

## **Cabinet Leads Report- Council 11th July 2018**

### **Councillor Leah Turner -Cabinet Lead for Communities and Housing**

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#### **Housing**

The team have been working with the new homelessness legislation (Homelessness Reduction Act) for nearly three months now. It has been quite a challenge but the team has stepped up to that challenge. They have adapted their ways of working to allow more time- up to the two hours needed to complete the comprehensive assessment forms is now required.

The past few months have seen an increase in people who are approaching us for assistance with complex mental health needs and there have been challenges working with Mental Health Services to ensure that the appropriate support is available. The Housing Team were nominated for the You're a Star award to recognise the work they did during 2017/2018 in preventing over 1200 households from becoming homeless.

Our new Housing Manager is now in place, Val Bell is our new Housing Manager (Options and Advice.) Val replaces Iris Gunton who has now retired and joins us from a similar post on the Isle of Wight, where she has had many years experience. Her contact details are:-

valerie.bell@havant.gov.uk

#### **Out of Hours Housing Emergencies**

May we remind members that there is an out of hours service for emergency housing situations.

This service operates every day of the year, not just during the bad winter weather. If you come across anything of concern, please call the main switchboard number and you will be given an emergency number. Any queries should be made to Tracey Wood or Val Bell.

#### **Havant Supporting Troubled Families Programme**

Supporting Families is about working with the whole family, not just the children or a single family member.

Families are often trying to deal with more than one problem at a time. This can make it difficult for families to get the right help and support. Although each family is different, many have issues relating to:-

Crime and anti-social behaviour. Education, with children not in school. Unemployment, adults on out of work benefits. Young people not in employment, education or training. Problems with drugs or alcohol. Physical or Mental Health Problems. Domestic Violence and abuse. Families at risk of homelessness or unmanaged debts. Young children failing to thrive. Unhealthy weight and/or malnutrition concerns.

Each family will have a single family plan and a key worker who will help co-ordinate services and who they can contact when they want to talk about things or need further help.

The target for 2018-2019 within the Havant Borough is 150 families starting in April 2018, we are currently supporting 55 new families nominated since April.

## **Community Issues**

### **Play Parks and Leisure Facilities**

#### Stakes MUGA redevelopment and lighting scheme

Planning permission has now been granted for a new solar lighting scheme to be installed at the Stakes MUGA in Waterlooville. The project which will utilise S106 funds, will include the resurfacing of the existing facility to make it suitable for structured sporting activities. A tender process is now being undertaken to identify a contractor for the works, it is hoped that the project will be completed during the next four months.

#### Hayling Park Play Park

Community Team Officers have been working in partnership with Community Group Play Parks for Hayling to redevelop the play area in Hayling Park. This third PP4H project has been supported through each stage by Communities Officers to create a new and exciting play area for local children. This full scale redevelopment has seen new equipment and surfacing throughout along with the new fencing on order.

The project has been jointly funded by PP4H and S106 funds. Following a full tender process, contractors were identified and a Community Consultation was undertaken prior to the commencement of the work. The Play Park reopened early due to good weather conditions and the efficiency of the contractor, however a launch event will be held on 14th July 2018. As both the Cabinet Lead and a member of the PP4H team, I am delighted this latest addition to the play facilities on Hayling and in the Havant Borough has been completed due to the joint working between HBC and a local Community Group.

#### Development of Open Space, Sport and Recreation Strategy

The writing of the Playing Pitch Strategy is nearing completion and this will compliment the Built Leisure and Open Spaces Strategy's that have been commissioned.

The Playing Pitch Strategy will provide an overview of the quality of the Council's sports facilities and have an associated action plan to help prioritise areas for investment.

#### Havant Borough Community Lottery

The first quarter has now been completed. 7th April-26th June 2018.

There have been 12 draws, with 53 registered Good Causes so far. A total of 15,047 tickets have been sold, of which 8315 specify a Good Cause and 6732 are for the Community Fund.

Officers attended a recent Lottery Network meeting with Gatherwell and it is apparent that compared to other Authorities across the country, the Havant Lottery is doing well. We sell an average of 400 tickets per week more than all the other Local Authorities present.

## **Community Engagement**

### Staffing Update

There have been significant changes within this part of the team. Jamie Bridges has been appointed a Senior Community Officer and Katie Bone has been appointed Community

Officer (New Developments) covering the West of Waterlooville MDA. We are currently recruiting for a Community Officer (Events.) Laura Bevis has returned from maternity leave to the part time role of Community Officer, sharing this role with Carol Samuda.

### Armed Forces

An application has been made by the Community Team for funding through the Armed Forces Covenant to deliver a commemorative project for this year's Centenary. If successful the Community Team will be able to provide 10 local Community Buildings and/or open spaces with a clear silhouette figure which can be fixed to benches or chairs. Groups will be supported to tell a local story about their area in war time and to encourage their local Community to remember their fallen heroes. The ten different stories will be collated and celebrated at an event to take place in The Plaza in November 2018. The decision on the funding is expected in July at which time a full project plan will be developed.

### Events

As summer approaches, Officers are processing applications and promoting a number of high profile events taking place on HBC land. This to include the first outdoor film screening in the Borough. Taking place in Havant Park, this was sold out and will be held again in September. Circuses continue to be popular seeing the best attendance figures ever and a third circus expressing an interest. However this is being carefully considered along with the Estates Team following a number of complaints from residents overlooking the park regarding noise, circus arrival time and damage to footpaths.

The What's On Facebook page continues to be an effective way of promoting events across the Borough, this has over 5000 followers. There are recent changes to the E Mail distribution lists to ensure GDPR compliance and this remains an effective way of sharing information throughout the Community. It is well used by both groups and teams in the Council.

### The Kite Surfing Armada

This year this took place between 22nd and 24th June. The event which is held on Hayling Island has raised over 180k for charity in the last three years. This year at our request, the Hayling Island 1st Responders became one of the named charities.

This year the event grew in size, which was supported by HBC in granting permission for the use of additional land to satisfy the demand of participants and spectators.

The event held a successful schools day on the 22nd with 200 children attending from 7 schools within the Borough. Activities included a tour of the site and educational talks regarding sustainability, the environment, wind energy and had kite surfing demonstrations.

The weekend also included live music and food from locally sourced bands and catering outlets. The event was deemed to be a success and the event organisers are keen to consider dates for the 2019 festival with the Council.