

HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

Present:

Councillor K Smith (the Mayor) (in the Chair)

Councillors Bastin, Mrs Blackett, Bolton, Briggs, Branson, Buckley, Cheshire, Collins, Mrs Edwards, Fairhurst, Mrs Farrow, Galloway, Gibb-Gray, Guest, Hilton, Hunt, Keast, Kennedy, Lenaghan, Pierce-Jones, Ponsonby, Sceal, G Shimbart, Mrs Smallcorn, J Smith, Mrs Tarrant, Ms Turner, Mrs Weeks, Wilson and Wride.

61. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Johnson, Hart, Miss Ray, Mrs Shimbart and G Smith.

62. Minutes

The minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 14 December 2011 and the last meeting on 22 February 2012 were agreed as a correct record and signed subject to the following amendment to the 22 February 2012 minutes:

Added at minute 57 B –

“(Councillor Ponsonby wished it be noted that there was an error in the report relating to the Opposition Group Leader allowance and that the allowance was to be cut by 50% to £600pa)”

63. Declarations of Interests

None

64. Mayor's Announcements

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

65. Cabinet Portfolio Reports

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

66. Cabinet/Board/Committee Recommendations

(a) Recommendation from Scrutiny Board held on 28 February 2012

The Council considered Cabinet minute 42/02/2012 which recommended the approval of the Board's Annual Report. It was proposed by Councillor Shimbart and seconded by Councillor Smallcorn that the Scrutiny Board minute be approved and adopted.

RESOLVED that Scrutiny Board Minute 42/02/2012 be approved and adopted.

67. Portfolio Holders and Chairmen's Question Time

Councillors Briggs, Guest, Fairhurst, Collins, Branson, and Cheshire all answered questions relating to work within their portfolios. Councillor Briggs answered a question related to Cabinet minutes.

68. Acceptance of Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes contained within the Minute Volume dated 9 February to 28 March 2012 be accepted.

69. Appointment Of Section 151 Officer And Deputy Section 151 Officer

RESOLVED that Jane Eaton, Joint Executive Head of Governance and Logistics be appointed Section 151 Officer and Robert Chambers, Strategic Finance Service Manager be appointed Deputy Section 151 Officer.

70. Community Infrastructure Levy

RESOLVED that in accordance with section 212(5) of the Planning Act 2008, the declaration stating that the Community Infrastructure Levy charging schedule is compliant is made and approved.

71. Questions

There were no questions.

The meeting commenced at 5.00 pm and concluded at 6.01 pm

**Portfolio Holder
Reports
Supplementary
Information**

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Leaders report to Council

Dunsbury Hill Farm

Now that the infrastructure study has been completed and a planning application is being made the outstanding issue to be resolved is the funding for the infrastructure connecting the site to the existing road network.

A number of funding options are being considered including Tax Incremental Funding, The LEP Growing Places Fund, Hampshire County Council, or a consortium of all of those bodies.

Solent Local Enterprise Partnership

The LEP's Growth fund grant of £13million is likely to raise to £17.3 million three percent of which will resource fund the LEP, the balance will be available to finance Local authority bids for funding economic opportunities, however any grant awarded by the LEP growth fund board will only be on a loan basis and will have to be repaid over an agreed period.

Hampshire Senate

Broadband

Broadband project on track and approved .

2. Insulate Hampshire

The insulation Scheme for Hampshire is going well, however the scheme would like to see greater take up as this will undoubtedly be the last totally free scheme available in the future.

3. Infrastructure

Recognition that infrastructure enables development, and needs to take place first. The creation of LEPs has reduced capital to county councils. M3 and Solent LEPs have successfully bid for Growing Places Funds.

HCC has written an interim infrastructure statement, a key point is that there must be a county-district bilateral discussions so that district/borough needs are taken into account,

It is only through County and District working together supported by the Enterprise Partnerships will success be achieved, the LEP Chairmen will be invited to the next Senate meeting, and Andrew Smith Hampshire Cx will be meeting with district/borough Chief Execs.

Finance

Work is beginning on the closedown of the 2011/12 accounts. This is a major piece of work for the Finance team and budget holders from across the Council.

The Department for Communities and Local Government have announced, following the demise of the Audit Commission, that our auditors going forward will be Ernst & Young. Officers are currently in talks with the Audit Commission to ensure a seamless transfer.

Portfolio Holder Report – Council 25 April 2012

Cllr Branson - Governance and Logistics

I am delighted to welcome Jane Eaton as Executive Head for Governance and Logistics. For the first time since I took over this portfolio we now have a full compliment of officers. As you can see from the report there are a number of changes coming up to revenues and benefits. We will need to assess the implications for HBC and our residents as these come on stream.

I have been looking at the induction programme for new councillors and have held a meeting with prospective mentors,

Internal audit (Rob Chambers)

The internal audit plan for Havant Borough Council was successfully delivered during the 2011/12 financial year. It should be noted that although a number of changes have been made to the audit plan during 2011/12 these have been as a result of changing priorities and all amendments have been reported to the Standards Committee.

The Internal Audit Annual Audit Plan for 2012/13 has been reported to the Standards Committee on 28 March 2012.

Income Collection (Mike Ball)

- Council Tax collection as at the end of February was 96.70% which is 0.07% up on the same period last year. It now looks likely that the target of 97.4% will be achieved although it will be a very close run thing. Last year's collection was 97.34% (reported to Central Government as 97.3% due to rounding).
- Business Rates collection at the end of February 2012 was 98.26% compared with 98.50% for the same time last year. Early indications are that despite a very difficult year for most businesses due to the current economic climate, collection is hopefully heading in the right direction leading up to the end of the year.

Revenues and Benefits (Mike Ball)

- Benefits caseload – has increased to 12,249
- Benefits Performance – processing times remain very good. Over 4,000 rent increases have been processed and all Benefit claims have been re-assessed to include the Department for Work & Pensions uprated pensions and benefit levels from April 2012. Annual Billing processes have all been completed for 2012-2013 and revised Benefit notification letters have been issued to all claimants.
- Welfare Reform Act – received Royal Assent on 8th March 2012. The Act introduces a wide range of reforms aimed at simplifying the benefit and tax credit systems and improving work incentives. The reforms include;

Universal Credit

The introduction of the Universal Credit to replace a number of benefits for working age claimants including Income Support, Job Seekers Allowance, Working and Child Tax credits and Housing Benefit. It is planned that the Universal Credit will be

administered by the Department for Work & Pensions and its introduction will be phased over 4 years starting in October 2013.

Benefit Cap

The introduction of a cap on the total amount of benefit that working age people can receive. This is likely to be around £500 per week for families and lone parents and £350 per week for single persons. 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.

Size Criteria for Social Sector Housing Benefit awards

From April 2013, there will be a size criteria for new and existing 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.

Localising Council Tax Support

The Act also 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 overall there will be a 10% reduction in government grant. Details of the exact impact on individual Council's have not yet been announced but, as an illustration, a 10% reduction in funding for benefits paid to Havant 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 Authorities.

Councils will be allowed to design a scheme that costs more than the grant, but this additional cost would need to be met by either raising Council Tax or finding savings elsewhere (or both). Pensioner households will be protected through national rules but the cost of this must be met from the reduced government grant.

EMERGENCY PLANNING (Stuart Pinkney)

Emergency exercise

Havant Borough Council and East Hants District Council staff undertook an emergency planning exercise on the 15th of February. The scenario was designed to test emergency controllers, the emergency control room, joint working and the recording process of data and information. The exercise was split into three parts the first part was an evacuation of the centre of Petersfield followed by a second evacuation and then a member of staff suffered a personal injury during the second evacuation. The third part will be reviewing the paperwork involved in case of a public enquiry. The exercise worked well and staff responded professionally.

Oil pollution

Six officers have undertaken a two day Beach Masters Oil Pollution course

This included a day in the office working on site control and oil collection methods and a day setting up booms and practising with oil collection equipment at Calshot foreshore.

Planned events

Staff training in logging and plotting to be undertaken in April and May.

Rest Centre exercise on the 18th of April at Waterloo Community centre.

Havant Borough Council Emergency Planning exercise is booked for the 31st of May.

Business Continuity (Amanda Fincham)

Work is underway to bring together Business Continuity across both Councils to ensure a consistent approach and to streamline the process.

Corporate Support (Amanda Fincham)

Corporate Support is providing support to the Staff awards again this year with two support staff working on the project team. As well as this we continue to support the decant process with one member of staff dealing with all of the storage requirements for the moves in the summer.

The review of Support Services is underway to establish how we can help support out colleagues in achieving more with less by maximising the use of resources.

Legal and Democratic Services (Jo Barden-Hernandez)

The officers have spent a large proportion of time this year in updating the Constitution to reflect the changes of the South and East Hampshire partnership. This work will continue throughout the next year to ensure that processes and procedures are streamlined to make doing business with the Council as straight forward as we can.

The democratic service is looking to introduce a new report writing system this year to assist in working across the partnership.

Portfolio Holder Report – Council 25 April 2012

Cllr Cheshire – Marketing & Development

MARKETING & CUSTOMER RELATIONS

Communications.

The News placed a very positive article on The Plaza featuring Sandy Hopkins and Councillor Tony Briggs, which were also featured on the cover of the Journal. The piece covered the Plaza and the early successes of the shared services within it. The Plaza has also been short-listed in the Municipal Journal (MJ) under the Shared Service Category and has been commended for the work.

Local media coverage has been mixed and there has been less positive features covering the potential movement of some of the beach huts on Hayling Island. Parking charges in Emsworth was also mentioned.

The Council is presently implementing the Service Review Project, communications support is being provided as part of this work-stream.

Graphics and communications support has been provided to the Havant 2012 campaigns and also to the Coastal Partnership in support of the work being undertaken at Hayling Island.

Website/Intranet/Social Media

The outline proposal for Website development was presented to JMT on March 20th. It is anticipated the web site development will be delivered by the end of the year in line with the Overview and Scrutiny recommendations.

The Scrutiny team allocated to Social Media (Facebook, twitter etc.) made recommendations to the Scrutiny Panel on 28th February 2012, resulting in the recommendation for a Social Media policy to be adopted. Following on from those recommendations, work in this area is progressing with vigour. A trial will take place over the next 12 weeks. Officers will be seeking best practice for protocols, and controls from other authorities.

Customer Relations

The Service received from Capita has met all Contract requirements.

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

The work to deliver the objectives of the Customer Access Strategy is to become the next Marketing & Customer Relations topic to go under the support of the Scrutiny panel. We look forward to their report in the forthcoming months.

Customer Insight work is developing well, the team have now analysed extensive data and have produced reports that use MOSAIC data, population profiling and customer contact details. The next steps with this research is to work with Service Managers to ensure they are aware of the profile of our communities and ensure they use this information when planning their services. The team are also working on ways we can use this data and intelligence to help us plan for the future.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Councillor Development

Representatives from HR are to meet with Portfolio Holders from both Councils to discuss a draft development programme. The development programme contains a number of mandatory and non-mandatory courses. It is anticipated that the development programme will be made available to Councillors late spring. Councillors are invited to contact me with any suggestion for training or development needs they will require over the forthcoming 12 months.

It is already recognised that ICT and getting the most out of it is a development need. With this in mind we will be setting up drop in sessions for Councillors you can speak to some one about any individual issue. Following the first session on the 25 April, sessions will be booked on a variety of dates/times to match Councillor availability and needs.

Human Resources (HR) Strategy & Transaction

The HR Strategy and People plan his complete. This plan will ensure that Councillors and staff are aware of the key deliverables of the HR function over the coming 18 months.

Particular focus for the HR team for Quarter 1, 2012/13 will be:

- Implementation of the HR Service Review
- Cross Council Service Review
- Terms and Conditions Review
- Policy Review
- Pay Policy statement is available on the Council's Internet for external access.
- HR will continue to support staff moves at the Plaza during the months of April-June.

Staff Learning & Development

The leadership development programme has largely been rolled out to JMT and Service Managers. A key focus for Quarter 1, 2012-13 will be the development of a Learning & Talent Development Strategy. This strategy will focus on workforce capabilities to ensure the Council is a high performing organisation. It will also set out how the Council will develop these capabilities to underpin organisational effectiveness.

BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT

Performance Management

The corporate health check was considered by JMT in February, and at Informal Cabinet in March. Highlights in Quarter 3

- Garden waste income passed the annual target in Quarter 1 and officers continue to raise the awareness and promotion of wheeled bins resulting in an increase in new customers
- Council tax collection rate on target
- All telephone calls to the Customer Service Centre as the first point of contact are currently being answered within target.
- Havant Borough Council's Community Safety Team have been recognised by the 2011 Tilley Awards for their response to tackling anti-social behaviour and improving the quality of residents lives. A presentation award was held at the House of Commons.

Customer Service Centres/Access Points

Analysis of the customer satisfaction surveys completed in February showed that:

- 86.44% of customers were seen by the initial 'meeter and greeter' within 5 minutes
- 89.66% of customers requiring more in depth Customer Services input were seen within 5 minutes
- 100% of customers requiring more in depth Customer Services input were satisfied with the person that saw them
- 100% of customers requiring more in depth Customer Services input were satisfied that all their questions were answered.

This information set a robust baseline for future years.

Over the next two months we will implementing the use of bar codes for the payment kiosk, as well as monitoring the success of the integrated reception arrangements as we experience our busiest months for visitors.

Equalities

Under the new Public Sector Equality Duty we have to set and publish equality objectives this month (April 2012). Equality objectives have been corporately agreed within many strategies and services. Objectives must be set for up to 4 years and reviewed annually. These are being considered for inclusion where appropriate into all service plans.

Safer Havant Partnership

The Safer Havant Partnership have launched a pilot Community Alcohol Partnership on Hayling Island – the project which aims to reduce the impact of excessive alcohol use by young people through

- Education

- Enforcement and
- Public Perception

The work programme will involve local schools, off licences/retail chains and community groups working together to tackle all aspects of alcohol abuse.

In addition, the following bullets show important trends in Havant of the last 6 months:

1. Downward trend:

- Crime within Havant Borough has fallen by around 8% (152 fewer crimes) over the last 6 months.
- Anti social behaviour has shown a downward trend over the last 6 months. However historical trends would suggest that anti social behaviour incidents are likely to increase throughout the spring and summer months.
- Violent crime has seen a decrease in reported incidents over the last 6 months (12%, 26 fewer crimes) and levels are also lower when compared to last year.
- Serious acquisitive crime that includes Burglary, Theft of and from vehicles and Robbery has also seen a decrease over the last 6 months with around (28%, 60 fewer crimes).

2. Upward Trend:

- Levels of criminal damage have seen a seasonal increase in the last 6 months (17%, 64 more incidents) although figures are still lower when compared to last year.
- The partnership is currently experiencing a rise in reported arson to wheelie bins in the Warren Park area. It is likely that we will see a rise in arson as the weather gets warmer, particularly grass fires.

Report to Council 25 April 2012

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

Coastal Engineering

Coastal Partnership

Great news, the new Shared Service Agreement between HBC, PCC, GBC & FBC has been sealed and officially started on the 1st April 2012.

Eastoke Point Coastal Defence Works

The HBC Coastal Panel confirmed their support for proposals on 27th February 2012.

Public consultation for the scheme and two exhibitions took place in April. It is now proposed to submit the planning application during May.

A formal response has now been received from the Marine Management Organisation and together with the comments received from HBC Planning will be used to produce an Environmental Statement which will be submitted with the planning application.

Consultation with the Early Contractor Involvement Contractors has now been completed and has resulted in production of an up to date cost database. They have indicated that the rock armour is likely to be delivered by sea for the volumes we would require and beach nourishment by land or sea dependant on the exact quantities required.

The final part of the design to be carried out is to determine the exact length and height of the three new rock groyne which in turn will determine the volume of beach nourishment required; it is hoped that this can be completed in the next two weeks. The other item of outstanding work is to carry out a review of the economics and scheme cost estimates before submission to the Environment Agency for funding in the early 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.

South Hayling Beach Management Plan: Eastoke Beach Recycling

An interim claim of £50,000 has been submitted to the Environment Agency for developing the South Hayling Beach Management Plan. This includes work carried out on the sediment budget, geomorphological analysis around South Hayling and sediment tracer monitoring. The project is programmed for completion in November 2012, with Environmental Agency Technical approval being sought over summer 2012. Initial stakeholder mapping is complete and development of a communications plan is underway. Informal discussions have begun to establish the best forum / structure for engaging with the key stakeholders around the open coast frontage as the project progresses. The initial phase of the project is collation of all existing information to inform the Beach Management Plan.

Timber Breastwork, West Beach Hayling Island

A 75m section of breastwork at the western end of the structure has been removed from the beach and a 12m long rock revetment constructed to cap the remaining structure. The successful quotation for the works was for £58,000. The works at West Beach took a total of 12 working days to complete. During the operation additional works have been carried out to remove a 50m section of roadway in the car park and to import shingle to dress the area in front of the realigned beach huts. Partial funding has been gained from the Environment Agency with £30,000 grant in aid funding approved for 2011/12 and a potential further £13,500 in 2012/13. The beach will now be allowed

to retreat to its natural alignment in the newly opened section and the area will be monitored to assess how quickly the beach adjusts.

Solent Wide Scoping Study for the Strategic Network of Environmental Sites

Final contracts have been agreed with Jacobs and Atkins, and Purchase Orders have been raised and issued to them.

Our first stakeholder workshop was held on 16th February 2012, with 21 external attendees representing 18 authorities / stakeholders attending. The project was introduced to the attendees and three carefully planned breakout sessions were held, aimed at capturing information to fulfil our objectives. The sessions were well received, provoked much discussion, and provided us with a lot of useful information for further review. The consultants have been writing up the outputs from this workshop. We are now planning workshop two, where we intend to begin summarising what the scoping study will propose for further works / studies.

A key outcome from workshop one was the initiation of a contributions list, where authorities and stakeholders were asked to state whether they were able to contribute to future works, either financially or through the provision of data / resources. We aim to hold a focused meeting with Natural England over the coming weeks, as the project team have recognised a need to understand exactly what information Natural England need to make management decisions where coastal change is concerned. This is key to the study and will help us understand the necessary requirements for future works. We are aiming to complete the scoping study by the end of April, and the partnership has already received positive feedback on taking this essential study forward.

Planning Policy

The Localism Act Regulations continue to trickle through. The Government has confirmed a £50m 3 year fund to support councils deal with the extra burdens of the planning aspects of the Localism Act. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) has been published and effectively summarises the 1,000+ pages of PPS's into around 50 pages. The NPPF confirms the priority of the plan led system in promoting economic growth as part of sustainable development.

A successful Business Breakfast was held at the Plaza on 2 April attended by a range of national and regional developers. Ways of improving the planning service were explored and good contacts made. A flexible approach to planning policy was promoted and will be carried through to encourage the investment the borough needs.

The second CIL consultation ended on 5 April and subject to no further major changes being required the charging schedule will progress to Examination in July.

Progress continues to be made on the Allocations Plan with exhibitions scheduled in each of the five areas throughout May. The options for development sites will be being discussed at the exhibitions and the comments received will feed into the draft plan which is scheduled to be published later in 2012. Development Management

Development Consultation Forums

A number of Development Consultation Forums have been held in the period and the following event is planned:

26 April 2012 - St Michaels Convent, Waterlooville

All Councillors are urged to attend DCF events to provide real value to development proposals and to support the work carried out by officers. If a DCF is not in your ward,

remember that it is in the Borough and that you may need similar support when a development is to be considered in your ward.

Charges for pre-application advice

A full review of the scale and scope of charges for pre-application advice has now been carried out and a new schedule of charges has been drafted which it is proposed to introduce in the near future. This follows a review of pre-application charges applied across Hampshire authorities carried out by the Planning and Built Environment Panel of the Scrutiny Board. The charges will reflect the full costs of providing a comprehensive pre-application service to customers, from household extensions through to major developments.

Planning Policy

The secondary legislation on the Localism Act is still awaited. Once released, there will be a flurry of activity trying to understand and adapt to the implications. The National Planning Policy Framework will then follow May with a period needed to understand and adapt to the implications. Councillors will be kept updated about these significant legislative changes as more detail arises.

Workshops focusing on the housing options for the Allocations Plan have taken place with stakeholders from each of the five areas of the Borough. The feedback from these will be used to inform a series of wider community workshops on the housing options.

A public consultation on the options for the town and district centre shopping boundaries ended on 16 January. 80 people made comments, which is a good response for this low key informal consultation and indicates the level of public interest.

Delays in the details of the Localism Act have impacted on the progress of the review of the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). The programme for the adoption of the updated SCI has been put back to enable the implications of the Act to be incorporated.

The consultation period on the draft Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule ended on 20 January. This is a technical process setting out the viability for applying the charge. The technical nature of the document meant that the response was largely limited to the development industry. A further consultation is scheduled for the end of February as a precursor to the submission of the CIL Charging Schedule in May in accordance with the Front Runner programme.

Portfolio Holder Report – Council 25 April 2012

Cllr Collins - Environment & Neighbourhood Quality

Operational Services (Peter Vince)

1. We have recently advertised a number of vacant posts within the frontline service teams. One of the jobs, Refuse Collector, generated 170 applicants.
2. An officer from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) visited the depot on Wednesday 21st March. This was an arranged visit to check our progress against the actions that we set in order to respond to HSE recommendations following their last visit in November 2010.

Feedback from this visit;

- The HSE officer advised that the visit wasn't really needed as he was happy with our list of actions that he received in March last year.
- He advised that on his initial visit in 2010 the findings were considerably better than those of other local authorities that he has subsequently visited.
- He undertook a full review of the recommendations and subsequent actions and was extremely happy with the progress that has been made.
- He was also impressed with our 'Frontline News' newsletter as it was directed at frontline team members and contained information relating to Health and Safety. He took a copy away with him to show colleagues and to use when visiting other LA's.
- He made a couple of further recommendations relating to minor issues and would like an e-mail from us in 4 weeks time to confirm that we have addressed them.
- He was very, very please with our performance and advised that as such there was no need for any further programmed visits.

I would also like to convey my thanks to all of our frontline team members for the way in which they carry out their work, in a safe manner, and for their support of the systems that are in place to ensure their ongoing safety.

Open Spaces including Beachlands

1. Volunteers from the 'Princes Trust' have recently completed a footpath and willow tunnel project as part of the ongoing Hollybank recreation ground improvements.
2. In early February Paul Hurst, Parks Project Officer, and Rachel Moroney from BTCV worked with children from Hart Plain junior school and planted 270 trees and shrubs within Waterlooville recreation ground. In March they revisited the school Paul talked to 65 year five pupils about development of the nature area within the recreation ground.
3. We have recently recruited an additional volunteer/conservation group – 'Hayling Coastal Conservation Group' who will primarily work along Hayling seafront.
4. Officers are working closely with Ann Waters, from the Acorn Centre, regarding the 'Billy's Lake' project at Cowplain.

Waste Strategy and Recycling

1. Garden Waste Collection Service

We have had a successful initial take up for the garden waste collection service for 2012/13. To date we have signed up 5,227 customers.

Renewal Bins	1711
Renewal Bags	2781
New Bins	239
New Bags	94
Renewal from Bag to Bin	393
Renewal from Bin to Bag	9

2. Recycle Week

18 – 24 June is 'National Recycle Week' our focus this year is to encourage reuse and recycling of small Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) through Household Waste Recycling Centres in the long term.

HBC will be staging a WEEE amnesty event. On Saturday 30th June residents will be invited to visit the Plaza staff car park where they can bring along their small household electrical items i.e. portable TV's, vacuum cleaners, kettles, PC's, game consoles, mobile phones etc... and leave with our Hampshire contractor 'WasteCare' for them to reuse and or recycle. Three community centres have been asked to support this event, Emsworth, Waterlooville and Hayling Island in doing so will be used as local drop off sites making it easier for our residents to access this free recycling service.

The team will be promoting the WEEE amnesty event during 'Recycle Week' using the council's exhibition trailer on the two market days i.e. Tuesday at Havant and Friday at Waterlooville, also at the Green Fair in Havant Park on the Saturday 23rd June 2012.

All items collected will be weighed and the overall weight will contribute towards the borough's recycling rate.

Residents will have an opportunity to enter a competition about electrical recycling to win very attractive electrical prizes.

Environmental Health (Stuart Wedgbury / Les Glass / Lorna Read)

A contractor has been engaged to undertake some of our allocated Food Hygiene Inspections to make up the current shortfall in staffing levels.

Latest anecdotal evidence from HCC Social Services suggests that the high level of demand for Disabled Facilities Grants is likely to continue. 229 Disabled Facilities Grants were completed during the financial year. Our preliminary end of year turn out on grant expenditure was £1,050,139 and an additional £35,914 of works have been completed

where invoices are yet to be received. The total expenditure on DFG works in the financial year 2011/12 was therefore £1,086,053, almost £20,000 above our budget of £1,066,588, Fortunately our original figure of £1 million was increased due to an additional allocation of £66,588 awarded in January by DCLG.

We have written to local builders specialising in disabled adaptation works to advise them of a procurement partnership between HCC, Hampshire district councils and a large equipment manufacturer/supplier which enables builders to obtain many of the specialist building items they use at discounted prices. The scheme allows small local building contractors to be more competitive when they prepare estimates and savings can be passed on. We have already seen estimates submitted by certain builders coming down and this will assist in making the grant budget stretch further.

Despite the recent warm weather, the relatively dry winter has resulted in no general increase in mosquito activity on Hayling Island. However it may be that the warmer weather is responsible for an increase in the number of requests for treatment of rat infestations. We currently have an officer on long term sickness absence reducing our pest control staffing resource by approximately 30%. Arrangements have been made to call upon spare capacity at East Hants District Council if our operatives cannot meet the level of demand and priority may have to be given to mosquito control to prevent an explosion in numbers as occurred when control was suspended between 1979 and 1983.

Neighbourhood Quality (Bob Coleman)

Community Safety including CCTV (Tim Pointer)

The staffing and maintenance contracts which are due to be renewed by the end of June 2012 for the provision of Public Space CCTV are reaching the final stages. Both contracts are being let on an annual basis with the potential to renew for up to three years to provide maximum flexibility.

The staff in the control room continue to support our aims to reduce crime and deliver a better quality of life for residents and businesses linking in with local business premises and the Police – the team have contributed to over 300 arrests over the past year.

The Community Safety Team are working with our Partners to agree plans to tackle seasonal anti-social behaviour issues.

Environmental Quality (Gary Morton)

The Rangers continue to work closely with our partners organisations including Hampshire Fire and Rescue, Hampshire Police and the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) to resolve enforcement issues:

- A series of fires in Warren Park has seen the team investigating and arranging clearance of fly-tips in the area, and arranging for Hampshire Police to talk to waste and litter picking teams for further intelligence gathering.
- In early March the Rangers arranged 'Operation Mermaid' – an opportunity for the Police, council and VOSA to pull in light vans and trucks to check documents, mechanical soundness, fuel and waste carriers licensing. Enforcement action was taken by VOSA, the Police and Havant Borough Council, who issued an FPN for an unlicensed waste carrier.

- The Rangers were contacted by Hampshire Police to arrange some work for a group of juveniles who had been apprehended following some graffiti with magic markers. The group spent four hours litter picking around the Springwood Avenue Open Space under the watchful eye of a ranger and a PCSO. They will also be out with a PCSO removing graffiti with special wipes provided by the Safer Havant Partnership. This is the first time HBC has worked with police in this nature and prevents the offenders entering the criminal justice system at such a young age.
- Two caravans of Irish travellers have set up camp in Prince Georges Street car park. The team, working with legal services and the police are working to minimise the impact of this unauthorised encampment and repossess the land as quickly as possible.

The rangers continue to spend most of their time on targeted patrols in problem areas to prevent and apprehend litterers and those who fail to clean up after their dogs.

Transport & Implementation (Stuart Wood)

Active Travel Strategy

Our new walking and cycling strategies, which form a key part of this document, were presented to Cabinet on 21st March and adopted.

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

A project to extend the Trail southwards from opposite 'The Ship Inn' to Langstone Bridge has been awarded planning permission and work on the northern section started in late March and completed on 18th April; the remainder is designed and is planned to follow in October once a land ownership issue has been determined. Works to complete the route from the south end of the Bridge to the north end of the Trail on Hayling (i.e. to a point south of the 'Texaco' garage) are in early stage of design but a small section – directly opposite the 'Texaco' garage - was built in late March as part of an Environment Agency Coast and Flood Protection scheme.

Eastoke Access and Disabled Parking

Caroway Contractors are making good progress on the new permanent disabled parking area which will be finished by Easter apart from the road lining. The tarmac base course has been laid on the performance area by the Plaza but the final bound gravel surface cannot be completed for 6 weeks to allow the oils to leach out first. The block seating has been installed, the shrubs have been planted behind the new timber retaining wall and the steps to the railway station are being constructed this week. The timber sculptures by the plaza and the railing to the steps will be installed after Easter.

Waterlooville Town Centre

Rocon Contractors are continuing to make excellent progress on the repaving works in London Road precinct and the section of work funded by the PUSH grant was completed by mid March to meet the funding deadline. The planting contractor has planted 6 of the 8 proposed new trees and most of the street lights and power bollards for the market have now been installed. The open sided performance structure for the central square has been ordered for installation during May and it is hoped that the paving and street furniture works will be finished by June.

Hambledon Parade, Waterlooville Feasibility

Feasibility work will start in late April with regard to enhancing the shopping area funded by the Major Development Area developers. Portfolio holder and local ward and county councillors will be asked for their views once the feasibility is underway.

Park Road South, Havant Enhancement

Design is continuing with the intention of presenting a worked up draft version of the proposals to transform this gateway into Havant in late April. Construction would be expected to be undertaken in about a year's time.

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

Following completion of works in Middle Park Way (between Petersfield Road and High Lawn Way) and in Petersfield Road (between Wakefords Way and Middle Park Way), the status of the footway has been changed and is now shared pedestrian / cyclist use. The remaining section for cycle provision along Middle Park Way, between High Lawn Way and Woolston Road and within the 20mph zone, is to be completed in the spring.

New Lane Cycleway Design (HCC S106 Funded)

Work has started on the design of the on road cycleway along New Lane, Havant. The proposed TRO for the scheme has now been approved and will be implemented as part of the scheme. The design will be complete at the end of March and will then need to go through HCC Gateway project approval procedures. If all goes to plan it is hoped that works should start on site September 2012.

Hermitage Stream Project

Phase 1 - Barncroft Schools Link. Works completed

Phase 1 to 4 – Directional signs completed

Havant Park Pedestrian / Cycle Ramp (HBC S106 Funded)

Work delayed by SSE which had to move equipment but now scheduled to start in Mid-May. These works are likely to take 8 weeks and it will be necessary to close the existing ramp during the duration of the works. The new ramp will allow pedestrians and cyclist to access the Park improving access routes to Havant Town Centre and Central Retail Park.

Coastal Communities Fund Application

We are working with Planning Policy, Tourism and Economic Development Teams to submit an application for funding for the Watersports Centre proposed in the Hayling Seafront Masterplan and associated access improvements to the beach.

Parking and Traffic Management (Michelle Green)

The Shared Parking Team will began to issue warning notices across East Hants from Monday 02 April 2012 and then started with the live tickets on 16 April 2012.

The team continue to enforce within Havant Borough and are working hard to combat issues at schools and other hotspot areas.

Traffic Regulations Orders

Langstone scheme – Passed by Cabinet 21 March 2012 to proceed as advertised and will be in place within the next couple of months

Cowplain – Limited wait – Passed by Cabinet 21 March 2012 to proceed as advertised will be in place within the next couple of months

Parkhouse Farm Way limited wait and Elm Park Road orders are now in place and being enforced.

The programme for 2012/13 is produced and available for viewing.

Sustainability and Climate Change (Bob Coleman)

Insulate Hampshire has extended its offer of free loft and cavity wall insulation for the duration of the scheme (until 31 December 2012). The scheme is backed by all 11 Councils in Hampshire and offers all Hampshire residents free cavity wall and loft insulation (subject to a free technical survey provided as part of the scheme)

The extension of the free offer has come thanks to increased financial commitment from Scottish Power, the funding partner for Insulate Hampshire. At the end of March £91,000 had been spent by Scottish Power on installations for residents within Havant Borough.

With the extension of the free offer, residents will have more time to join the scheme. Our residents now have until September to register their interest in insulating their homes for free, helping them to keep their homes warmer in winter, cooler in summer and save a substantial amount on their fuel bills.

Portfolio Holder Report – Council 25 April 2012

Cllr Fairhurst – Economy & Communities

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Unemployment (2822 4.0%) continues to rise in Havant and is at the highest level we have had locally since March 2000 when it stood at 4.2%. We now have the highest rate anywhere in the Hampshire area. We are not aware of any recent significant local redundancies, however, staff at Johnson Controls have been told that up to 50 jobs are at risk as work may be moved to Slovakia. Johnson Controls employ 250 staff locally and are based at The Briars, Waterberry Drive, Waterlooville.

Business start up grants

The following businesses have been awarded £500 grants having successfully demonstrated that they have traded for at least 6 months: electrician, vehicle leasing, dog grooming, arts organisation, wedding florist, double glazing supplies, cleaning firm,

The Business grant scheme was featured on BBC South Today. David Harris and local start up firm SFX Trade were interviewed.

In 2012/13 funding has been made available for 50 grants. It is anticipated that all grants will be allocated by Sept 2012.

Inward Investment

Site clearance work has begun in Hambledon Road, Waterlooville at the site of the former Caetano coach works. This will be the site of the new Sainsbury's.

Although unemployment is rising several local firms have been expanding by taking on new premises.

- Area 51, a specialist motorcycle servicing and repair facility has opened in Southmoor Lane. It is a venture by Seward Accident Repair who own the site (3 staff)
- Penguin Refrigeration have moved from Downley Road to Penner Road
- Total Logistics (who operate the very large warehouse in Fulflood Road) have taken a 13780 sq ft unit in Penner Road
- Waterlooville based classic car restoration specialists JSW have taken a unit at Endeavour Business Park., Penner Road (3 staff)
- Southern Site Services (who rent site buildings) have taken a short lease on land at the former depot site in Harts Farm Way. They also have offices in Emsworth (4 staff)
- Navitron – this firm has expanded into a 6000 sq unit previously occupied by Shore Laminates (who closed last summer) – 6 new jobs created.

COMMUNITIES

Hayling Island Community Network – the launch of the Hayling in our Hands Survey is planned for the May edition of the Hayling Island. This is the first of a series of consultation planned for the summer, the results of which will be used to develop the Community Plan. The steering group is strong, but the group are mindful that they need new members and are using the launch as a possible way to achieve this.

Community Marketplace – an event was attended by over 30 local voluntary and community groups to promote working together and exchange ideas. Training from the national organisation Community Matters was provided to help groups to measure their social impact and so improve their funding applications. There was strong support for more events like this to be held.

Arts & Culture

May Days Arts Trail – Publicity on HBC's vans should be starting this month. Leaflets and programmes should be printed next week and distributed widely by the artists who are taking part in the May Days Arts Trail.

With funding from the HLF podcasts are being produced for our Heritage Trail. Currently we are recruiting more young people to take part in the project. A visual representation of the Heritage Trail will also be produced for display at The Spring.

Sports Development

Round the Harbours Bike Ride - Promotion for this event continues, which takes place on Sunday 10th June. We will be supporting the event where possible on the day.

Hampshire Games 2012 - This will be held on Saturday 16th June, and it is likely we will be taking around 10 teams to represent Havant Borough.

Sport Relief Mile 2012 - Staunton Country Park hosted the Sport Relief Mile on Sunday 25th March. The full allocation of 410 online spaces was filled and there was approximately an additional 50 people signed up on the day. The event was supported by Victory Athletics Club who were able to signpost participants to their running sessions.

StreetSport - StreetSport continues to develop and squash has been integrated to the Easter programme and has proved very popular. It is expected that this will be included into the main summer programme (hooray – maybe this is a turnround for this fabulous sport).

Community Sports Festival - The Sports Festival on Sunday 15th July continues to develop with more sports clubs agreeing to take part. The promotion is now on the Water Festival website and is to be included in the flyer production.

HOUSING

Housing Options and Advice – The Housing Team has been extremely busy in the final quarter of the year and had to place a total of 11 households into emergency bed and breakfast accommodation. The households were placed for a short period whilst investigations were being carried out and alternative solutions found. The households have now all been moved on apart from two older gentlemen who are awaiting a date to move into sheltered accommodation. A total of 17 households have spent a short time in bed and breakfast this financial year whilst enquiries were made and alternative accommodation sourced.

148 successful prevention interviews were carried this quarter and these households were either assisted to find accommodation in the private sector or through mediation with family, friends and landlords were able to remain in their own homes. Extensive support to households facing potential court action and referrals to support agencies has also resulted in alternative housing solutions meaning fewer moves into temporary accommodation. Households approaching the Council for help, are often more complex and taking up more officer time. In total 502 successful prevention interviews have been carried out this year.

Hampshire Home Choice (HHC) – A review of the Hampshire Home Choice Register was started early March and everyone registered is being contacted to see if they are still in need of housing or if their circumstances have changed in any way. It is expected likely that the housing register will reduce by around 1500 taking it down to approximately 4000 for Havant

Housing Development – There have been 4 successful Mortgage Rescues. These require investigation by the Housing Team and if felt appropriate and financially viable referred to our Zone Agent HomesinHants (Radian). These are counted as additions to the social housing stock as they are then let as assured tenancies by Radian and it also means that those particular households are able to remain in their own homes and temporary accommodation is not required.

The total additions/completions for this quarter are 14 meaning the total for the financial year is 73 against a predicted target of 60 which is really positive news. Breakdown of total completions:

- 37 Social Rented
- 4 Intermediate Rented
- 12 Shared Ownership
- 13 Mortgage Rescues

This quarter has also seen 7 First Buy completions. 'FirstBuy is a new government financed equity loan scheme specifically designed to help first time buyers struggling with the need for a large deposit.

The scheme can help first time buyers purchase a new build home on selected developments. A total of £180m has been allocated by the Government to provide nearly 10,500 new homes for sale with the help of an equity loan across England until March 2013.

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