, who as part of her University course managed the actual event.

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Cllr Weeks – Economy & Communities

Leigh Park regeneration grants

The Leigh Park Regeneration grants panel met on 11 June and considered 31 bids totalling over £116,000. The following organisations were awarded a total of £20000: St Francis Church; Leigh Park Xmas Grotto, Warren Park Café Church; Friends of Hermitage Stream; Havant CAB; Home Start Havant; Portsmouth EBP; FLASH.

Business start up grants

39 new businesses have been signed up for the Business start up grant scheme during the period April – June 2012. All funding will be allocated by August.

Local Enterprise Partnerships

The Solent LEP Bridging the Gap SME grants were launched on Friday 15 June 2012 at Lakeside 1000. There are 2 RGF funded local programmes:

1) SME start up fund.

Total fund size £950,000

Bids can be made for between £5000 and £50,000

10% of fund allocated to Havant

It is proposed that 10 enterprise scholarships of £5000 each be created for young people.

First round closes 31 July 2012

2) SME GROWTH FUND

Total fund size £950,000

Bids can be made for between £5000 and £50,000

10% allocated to Havant

First round closes 31 July 2012

Portsmouth University, with support from the Economic Development Team held a local business briefing about Bridging the Gap funding on Tuesday 10 July 2012 at 0830 at Langstone Technology Park, Langstone Road, Havant. Around 70 people attended.

Havant Skills and Employability Partnership

The annual conference will be held on Friday 30 Nov 2012 at Langstone Technology Park. The next partnership meeting will be held on Mon 16 July 2012.

Employment and Skills Plans

The ED Team having been working closely with colleges in Planning Policy in the preparation and adoption of a policy on Employment and Skills Plans. This policy has recently been endorsed by Cabinet and will result in Employment and Skills Plans being developed for future major developments in Havant Borough, encouraging the creation of employment opportunities for our residents.

Events

A number of major events were held in the Borough in July.

- Sat 7 July – Waterlooille Classic Motor Show Waterlooille
- Sun 8 July - Hampshire Welcomes the World – Staunton Country Park
- Sun 8 July – Hayling Food and Drink Festival Langstone Hotel Hayling (part of Hampshire Food Festival)
- Saturday 14 July & Sunday 15 July 2012 - Hampshire Water Festival 2012 Staunton Country Park

COMMUNITIES

Community Planning

Waterlooille

The newly formed Waterlooille Community Forum is currently looking at ways of attracting more people to the area such as occupying the empty shops in the town centre and organising events.

The Forum has distributed 350 Town centre surveys across the area to collect evidence of why and when people visit Waterlooille and what improvements could be made.

Community Led planning issues have been identified in Waterlooille by the forum members, plans to form a sub group and consult with the public will develop in the near future.

The Heritage lottery fund have awarded the Billy's lake project £77k. The funds will be held by the Acorn Community Association who will lease the land from Jewson's. Plans to appoint an 'Outdoor worker' to undertake the work with the local Community continue.

Hayling Island

The Hayling Community Network continue to work on the "Hayling in our Hands" Consultation, which is well under way with over 500 Questionnaires now completed. Emerging issues include speeding, cost of parking, and facilities for young people. The work will continue through the summer months, being promoted at events and activities and targeted workshops and meetings will be held – this month I attended the Horticultural Flower Show to promote the work and support local people to complete questionnaires, with over 200 people through the door it was a huge success.

The Hayling Billy 50 project continue to make excellent progress – we have had good feedback from the Heritage Lottery and a pre application is due to be submitted by the end of July. This is being led by HBC on behalf of a partnership project.

Havant & Bedhampton

The Network held a inaugural workshop in June with its members and invited guests attending as the first step in the Community Planning Process. This session focussed on mapping existing groups and services and discussing gaps. Emerging

issues include future development of the town centre, parking and traffic. The next step is to widen the consultation, ensuring that local people are engaged.

The Network are also making progress on the Havant War Memorial Tiles Project – a meeting has been held between all agencies involved and an application will be made to the Heritage Lottery Fund to ensure the tiles remain accessible to local people. This is being led by the Network with support from HBC.

Leigh Park

Leigh Park Community Led Planning Steering Group (Battins & Warren Park wards) has held its first meeting and will start by building a cohesive community profile and mapping what is happening across the area before going out to community consultation.

Administration, finance and community development support has been given to both the Barncroft (Barncroft ward) and West Leigh (Bondfields) Community First Panels during this first year of the programme. The Barncroft Community First group have already awarded £1000 to the Community Garden.

Some community activities that have been supported by HBC Community team are:

- Leigh Park ACE Youth Challenge held an art competition for all Leigh Park School pupils and this was held during the General Annual Meeting with presence from the Deputy Mayor.
- Parchment Place Residents Association Jubilee Committee held a very successful street party and Big Lunch event which received local radio coverage. Many local business and agencies supported the event with prizes from Asda and Staunton Country Park.
- Through the Leigh Park Outdoor Play Project, a bid has been submitted to the Big Lottery for a Play Development Worker in Leigh Park.

Emsworth

The team has supported the Cultural Olympiad Boat Project, giving local residents the opportunity to see the finished article before it headed off around the south-east region.

Health and Wellbeing

A meeting of the Hampshire District Leads Health & Wellbeing Board met on the 16th July, Gill Kneller and Cllr Weeks attended. As the County begins its work to absorb public health into its remit, implications of these changes for the district and borough councils will be emerging over the next few months.

Sports Development

The British Heart Foundation “Round the Harbours Bike Ride” took place on Sunday 10th June and saw approximately 350 riders leave from Havant. Participants included families of all ages as well as the more serious riders.

The Hampshire Games took place on Saturday 16th June at the Aldershot Military Stadium. Havant entered a total of 8 teams over 7 different sports. Each sports team had a direct link to a local sports club who had either provide training sessions prior to the games or provided the team manager for the day. This model ensures clear and sustainable pathways for the young people to continue participating in sport.

The Havant Rotary School Games was launched with a school fun run on Sunday 24th June and continued with a variety of events throughout that week. The event aimed to engage 16000 children across the borough finished on Friday 29th June with a closing ceremony at Havant Leisure Centre.

The Havant Sport and Physical Activity Alliance (SPAA) has launched a small grant fund. This pot of money is aimed at encouraging local sports clubs and community organisations to develop sustainable projects to increase sports participation and health and well-being within the borough. The Havant SPAA has also commissioned Havant Park Run which takes place every Saturday morning at Staunton Country Park. This free 5K run has seen really encouraging numbers over the first couple of weeks and is a great way to increase participation rates.

A Taste of Sport event took part at the Hampshire Water Festival on Sunday 15th July. There were about 20 different taster sessions provided by local sports clubs for the community to enjoy for free. This event will help to promote the growth and development of a number of local sports clubs.

We have recently been made aware of the collapse of the Havant Hockey Club Warblington project. HBC will continue to work across departments to support the Hockey Club and a number of other sports clubs with their need for facility development.

Young People

Working with schools has been a key aspect of the Youth Council's work:

- They have been promoting their DVD "Water – Know your limits" by visiting Year 6 at both Westbourne and Emsworth Primary Schools.
- In July a 'Meet the Councillors' event for the Student Voice group from Warblington School took place.

On the 10th July, the Youth Council showcased their work on the "Community Challenge" project at the Spring Arts Centre. The project aimed to gather the views of young people and parents across Havant Borough who feel they have been unable to access mainstream activities and leisure opportunities. They worked with Glenwood School and The Starlight Group to make a short film and have also conducted an online survey.

HOUSING

Hampshire Home Choice

Elizabeth Wallington has been appointed to the full time Hampshire Home Choice shared manager post and will start on the 22 August 2012. Elizabeth has worked on a sub regional scheme in West Berkshire. During the next few months Portfolio

Holders and Officers will begin reviewing the Allocations Policy in light of the Localism Act.

Homelessness Prevention and Housing Advice

The first quarter of the year has been very busy with 9 households having to be placed into Bed and Breakfast accommodation. These families were placed whilst their situation was investigated and alternative housing found. Over 1200 customers have approached the Housing Team at the Plaza for housing related advice, in the first 3 months of this financial year and the officers have prevented 184 households from losing their home. This has been achieved through mediation, court work and working with partners,

There will be a councillors' seminar on the 20th August 2012 highlighting the changes of the Welfare Reform Act and how these will impact upon homelessness. There will also be an overview of the future of housing development in the Borough. For further details please contact Tracey Howard tracey.howard@havant.gov.uk or Lee Abraham lee.abraham@havant.gov.uk

Development

Interest and enthusiasm for development remains high within the borough and Housing are being asked to consult on a variety of sites on a very regular basis. However predicted starts on site for affordable homes during 2012/2013 are very low for a number of reasons including the delay experienced by Registered Providers in getting into contract with the Homes and Communities Agency to secure funding through the Affordable Housing Programme (AHP) 2011 to 2015. Our Registered Provider partners have now completed their contracts and it is anticipated that 2013/2014 will be a better year for delivery. At this stage the AHP only guarantees public subsidy till 2015 and Registered Providers will need to demonstrate that they can deliver their development programme within the prescribed timescale otherwise they risk losing their allocated funding.

Our 2012/2013 target is 50 new affordable homes (which includes Mortgage Rescue and the new First Buy properties) but it is envisaged that we will struggle to achieve this figure during this financial year.

The Taylor Wimpey site at Hambledon Road, Waterlooville is on schedule for delivery of 32 affordable homes as part of Phase 2 by March 2013. Phases 3 & 4 have planning consent being granted imminently.

Unfortunately the site at 158 Hart Plain Avenue, Cowplain, which was expected to deliver 11 affordable units before the end of March 2013, has suffered a series of delays which has resulted in the completion date being revised to May 2013 at the earliest.

Many prospective sites within the borough ie Ranelagh Road Bedhampton, Manor Farm/Copseys Farm, Hampshire Farm, St Michaels Convent Waterlooville, Scratchface Lane Bedhampton are still in the planning process and hopefully following successful negotiations will come forward over the next few years.

Other sites that already have planning permission have faced delays due to adverse market conditions that have affected the viability of the developments; notable examples are The Curzon Rooms Waterlooville and Raebarn House Waterlooville. HBC is currently reviewing planning obligations policy in light of these viability challenges with a view to reaching a negotiated position that will allow development to continue.

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Cllr Cheshire – Marketing & Development

MARKETING & CUSTOMER RELATIONS

Communications.

Local media coverage has been positive with excellent local press support for the Plaza café business opportunity, and our visiting Cypriot Mayors.

The team have been aligned to provide a dedicated team member per Cluster for Communications.

An internal communications campaign has been devised around a 'did you know' theme – raising awareness between staff members of what goes on in our Borough. For example...Did you know that most of our recycled glass ends up as road surface?

Website/Intranet/Social Media

Website provision is progressing well. Socitm, the professional association for public sector ICT management have been recruited to provide guidance around web build and governance and have completed initial interviews with key personnel.

Face Book and Twitter were launched in April. 'Hits' are on a par with other new council sites - the public are finding us and communicating with us. Our Management Information indicates that the sites are being used by the 25-44 year olds the most, with a fairly even split between male and female users. We can even confirm our Havant Facebook page has had hits from Germany and the USA!

Customer Relations

The Service received from Capita has remained good. Customer service levels were challenged during the recent flooding when some 640 additional calls were received in a single day, with many callers requiring a longer than average call time to receive the help they required.

Customer Insight, Geographic Information System (GIS), Customer Access Strategy

A draft customer channel strategy has been written which is a key product of the Customer Access Strategy. This will help us plan services to be delivered to the appropriate customer channel.

We are also focussing on equalities training, specifically web accessibility, to help us use the best fonts and colours to make our web pages easy to use.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Councillor Development

Representatives from HR have met with the Portfolio Holders from both Councils and discussed a draft development programme. This shared development programme contains a number of mandatory and non mandatory courses and enables Councillors to tailor their development needs. It also includes a stepped development programme aligned to member roles to support Councillors wishing to progress their political career. Work is continuing on the programme in conjunction with the portfolio holders to produce a web based development page. It is anticipated that this will be launched January 2013. This programme will enable Councillors to access development on-line.

Staff Learning & Development

We are continuing to work on a Learning & Development Strategy. This strategy will provide clear direction on the learning and development opportunities available to staff and will enable staff to be more effective in their work.

Human Resources (HR) Strategy & Transaction

The HR Service Review has now been completed. This means there is now a shared HR team in place which provides the HR Service across Havant and East Hampshire. By sharing the HR Resource, we are able to build a stronger team with increased capacity to deliver HR solutions which will benefit our staff such as training solutions; career development and health & wellbeing programmes.

BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT

The service review for Business improvement is now complete, with the majority of the new created shared roles filled with pre-existing resources from both Havant and East Hampshire, these roles commenced from 1st July. Next steps will include working with the new teams to develop priorities and plans for the next quarter, and importantly, to appoint to the vacant posts.

The process of the Service Review has inevitably introduced uncertainties for members of the team, however, despite this pressure, it is great to see that we've continued to deliver our goals and objectives.

Looking forwards our priorities include:

Corporate Programme Office (including Performance Management)

- Adopting a modern approach to presenting performance and management data to ensure this information is more readily available, easier to access and therefore able to be used to drive service improvement.
- Working closely with service Clusters to identify and deliver transformational change.
- To support the delivery of Service Reviews in order to secure planned savings.

Information Technology (IT)

- Commencing the work of the IT Partnership from 1st August, which will also see a revised Governance arrangement introduced, designed to promote the strategic development of the partnership.

- Following the IT Event on 18th June we will also be designing options for Councillors IT.
- As always we will continue to seek best value solutions for IT. Partnering with HCC will unlock opportunities – for example – using the “Cloud” to store information in a cost effective way.

Equalities

- **Complaints** - A clear procedure for complaints made with regard to fairness/discrimination has been produced.
- **Disability Access** - The Havant Area Disability Access Group are currently working on improving links and working more closely with Development Control to enable a realistic customer insight into major and public planning development.
- **Havant Multi Cultural Forum** - HBC are supporting HMF in their annual Multi Cultural Festival.
- **Integrated Impact Assessment** support across various projects continues.

Safer Havant Partnership

The Partnership last met on the 18th June and discussed amongst a number of issues the following

Performance headlines

- There has been a gradual increase in the level of anti social behaviour in the last six months.
- Havant has seen a decrease in the level of reported incidents of criminal damage within the last six months.
- Levels of violent crime have remained relatively stable in the last six months.
- www.saferhavant.co.uk has had over 18,300 unique visitors since its launch in 2008.

Troubled Families initiative

The Government has introduced an initiative to work with those families that are identified as being most in need/demanding of services. Hampshire County Council provide the lead.

Police and Crime Commissioner Panel (PCCP)

The inaugural meeting of the Police and Crime Commissioners Panel met on Friday 29 June to set out and agree their terms of reference. A seminar on the new Panels powers will be developed and delivered in the near future.