

## Portfolio Holder Report – Council 17 April 2013

By Cllr Yvonne Weeks – Economy & Communities

### Economic Development

#### Unemployment figures

There has been another rise in unemployment last month from 2524 (3.4%) to 2562 (3.5%) Unemployment is increasing across Hampshire although stable at a national level.

| <b>Unemployed Claimants and Residential Unemployment Rate:</b> |               |            |                |            |               | <b>February 2013</b> |
|--|---------------|------------|----------------|------------|---------------|----------------------|
| <b>Havant</b>  |               |            |                |            |               |                      |
| <b>Census Area Statistic Ward</b>                              | <b>Males</b>  |            | <b>Females</b> |            | <b>Total</b>  |                      |
|  | <b>Number</b> | <b>%</b>   | <b>Number</b>  | <b>%</b>   | <b>Number</b> | <b>%</b>             |
| Barncroft  | 167           | 9.3        | 60             | 3.1        | 227           | 6.1                  |
| Battins  | 208           | 10.7       | 100            | 4.8        | 308           | 7.6                  |
| Bedhampton   | 87            | 3.2        | 45             | 1.6        | 132           | 2.4                  |
| Bondfields   | 170           | 8.2        | 69             | 3.3        | 239           | 5.7                  |
| Cowplain   | 59            | 2.1        | 34             | 1.2        | 93            | 1.6                  |
| Emsworth   | 68            | 2.9        | 46             | 1.8        | 114           | 2.3                  |
| Hart Plain   | 141           | 5.1        | 61             | 2.0        | 202           | 3.5                  |
| Hayling East   | 125           | 5.0        | 48             | 1.8        | 173           | 3.4                  |
| Hayling West   | 77            | 3.6        | 39             | 1.6        | 116           | 2.6                  |
| Purbrook   | 67            | 2.4        | 41             | 1.4        | 108           | 1.9                  |
| St Faith's   | 87            | 3.5        | 52             | 2.0        | 139           | 2.7                  |
| Stakes   | 159           | 5.1        | 84             | 2.6        | 243           | 3.8                  |
| Warren Park  | 221           | 10.8       | 110            | 4.6        | 331           | 7.5                  |
| Waterloo   | 96            | 3.4        | 41             | 1.5        | 137           | 2.4                  |
| <b>Havant*</b>   | <b>1,732</b>  | <b>4.8</b> | <b>830</b>     | <b>2.2</b> | <b>2,562</b>  | <b>3.5</b>           |

#### Business start up grants

The 2013/14 grants programme will open on 2 April 2013 with funding for 50 grants. Since the grant programme started in 2010 some 203 businesses have applied for funding of which 190 have received the grant. There is a double page feature about the grant scheme in the current edition of Serving You. The most popular types of business that the scheme has supported over the last three years are:

- Electricians (5)
- Cleaners (5)
- cafes and restaurants (7)
- photographers/video (5)
- training providers (4)
- website designers (4)
- hairdressers (5)

## **Mayors Civic Business Day**

On Tuesday 16 April 2013 the Mayor will host a Civic Business Day. The mayors of all districts of Hampshire will tour: PETA training centre, New Lane, Basepoint Enterprise Centre, Harts Farm Way and Langstone Technology Park. They will then take part in an awards ceremony at Public Service Plaza for small businesses who have received the HBC Business start up grant.

## **Emsworth / Hampshire Farmers Market**

The first two farmers markets have been very successful despite the weather. Havant Borough Council has secured parking for the farmers' vehicles thanks to the Emsworth Baptist church allowing them to use their land to the south of the church hall. Havant Borough Council have installed a lockable barrier to the land and have cleared the area of debris. There has been a reported increase in footfall to the town centre on market days with many shops increasing their sales.

## **Events**

The Staunton Festival will replace the Hampshire Water Festival and takes place at Staunton Country park on 20 / 21 July (<http://www.stauntonfestival.co.uk> ). Following the success of the Water Festival, the Staunton Festival will feature fun and informative ways of conserving vital resources such as water and power. Visitors will enjoy a fun family day out with free sports activities, delicious food and a great programme of entertainment!

## **Tourism**

The National Watersports Festival will take part on Hayling Island between 30 August and 1 September 2013. Further details to be confirmed.

Visitor Information Centre figures for visitors to Hayling Island for summer 2012 (14367 callers) are roughly the same of 2011 (14449 callers).

A new brochure will be printed this month for the Hayling World War 2 Heritage Trail which will feature a map and descriptive information regarding the six interpretation boards and the COPP monument.

## **Funding**

Hayling Island Sailing Club has been awarded £20000 by LEADER (EU Rural funding) for their Thursday youth sailing club. Stoke Farm, Hayling has also been awarded a further £5689 for the farm shop. The LEADER programme has now ended and a new programme is scheduled to begin in 2015.

## Communities

### **Meals on Wheels (MOW) from April 1 2013**

From 1 April meals on wheels are being provided by a company called apetito. Meals will no longer only be available to residents with an assessed need, but anyone over 55 can receive meals providing they meet one of the following criteria:

- They are finding it difficult to cook for themselves
- They have just come out of hospital
- They are caring for someone else and need a break from cooking
- They are feeling unwell, either physically or mentally
- They cannot get out to the shops

Apetito will deliver a hot two course meal. Customers are able to choose from a menu of 4 options. Special dietary requirements including medical and faith needs are catered for. Customers can choose their meals to be delivered on as many days of the week as they like.

The meals will cost £3.50 a day for all new customers.

Apetito's delivery drivers are able to plate up, ensure they have a drink and in some cases cut up food for customer who need additional help. They are not able to assist with feeding individuals. Delivery drivers have all CRB checked and trained to carry out short wellbeing checks with each customer at every delivery. If they identify a problem they know how to escalate it appropriately.

#### Making a Meals on Wheel referral

Referrals can be made by an individual, a family member or neighbour (with permission) and relevant professionals e.g. GP's nurses, adult services, district council and housing association staff. Referrals are still made **only** through the completion of the online achieve form at, [www.hants.gov.uk/meals-on-wheels](http://www.hants.gov.uk/meals-on-wheels)

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Phone: **01962 779338**  
Email: [hampshire.office@apetito.co.uk](mailto:hampshire.office@apetito.co.uk)

#### Cancelling a Meals on Wheels referral

All cancellations to be made by telephone or email directly to apetito. There is an answer machine for out of office hour messages.

## Food and Friendship volunteer led befriending service



Launching alongside meals on wheels is a volunteer led befriending service **Food and Friendship**, which is coordinated by Age Concern Hampshire. Any existing customer or any new customer who has received a meals on wheels for two weeks can request a regular volunteer visit. Regular means every week, fortnight, month but not daily. This service is a one year pilot.

### How to make a Food and Friendship referral

These are also made via the achieve referral form at [www.hants.gov.uk/meals-on-wheels](http://www.hants.gov.uk/meals-on-wheels) and the necessary details are sent securely to Age Concern Hampshire. Age Concern Hampshire will have service level agreements in place with local voluntary organisations who will provide the regular visits.

**The referral process will be reviewed after three months. Please feed any comments back to [Alex.burn@hants.gov.uk](mailto:Alex.burn@hants.gov.uk) 01962 847279**

## Sports Development

### Sport and Physical Activity Alliance.

The Sports Development Officer commissioned SPORTSMITH consultants to carry out a review of the Havant SPAA. This culminated in a consultation event on 27 February where representatives from voluntary groups, professional sport and educational establishments had input into strategic outcomes. The result of the review will see a strategic action plan developed for all local partners to align the outcomes to.

### Sports Awards

The Havant Borough Sports Awards took place on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February at Park Community School. This successful event celebrates local sporting achievement across 16 different categories. The Sports Development Officer is working closely with the Havant Borough Sports Association to develop the awards further in 2014.

### National Watersports Festival

The Sports Development Officer has been working closely with other relevant HBC officers and the event organisers to support the planning process for 2013. The event organisers have now confirmed that the National Watersports Festival will take place between 30 August and 1 September and will include a number of additional water based sporting disciplines.

The Sports Development Officer will continue to work with the event organisers in the lead up to the festival.

## Facility Development

On 6 February Cabinet took the decision to release section 106 funding to support the development of an artificial turf pitch for football use at Park Community School. The Sports Development Officer and the Open Spaces Team Leader will be working with the school to implement the new facility.

The Sports Development Officer is working with a number of schools and sports clubs regarding the development of new sports facilities.

## Active Workplace

The Sports Development Officer and Human Resources Officers are working in partnership with Sport Hampshire and IOW to develop an Active Workplace scheme.

## **West of Waterlooville – Major Development Area**

Havant Borough Council now employ the Community Officer post which is funded from developer contributions. The Community Officer has made strong links with partners and resident groups in the area as well as the key Officers at both local authorities.

## Old Park Farm Residents Association

In the past month the Chair and secretary have both stood down, an Acting Chair has been appointed who is working with the Community Officer to discuss proactive way forward for the Resident Association. There is a willingness to encourage the involvement of new residents and to clarify the roles and responsibilities of members.

The proposed priorities are:

- 1 The adoption of roads, pavements and road management
- 2 Influencing the development of the open space opposite The Crescent.
- 3 Addressing the problems at the Play Park.
- 4 Developing a visual Phase II Management Plan.

The Association is working towards formally adopting its constitution at an open meeting in the next couple of months.

## Easter Family Day

An event was arranged in partnership with Radian Housing and the Public Art Programme to provide activities for children and families during the Easter Holidays. This was an opportunity for residents to meet the Community Officer, to take part in consultation and help inform priorities for the area. It saw the installation of the first Community Noticeboard, designed using local residents ideas and funded through the Public Art Programme.

## Education and Early Years

Discussions have been taking place with HCC Early Years about future need for childcare places. Before the occupation of 250 units land must be made available for a nursery setting and discussions on clarifying the process for identifying a provider have started. The existing provision in the Waterlooville area is in high demand, so it may be an interim measure is required. Planning permission has been granted for the new school, with a planned opening in Sept 2014. The school is likely to be a sponsored Academy and the process for identifying a provider has started.

## Youth Engagement

There is a reported issue regarding youth nuisance in the area, although this needs substantiating. At present there is no provision for young people in the immediate area. Discussions are taking place with Motiv8 to deliver some detached youth work in the area which should start in the next few weeks. This will initially determine need and focus and will enable an informed funding application to be submitted for a longer term project.

## Play Area

Significant damage has left the Taylor Wimpey Play Area unusable, and this has been the case for some time. Residents believe damage is being caused by local people from outside of the development, but there is a reluctance to use 101 to report incidents due to concern there will be a impact on household insurance premiums. Once up to standard and inspected, Havant Borough Council will maintain it.

## Launch of Berewood Site (adjacent to the Asda roundabout)

Building of Phase 1 has commenced, a total of 194 houses. The Sales Office is open and there has been a good level of interest. It is anticipated the first occupation will take place in June/July 2013. A Portakabin has been installed as temporary accommodation for the Community Officer.

The consultation strategy has been drafted by Grainger and is now with the Community Officer for comment who will support this process. The consultation will explore ideas for the facilities to be included in the Town Park, which is included in Phase 2. In particular this will focus on the skate park giving local young people the opportunity to influence the equipment that is included.

## **Waterlooville (including Cowplain, Stakes, Purbrook & Widley)**

### 'Community Development in Waterlooville' Facebook page

The Community Facebook page for Waterlooville has attracted another 110 new followers totalling 516 people. Interaction from members of the public has increased greatly.

## Waterlooville Community Forum

The Steering group organised a 'Plenary' meeting in March, 70 members of the public attended. Cllr Buckley gave an update on the Forum's progress to date. The Waterlooville Community Led Planning group and the Waterlooville Events team ran workshops to discuss ideas for the future. Other local community groups such as Motiv8, Billy's Lake project, Waterlooville Community Association, Community Safety, Age Concern, Havant Area Disability group and the Waterlooville Business Association attended.

## Waterlooville Community Forum Events Team

The Events Team are currently focusing on organising four Community events for 2013. These events will include a Summer Fayre, a Waterlooville Arts Trail, regular musical Bandstand events in the town centre and a Christmas Grotto. Regular meetings are being held to plan these events.

## Community Led Planning

A Consultation survey has been finalised and printed and is currently being distributed across the 5 wards in Waterlooville by members of the Community Led Planning team. There are local drop off points such as the Waterlooville Library and local Community centres.

There is also an online version of the form:

[www.havantsurveys.info/hbc/community/waterlooville.htm](http://www.havantsurveys.info/hbc/community/waterlooville.htm)

The group are aiming for 1,500 surveys to be completed in total by 31 May 2013.

## Billy's lake

Saturday morning Conservation Workshops are still being held at Billy's lake. A planning application has been submitted to Winchester City Council for the installation of footpaths. Two members of the Steering Group who are local Wecock residents have plans to start the 'Off the Hook' fishing club. The team held a Billy's lake open event at the Acorn centre to update local residents on the work that has been completed so far.

## Big Local - £1 million Lottery grant, Wecock

The Interim Steering group have organised three Consultation Events in the Wecock area, two events have been held at Woodcroft School with the final one at the Acorn centre on 20 April. The aim of these events is to engage with as many residents as possible.

## **Hayling Island**

### Hayling Island Community Led Plan

The consultation period is complete, the results analysed and draft action plan has been formally agreed as the final plan by members. The plan now needs to be produced and launched, this will also lead to agreement of a new

constitution, election of an executive committee and recruitment of new members.

### Hayling Billy 50

Unfortunately, the application to Heritage Lottery has not been successful. As usual, the number of applications were very high and the application was against stiff competition. We will review the feedback and consider what other options could be available.

HCC are running a Life on the Line Project, targeting schools near local railway line. This fits perfectly with the school work planned as part of the Billy 50 project, David Bond (County Archives & Records Office) is the lead contact on this project. David attended the Havant LCP (Hayling Island and Warblington) and the project was well received by local schools.

There are numerous events planned on Hayling Island to support the Hayling Billy 50 project and you can see a list of the events confirmed so far at: <http://www.haylingbilly50.co.uk/events>. As well as Havant Borough Council, there are a number of community based groups and organisations also supporting the commemoration. There is a planned visit of a Terrier Tank engine to Hayling Island 1-3 November inclusive and we are working with the Regeneration and Events Officer to look at possible sites and logistics.

### **Havant & Bedhampton**

The Havant & Bedhampton Community Network held an open public meeting at the Plaza to discuss the way forward for developing a community led plan. The event was well attended by nearly 70 people and residents came forward to support the two steering groups. The decision had been made to split the network between Havant/St Faiths and Bedhampton, ensuring the two groups work closely together to maintain contact and tackle issues affecting the larger area. Further from the public meeting, Bedhampton will invite those who expressed interest to meet to discuss election of officers and review the constitution. The Havant Civic Society are interested in developing a Neighbourhood plan for Havant town and meetings will take place to explore the possibilities.

### Bedhampton Social Hall

The Annual General Meeting of Bedhampton Social Hall was held on 14 March and attended by 45 people. There was an issue around lack of Trustees for the association; the Community Officer attended the meeting and to provide support and information. An exceptional general meeting was proposed for 8 April where we will support to readdress the constitution and support the election of officers to enable the organisation to move forward.



## **Emsworth**

### Emsworth Residents Association

The new chairman Peter Tier has expressed some interest to explore community led planning and the neighbourhood planning process. The association are also very interested in the Community Infrastructure Levy.

### Emsworth Community Association

The fundraising group continue to seek funding opportunities to make improvements to the building for the benefit of Emsworth residents.

### Buzz Youth Club

The Community Officer is working with the Steering Group to further promote and expand this detached youth provision which is based at the Jubilee Recreation Ground in Emsworth on a Friday evening.

## **Leigh Park**

### Leigh Park Community Led Planning Survey

The closing date for the survey is 30 April 2013. A mini survey of six questions relating to children and young people was held during the Leigh Park ACE – Cackle n Pop disco on Thursday 7 March 2013 at Park Community School. 86 pupils attended the event with 83 pupils completing the survey.

### Barncroft Community First Panel & West Leigh Community First Panel

A workshop was held on Tuesday 19 March for both panels to roll out the second year of grant allocations for the benefit of Barncroft and Bondfields wards. Through the Community Development Foundation each ward has allocated £8,489.00 for community groups to apply for, with grants ranging from £250.00 to £2500.00 for the benefit of residents living in that ward.

### Leigh Park Community Forum

The next meeting will be held on Monday 15 April 2013. Portsmouth City Council will attend to discuss garage sites across Leigh Park and to give further information about potential budget for new equipment in some of the play areas across Leigh Park.

### Leigh Park Community Association

The popular Leigh Park Network Meeting will be held on Thursday 11 April 2013 in Leigh Park Community Centre from 12.30pm

### Leigh Park Free Rangers

The partnership have submitted their second proposal to the Big Lottery - Reaching Communities fund for a three year outdoor play development programme in Leigh Park.

## Children & Young People

The Youth Council and students from Warblington school have collaborated successfully and completed the Heritage Trail podcast. The interactive launch event was held on Saturday 30 March. It can be downloaded for free at [www.havantheritagetrail.wordpress.com](http://www.havantheritagetrail.wordpress.com)

For the second time a youth council member has used his volunteering time with the youth council to complete his Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award.

All youth council members have now been trained as basic first aiders.

Hampshire & IOW Youth Options have offered the youth council the opportunity to participate in several fully funded projects including a 'Building Leaders' programme which will lead to a Level 2 OCN award in leadership and the 'Inspiring Enterprise' project. Young council members will learn about areas of enterprise and marketing and will develop an idea that can be developed. The group will be supported by a local business mentor and will be entered into a competition.

## Housing Development

Quarter 4 (January - March) of 2013 has seen a total of 26 new affordable housing units delivered across the borough, 15 Affordable rented homes and 1 Shared Ownership home at Wellington Park in Waterlooville, 9 Shared Ownership homes at Purbrook Place and 1 Mortgage Rescue property. This means that the totals for the year are as follows:

|        | Affordable Rent | Shared Ownership | Mortgage Rescue | First Buy |    |
|--------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------|----|
| Totals | 19              | 15               | 11              | 9         | 54 |

Despite very difficult economic conditions and delays due to weather conditions Havant BC has managed to exceed its target of 50 new affordable homes.

## Current development sites

Looking to the development programme for 2013/14 the following sites are in already in contract or on site.

- **Hampshire Farm, Emsworth**- 75 affordable units, mixed tenure, 2 phase development over a three year period provided by First Wessex . Construction now in progress, estimated completion of first 10 units was between January and April 2013 but delays in connection of services have put this back till May 2013.
- **Purbrook Park School site**- Developer - Barratts. First Wessex is now in contract with Barratts to provide 23 affordable units, mixed tenure. 9 Shared Ownership flats now completed with 5 already under offer.

- **Mary Rose House, Woolston Road**- 25 affordable units, mixed tenure, to be delivered by Guinness Hermitage. Planning permission granted 31/08/2012.
- **St Michaels Convent**- Linden Homes, RP Guinness, 25 affordable units

Future development sites listed below detail the potential affordable units Havant BC should have access to should they all progress over the coming years.

- **Little Oaks, Emsworth**- originally 14 affordable units but now revised to 6 following viability assessment.
- **Former Cricketers pub site, Leigh Park**- 10 units, all Affordable Rent
- **Dukes Meadow** Phases 3 & 4, Taylor Wimpey, 88 affordable units, mixed tenure, application pending
- **Warblington School**-23 affordable units.
- **Manor Farm/ Copses Nursery**- 67 affordable units across 2 phases.
- **Barncroft School site**-12 affordable units
- **Ranelagh Road**-24 affordable units
- **Scratchface Lane**- 36 affordable units, mixed tenure.

### **Hampshire Home Choice**

The draft Allocations Policy has been approved by Cabinet and was adopted by Full Council in March. Work will now begin on the IT changes which will be required so the new policy can be introduced.

### **Homelessness**

Numbers being placed into B&B have continued to rise with there currently being six households staying in B&B. During Quarter 4 a total of 15 households were placed into B&B. The number placed was unusually high but this reflects the complexity of a number of the cases which resulted in an intentional – negative – decision being made, meaning no long term duty to accommodate being placed on the Council but an interim duty to provide B&B.

B&B is only used as a last resort and placement outside the district is often a necessity as there are very few suitable establishments that can be accessed locally. Households are spending longer periods in B&B whilst enquiries are being made and alternative accommodation sourced.

Prevention continues to be the priority. Work is done with the customer to look at alternative ways in which their Housing problem can be resolved without them having to go into B&B accommodation. The target for

successful prevention interviews for this year was 600 and the team has completed 249 this quarter meaning an overall total of 829. This reflects the increase in the numbers of customers currently facing housing issues but is also an excellent achievement by the team exceeding the target by 179.