

Cabinet Lead Reports – Full Council 27 July 2016

Councillor Leah Turner: Cabinet Lead for Communities and Housing

Housing

During Quarter 1, 12 households were placed in B&B whilst enquiries were made and alternative accommodation looked for. At the end of the quarter there were still 6 households in B&B. There is a shortage of temporary accommodation in the Borough. This was discussed at the first Scrutiny Panel meeting I attended, I am hoping the Panel will look at this problem with their Policy Development hat on.

The team carried out 232 Prevention interviews, these are households who approached the Council as potentially homeless and the team worked with them to find a solution to their housing problem. These trying to avoid the need for B&B, such as mediation between families, court attendance, deposit loans etc. There were 1511 visitors to The Plaza with housing queries during Quarter 1.

As part of my induction into my new role, I spent time with the frontline Officers at The Plaza, interviewing applicants and advising them. I was impressed with the professionalism and care shown by our Officers in sometimes difficult situations.

Housing Development

Our annual target is 200

In Quarter 1 there were:-

Affordable rent units.	17
Shared ownership.	15
Help to buy.	25
Total	57

The second part of my induction was to visit some of the affordable homes throughout our Borough.

We visited:-

Halyards, Hayling Island
Station Road, Hayling Island
Redlands Grange, Emsworth
Manor Farm, Denvilles
Copseys Nurseries, Denvilles
Wellington Park, Waterlooville

Berewood, Waterlooville
1 and 2 St Michaels, Waterlooville
Ranelagh Road, Havant
Cooper Grange, Havant

I was very impressed with the quality of the housing on offer to our residents, with more "in the pipeline" developments. My calculations told me that 1 in 12 of our residents live in affordable housing of one type or another. A higher figure than I had realised.

Events

So far in this financial year, we have received 27 applications for events to be held on HBC land. These include the Bedhampton Summer Show, The Lions Club of Hayling Donkey Derby, the Hayling 999 day and various street parties for the Queen's 90th birthday. I believe these events are important to the "feel good" factor for our residents and the involvement of our Officers helps to smooth the way through the red tape and the paperwork.

An Events report is currently being prepared to look at all the Events delivered by the Community, Economic Development and Mayoral teams.

Sport and Leisure

The Communities Team are providing the necessary paperwork in hope of securing £100k for the Bidbury Mead Pavilion project, working with the Friends of Bidbury Mead.

After the fantastic success of the funding secured for Front Lawn Recreation Ground, this will hopefully continue to improve the Sports and Community facilities throughout the Borough. The Team were able to secure £265k from Sport England at the end of April and £923,407 at the end of May from the Football Foundation. The total project cost is £1,438.407 and all external funding has been achieved. No mean feat in these times when so many people are chasing the same pots of money. It is expected that the project completion will be by August 2017.

The National Watersports Festival on Hayling Island is 10 years old this year. It attracts thousands to our Borough and raises our profile nationally. The Community Team generally support this with marketing, flyers, banners etc. By the time this is read, a report will have gone to Cabinet regarding a pilot project on Hayling Island hoping to change the way we manage our Tennis Court provision.

Community Engagement and Development

The third Havant Borough Youth Conference is booked for Friday 10/3/17. Pupils aged 14/15 from all 10 senior schools across the Borough will be invited to attend. It will take a similar pattern as before. Having attended both of the previous Conferences, I think they are such a good way of involving our young people in local democracy.

Nominations to list Assets of Community Value have been received for The old Hayling Billy Public House and Stoke Common on Hayling Island. These are now under consideration by the panel.

Our Social Media accounts and residents E Mailing lists now reach over 50,000 residents across the Borough each week. A popular and cost effective way of reaching them.

Work continues by our MDA Officer in the Waterlooville Major Development Area. To improve communication and helping the Community to make decisions and get involved. There are several applications for funding live at this time, Youth Development being just one of them.

The Hayling Island Community Centre extension plans are well under way. The extension, part funded by The Lottery will increase the facilities on offer to Hayling residents.

The Wecock Youth Partnership is working on campaigns regarding reporting drug related information and the harmful effects and consequences of drug use. It is also holding an Internet safety event, both in August at The Acorn Community Centre.

The Havant Borough Armed Forces Action Plan will shortly be updated, showing how we as a Council can better support and communicate with the Armed Forces Community. This is a joint initiative between The Community Team and Cllr Gary Hughes, at the request of The Leader. Extensive engagement with local organisations and bodies has taken place.