

Cabinet Lead Reports – Council 22 July 2015

Councillor Yvonne Weeks: Cabinet Lead for the Economy and Communities

Housing Enabling,

Homelessness Prevention continues to be our priority – In the year 2014/15 the housing team achieved 938 homeless preventions

During the first quarter of 15/16 we have achieved 285 homeless preventions – what this means is that these 285 households who approached us threatened with homelessness were not accepted as homeless, not placed into B&B or temporary accommodation – through officers carrying out mediation with family, landlords, solicitors and housing associations, families were able to remain in their current accommodation. Alternatively if we were unable to keep them in the accommodation, households were supported to find alternative accommodation.

During Q1 there have been 14 placements into B&B and this has totalled 48 weeks actually spent in B&B – much of this has been accrued by one family who are going to appeal in Court on their intentional decision. A couple of the families are under investigation and the remaining awaiting vacancies to arise in the private sector or the Supported Tenancy Scheme.

There have been 14 households accepted as homeless during the Q – this means we have a legal duty to place them into temporary accommodation as we were unable to prevent them from becoming homeless.

.Development figures – in the first quarter 79 new properties became available comprising of 20 Affordable Rent, 20 Shared Ownership and 39 Help to Buy.

Hampshire Home Choice – HHC Annual Report, is now available it includes details about the Waiting List, Lettings, Average Waiting Times, Housing Development and Landlord updates. A copy is available to view on the HHC website at www.hampshirehomechoice.org.uk

Currently there are 2894 households registered for housing – all have a Housing Need.

HBC has the highest number of the 5 Local Authorities on the Hampshire Home Choice register.

Arts

A group membership to Arts Development UK has been subscribed to by HBC which gives four locally based arts organisations access to an established network within the country and further funding opportunities. The members are The Spring Arts and Heritage Centre, Making Space, WemsFest and Hayling Island Amateur Dramatics Society.

The Waterloo Community Forum, in partnership with The Spring Arts and Heritage Centre, received £44,400 from the Heritage Lottery Fund for the Waterloo to Waterloo 200 years project

The Spring

WWI Book of Remembrance

Throughout 2014 The Spring worked with local artist Margaret Marks to create a textile book of remembrance for the Borough. The resulting Book of Remembrance is currently on display at The Spring until October 2015.

The tapestry is 15ft long and is housed in a specially created frame. The Spring are looking to find an appropriate community home for it after October.

This project was funded by Hampshire County Council and Havant Borough Council - well worth a visit.

Partnership with Park Community School

The Spring are now working in partnership with Park Community School to help them run events in their new theatre space.

In September they will present a performance by stand-up comedian Lee Nelson and in November they have arranged a family theatre performance.

The Spring and the school are sharing the costs associated with these on a 50/50 basis and will share any income in the same way.

Three event's to look out for.

- Dr Longitude's Marvellous Magical Menagerie
On Friday 7 and Saturday 8 August The Spring is taking a live family performance to two outdoor locations across the Borough. The performance (which arrives in a horsebox) will be completely free. It will be at Hayling Island Park and community centre on Friday 7 August and Staunton Country Gardens on Saturday 8 August. Each performance will be accompanied with free family activities and will be mini festivals for the Borough.

This project is part funded by Arts Council, England and the Foyle Foundation.

- Pop Up Flashback Library Tour

In October 2015 The Spring will be touring a family theatre performance to five libraries and community venues across the Borough. The performance is for young children and inspires reading.

- No More Worries
In November The Spring will be working with Hayling Island College on a poetry writing and performance project. Young people will work with a professional poet and theatre Director on a series of workshops leading to performances

Community Development

Leigh Park Network meetings continue to be a useful way for local agencies to network with 47 and 38 attendees at the last two meetings.

The Leigh Park Community Led Planning group are continuing to focus on priorities derived from public consultation. With HBC's support the group are planning a 'Clean up for Summer Week' from 13th - 19th July.

Havant 50+ Forum have a new chairman, Malcolm Carpenter, and their next project is looking at slowing traffic down around Havant Town Centre.

Tim Dawes from the Havant Civic Society is submitting a Heritage Lottery Fund application to rejuvenate the Gazebo Garden in Havant. This historic garden and building is owned by HBC and leased to a volunteer group.

Bedhampton Social Hall Association - Trustees attended Trustee training last month following some challenges they have experienced as a committee. They have also employed a book keeper and sub-contracted their payroll to Community First HEH.

Hayling & Warblington Local Children Partnership are working on an Internet and Social Media Safety Campaign which is being supported by the Police.

The successful Hayling Island Community Centre Association (HICCA) has identified a need for an extension to the HBC owned building following public consultation. The well used community centre is looking to expand to enable them to develop further services for the local community. The Community Association have been successful in Stage 1 and 2 applications to the Big Lottery's Reaching Communities resulting in a £31,000 Development Grant to appoint a Project Manager to take the plans forward. This project known as The Hub will be funded through local fund raising which to date is £43,000 and a Stage 3 Big Lottery Grant. The outcome will be known in October 2015.

The Hayling Billy Heritage Project has produced a book and DVD which captures oral history and people's memories about living or working on the Hayling Billy Line. The Conservation Programme Officer delivers workshops every Wednesday on the Leisure Trail. The old signal is being reconditioned and expected to be reinstalled by the end of July 2015.

To coincide with Armed Forces Week HBC hosted an Armed Forces event in the Plaza. The Hayling U3A had a large WW1 Exhibition display in the Plaza and The Naval Families Federation (NFF) also had a display to offer services to Naval Families living in the borough of Havant.

HBC Community Covenant is due to be refreshed and Officers will be continuing to look at ways to support Armed Forces Families and Veterans. The Asda Foundation are currently providing a free trial minibus service running from Thorney Island to Asda in Bedhampton as requested by local families.

The Barncroft and Bondfield Community First Panel funding scheme came to an end in March 2015. Over four years 39 different community groups and charities benefited from grants that amounted to £68,322.

The Waterlooville Events Team has recruited a volunteer project manager to organise the Waterlooville Summer Fete to be held on 16th August in Jubilee Park. A Christmas Grotto will also be held at Waterlooville Library. The group have organised acts to perform at the Bandstand every month for the next year, starting on 25th July. The group are working closely with local businesses to organise several community events including Waterlooville in Bloom, a Christmas event and a multi cultural festival to help build a sense of community and increase footfall to the area.

Resident Led group WeBigLocal are delivering key elements of the business plan for year 1. As part of the plan community groups can apply for various grants to fund projects that meet certain criteria and benefit Wecock Farm residents. Two part time staff members, funded through the Lottery grant, assist with the delivery of the business plan and organise various activities and projects including a community garden, the Big Lunch and training for residents. Plans to investigate match funding for larger projects are currently being discussed.

Havant Borough Council's first Youth Conference - took place at the Plaza in March 2015. 'Raising Aspirations' was the theme and year nine and ten students from ten Schools across the Borough attended. Two guest speakers were well received, including Joanne White, founder of local Charity Big World Impact and Fraser Docherty, an inspiring young entrepreneur and self made millionaire. Several workshops took place throughout the day covering topics such as volunteering, further education, training and employment. Students were also given the chance to ask their local Councillor questions about their job role and the projects and developments in their areas. Eighteen Councillors took part in this session.

The HBC Waterlooville Community Development Facebook page has nearly 3,000 followers and has proved to be a very effective way of communicating information to residents. The link to the page is www.facebook.com/waterloovillecommunity. To complement this page a Waterlooville Twitter account has been set up - @waterloovillecd

Leisure

Leisure Infrastructure Community

Cowplain Bowls Club was successful in applying for a Sport England Inspired Facilities bid of £75,000 towards a new all weather carpet. The total project cost was £95,000 and work has now been completed. The new facility will enable the Club to offer all year round bowls as well as provide more opportunities for disability groups and after school clubs.

Front Lawn Recreation Ground The project to develop new sports facilities and a social inclusion programme at Front Lawn Recreation Ground continues. A community engagement event was held in May to show the potential plans for the site and feedback was on the whole positive. Officers are working with the Football Association (FA) and the Football Foundation (FF) to develop a large funding application. The FF have funded a consultant to work up the business plan for the project, which aims to provide updated changing rooms, an extension to host a social inclusion programme, a new full size artificial grass pitch and improvements to the hard court area.

Havant Rugby Football Club - Officers have been working with Havant Rugby Club (HRFC) to improve the playing service at the Club and support their aspirations to grow and expand. HBC funded a report by the Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG) to identify the areas that require improvement and how this can be achieved.

Bartons Green West Leigh - Officers have been working to maximise the use of open spaces and have identified that sports pitches at Bartons Green, West Leigh, are currently under utilised. For this reason the decision has been made to offer the opportunity for full use of Bartons Green to Widbrook Utd football club, who will maximise the use of the facility. They run 40 teams across all age groups including girls and ladies teams. Havant Sunday Football League who previously used the site have been offered alternative venues.

Play

The installation of play equipment has now been completed at Cowplain Recreational Ground. HBC are now dealing with complaints from residents and ASB issues which is common following the installation of new equipment.

Work at Mengham Park on Hayling Island has begun (15th June). The anticipated build time is 22 working days (i.e. 4 to 5 weeks). It is hopeful that the installation will be complete before the school summer holidays.

Work at Elizabeth Road play space in Waterlooville has started. Anticipated build time is 4 to 5 weeks with the project hoping to be complete by the school summer holidays.

Sport

Sport & Physical Activity

The Havant Sport and Physical Activity Alliance have agreed to fund a new initiative in Waterlooville, Junior Parkrun. This new scheme follows on from the successful Parkrun based at Staunton Country Park which attracts over 200 adults each week. Junior Parkrun will focus on young people between the ages of 4 and 14. A licence will be granted from September 2015 and the regular run will take place at Jubilee Recreation Ground, Waterlooville.

The National Watersports Festival - takes place between 4th - 6th September 2015. As part of the festival HBC will again be providing taster sessions to residents at a subsidised rate of £10 per person. Sessions of windsurfing, kayaking and stand up paddle boarding will be delivered by Portsmouth Watersports Centre.

The Couch to 5K beginner running scheme is continuing to be a success. There have been 20-30 participants attending each course and future plans will result in the project being sustainable.

An application for £215,000 to Sport England's Community Sport Activation Fund was submitted in April 2015. The application is currently being assessed and the outcome will be made available during the summer. The aim of the project will be to increase participation in sustainable activity within selected target groups, identified in geographical areas. Partners will deliver a number of engaging sporting activities to enable sedate residents to make choices which correlate with a once per week habit to enhance their lifestyle. Key partners in the project is Horizon Leisure Trust and Public Health who have both pledged money as part of the match funding. This project aims to take forward the work of the short term funded TARGET project.(see below)

Special Events and Health and Wellbeing Strategy

Health and Wellbeing

The Public Health funded project TARGET is designed to increase participation in sustainable activity to educate regarding healthy lifestyle choices, in relation to nutrition and physical activity. This project is targeted at Lone Parents and Older People and both groups have been consulted, with 289 surveys complete. Delivery is scheduled to start in July.

Ping Pong will be the first activity launching for Older People on Thursday 16th July 2015 at the Springwood Community Centre, following the showing of the Ping Pong 'Never Too Old for Gold' Movie.

Havant has a trained volunteer able to lead cycle rides for women through the British Cycling programme Breeze. Initially sessions will be offered to lone parents together with dance and swimming sessions.

Healthy Eating and Nutrition workshops are being set up in partnership with the Health Trainers and Action for Children, offering cooking for one, cooking

for the family, healthy eating and making the food budget go further. Partnership working will ensure there is no duplication of workshops and the gaps in provision are addressed based on need.

The Being Independent Later in Life (BILL) campaign, funded by HBC and delivered by Community First HEH continues to run. The road show events taking place across town centres in the borough are proving to be a good way to engage with the public about the campaign.

Safer Havant Partnership

Troubled Families – is an initiative funded by the government and HBC was one of the first to pilot this with our CEO Sandy Hopkins leading the way within Hampshire. Supporting families is a new way of doing things - providing practical help early on to stop the problems getting worse.

Having provided support to in excess of 150 families during phase one of the Troubled Families scheme This has proved very positive.in this first year. Havant has now commenced phase two which has seen new criteria added. Currently the scheme is available to families who meet at least two of the following concerns.

- Unemployment
- Poor School attendance
- Crime/Anti Social Behaviour,
- At risk of financial exclusion,
- Poor Health and
- Domestic Abuse

In Havant we are hoping to support a further 140 families by July 2016, we are currently on track to achieve this goal.