

Cabinet Lead report for Council September 2017
Councillor Leah Turner- Cabinet Lead for Communities and Housing

Communities

Built Leisure Facilities Strategy

HBC's Community Team has been working in partnership with the Planning Policy Team to commission an Open Space, Sport and Recreation study.

One element of this is a Built Leisure Facilities strategy. This is now at final draft stage and it is expected that the final document will be completed in October 2017

This strategy will review the current quality and quantity of indoor sports provision. To include swimming pools and sports halls and will identify where investment is required in line with the Local Plan housing projections.

Front Lawn Recreation Ground Project

This project continues to move forward on schedule. The artificial grass pitch (AGP) is now completed and has been formally handed over, with youth football clubs commencing use from 4th September 2017.

The Hampshire FA are now based on site and have a licence to operate the APG and tennis courts. The remaining elements of the project are due for completion in early December, at which time the Hampshire FA will take on the operation via a lease agreement.

Tour of Borough Community Centres

In the company of the Communities Manager and Housing and Communities Head of Service, I toured the Borough Community Centres last month.

Bidbury Mead Pavilion Project

Officers have now completed the tender process to identify a contractor to refurbish the pavilion at Bidbury Mead. This project which will utilise 100k of Hampshire County Council allocated funding will be delivered by Createability. Formal contracts are currently being drawn up and work is projected to start on site by the end of September. The expected construction time is 4 weeks and this will provide updated changing space for football and cricket users as well as an improved social space.

Adizone Refurbishment

Using S106 developers contributions we are to refurbish the Adizone at Eastoke Corner, Hayling Island. The popular outdoor location is well used by both local residents and tourists. However due to its Seafront Location the equipment is no longer fit for purpose.

A like for like replacement specification is currently out to tender with a deadline of 18th September 2017. Once tenders have been evaluated an appropriate contractor will be appointed to carry out the works.

Purbrook Park Cricket Club-Options Appraisal

Officers have now completed an options appraisal on behalf of Purbrook Cricket Club. The development of this report focuses on key club issues, including membership, facility development, site security, and sponsorship opportunities. It is hoped that the report will help the club to grow and become more financially sustainable to continue with their use of Purbrook Heath. The options appraisal has been a dedicated piece of work that has generated an income for the Community Team. It is hoped that this successful piece of work can be replicated across other areas of the Borough.

Housing

The focus for the team continues to be prevention work- working with anyone who may be facing potential homelessness. To ensure temporary accommodation such as B&B is avoided and people are supported to remain in their own homes or helped to find alternative accommodation. The target for the year is to prevent 1150 households from being accepted as homeless- in the first quarter of the year the team have achieved 311 successful preventions so are on track to achieve the annual target.

In preparation for the introduction of the Homelessness Reduction Act in April next year, two additional Housing Officers have been appointed. These are funded through a Government Grant. The new act will place greater duties on the Council in respect of homelessness assessments and action plans for any one who approaches us as potentially homeless.

A Briefing will be brought to Councillors in January 2018 regarding the potential impact of the legislation.

Affordable Housing Development

Our annual target is 130. In Q1 there were 52 units comprising of 26 affordable rent, 2 shared ownership, 2 intermediate rent and 22 help to buy.