

Cabinet Lead Reports – Full Council 21 February 2018

Councillor Leah Turner: Cabinet Lead for Communities and Housing

Housing

Quarter 3 has been very busy in terms of homelessness prevention for the Housing Team. In which 313 successful prevention interviews were carried out by the team. This means that this number of households approached us for advice when threatened with homelessness for a variety of reasons. Officers worked with each household to find a resolution or alternative accommodation. This ensured they did not have to be placed into B&B.

Housing Development

During this quarter, 11 affordable rent units were delivered alongside 3 intermediate rent and 3 shared ownership units. Up to date 98 units have been delivered against the target of 130.

Future Housing Focus

For the Housing Team the next two months is being spent preparing for the Homelessness Reduction Act which will be introduced in early April 2018.

Community Issues

The Havant Borough Youth Conference will take place this year on Friday 23rd March 2018. This year's theme is Positive Choices, Positive Futures. It will include topics such as internet safety, the youth commissioning service and democracy. Pupils in years 9 and 10 from the 12 Secondary Schools within the Borough have been invited.

The inspirational speakers include Mr Dean Coady OBE, a former police detective who champions combating the exploitation of young people in relation to cross-regional criminality. We also welcome Keiran O'Toole, a young local entrepreneur who has set up a successful anti-bullying campaign. The event will also again include the Councillor Question and Answer session and an "Approved by You" voting activity.

Havant Community Lottery

Launching in March this year, the Havant Community Lottery aims to help Community Groups and Charities raise funding by putting 60% of all ticket sales back into the Community. Local groups have been invited to an information event on 13th February in The Plaza to hear how our Lottery can support them and how they can get involved.

Gatherwell the organisation managing the Lottery on behalf of HBC, The Mayor and Cabinet Lead for Communities and Housing will be attending.

Mental Health First Aid Training

Working with Hampshire County Council and the Defence Medical Welfare Service, we have been successful in arranging a Mental Health First Aid training course. This will be held in The Plaza and is open to local agencies supporting Borough residents,

This is currently fully booked with delegates from the police, local councils and domestic support services all attending. This follows the Making Every Contact Count training which was held last year. It demonstrates the desire to up skill both statutory and voluntary workers to improve the support being offered to residents in this field.

Sports and Play Areas

Stakes Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) Refurbishment

Officers have drawn up a specification to resurface the “unfit for purpose” facility in Springwood Avenue, Waterlooville. The MUGA was identified by Ward Councillors as having severe undulation and flooding concerns. This is supported by a conditions survey of all HBC MUGAs which indicates it to be in the worst condition in the Borough.

A feasibility study produced by the HBC Civil Engineering team has provided a specification to alleviate the drainage concern and to resurface the facility to a suitable standard for recreational sport. Budget estimates have been received by contractors to resurface the MUGA.

A method of lighting the court into the evening, allowing increased usage and access for residents is currently being investigated further. The most suitable and cost effective option is to install solar powered street lighting.

Once the suitability of these systems are confirmed, through feedback from other users of these lights and planning permission is sought, the resurfacing and lighting aspects will be procured through the relationship with Capita procurement.

£35,000 of S106 monies has been allocated to spend on this project.

Barton’s Green Pavilion Refurbishment

Officers have identified the need to internally refurbish the pavilion at Barton’s Green, Wakefields Way. This to bring the facility up to modern day standards from a safeguarding and usability perspective.

This will allow the tenant football club Widbrook Utd FC, as the largest provider of women's and girls football within the region, to grow their offer and improve local health outcomes.

A HBC project team has been formed and Officers have been working to finalise the total project costs, looking through the required processes to meet the criteria for external funding applications. In partnership with the football club and the Hampshire FA, HBC will be applying for Football Foundation Funding and will seek S106 allocations to support this application as match funding.

A specification for the refurbishment that meets FA technical standards will be completed and will go out to tender for a design and build contractor.

The Adizone on Hayling Island

The Adizone outdoor gym facility was identified by Officers as needing refurbishment, due to the deterioration of equipment over the past 7 years. This facility is open access and well used by residents, both adults and children, bringing many health and physical activity benefits. The refurbished facility was completed on 24th November 2017 and S106 Contributions of £26,000 were used to support the works.

Bidbury Mead Refurbishment

Work to refurbish the interior of the pavillion at Bidbury Mead was completed in Mid-December 2017. Officers appointed Creatability Ltd to undertake the interior works. The work included creating two changing rooms that are fully compliant to modern day standards and guidelines. The refurbishment also created a larger kitchen allowing users to prepare food. Two new toilets, a lobby space and separate officials changing room. Hampshire County Council granted £100,000 to the project following the sale of the Bedhampton Arts Centre.

Hayling Park Play Park Refurbishment

In association with Play Parks for Hayling (PP4H) Officers are currently working towards appointing a Play Park contractor to undertake the refurbishment of the play area within Hayling Park. Funds from PP4H and S106 monies have been secured for use on the project. Officers and PP4H members will work together to ensure the works meet the needs of the local community and users.

The project will create a fantastic play space incorporating fun theming and bespoke items of play.

A specification will accompany the tender documents that will be sent out using the Capita procurement partnership. Included in the specification is the requirement for the contractor to run consultation sessions with local users. From this consultation a final design will be established and taken forward to the construction phase.

Front Lawn Recreation Ground

After four years of planning the new Community Sports Hub at Front Lawn in Leigh Park was formally opened on Saturday 20/1/18. This facility has seen a £1.6 million investment into the Leigh Park area, and will bring many benefits to the wider Borough.