

Cabinet Lead Reports – Full Council 25 September 2019

Councillor Tim Pike: Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Lead for Planning, Regeneration and Communities

Development Management

A large number of significant planning applications remain under consideration by the team. These include Wellington Way redevelopment, Waterlooville (264 apartments and multi-storey car park); Land at Sinah Lane, Hayling Island (195 dwellings); new 81 bed hotel at Larchwood Avenue, Bedhampton; Land west of the Crematorium, Havant (72 dwellings); Land east of Castle Avenue, Havant (69 dwellings); BaE Systems site redevelopment, Waterlooville; Padnell Grange, Cowplain (86 dwellings); Land at Lower Road, Bedhampton (50 dwellings); Langstone Technology Park (demolition of Building 1000 and erection of new industrial units).

Performance in the team in Q1 of 2019/20 was strong, with determination rates against deadlines achieved of:

- 100% major applications (local target 70%; national target 60%)
- 93% minor applications (national target 65%)
- 92% other applications (national target 80%)

Development Management Committee

The Committee resolved to grant permission for the planning application for Forty Acres Farm (320 dwellings) at its meeting at the end of August. This represents a significant contribution to the Council's 5-year housing supply, and demonstrates the Council's commitment to the 'direction of travel' for the distribution of new housing sites in the Borough originally put forward in the Local Plan Housing Statement (now revoked) and more recently in the Pre-Submission Havant Borough Local Plan 2036.

Housing

Service Level Agreements have been agreed with Two Saints and are in place to provide bespoke housing related support to homeless households placed in out of area B&Bs across HBC and EHDC. Support will enable households to engage with housing services to identify move on pathways to reduce time spent in B&B. This is funded through a government grant. In addition, Two Saints will provide outreach and co-ordination of services to rough sleepers across HBC and EHDC through monies received from Rough Sleeper Initiative funding bid.

An agreement is also in place for Two Saints to provide housing related support via funding of a support worker to mitigate the reduction of support being funded through social inclusion contract (HCC funding). Support provided is to ensure reduction of homelessness in accordance with

Homelessness Reduction Act 2017. All of our partnership working with Two Saints is excellent news and will assist the Housing Team when engaging and supporting the most vulnerable customers in our communities.

Building Control

The transfer of data into Building Control's new back office IT system (Tascomi) continues. The first two rounds of User Acceptance Testing have been carried out and staff training is underway. The new system will go live in November 2019.

Building Control application processing time continues to hit targets of 90% of applications dealt with within 15 working days.

Property (including Plaza)

Bad debt provisions have been reduced to less than 2% of rental income (£30k) across our property portfolio, and additional income/ cost savings realised in excess of £10,000.

Approximately 23 new licences granted for 'open space' land.

The Estates Team have been assisting the Enforcement Team with prompt eviction of travellers and unlawful occupants on open space land within a timely manner, usually 48 - 72 hours.

We are reviewing existing open space land with a view to identifying any further cost effective fortification measures required to prevent unlawful access.

A review of the work spaces occupied by the Legal services team across East Hampshire and Havant has been completed, with the result being the creation of a single legal 'hub' at the Plaza location. The team will continue to work across both authorities but the improved working environment will see improved lines of communication within a single team, encourage team working and see professional knowledge sharing and practices embedded within the team. With a ratio of Officer to desks being continued to support the hot desk policy the new location on the ground floor of A block has made effective use of space.

Sport and Leisure

A New Direction – Physical Activity Initiative

Officers have secured funding through Public Health Hampshire for the delivery of a new initiative, working with Horizon Leisure Centres.

This new project will work with inactive females aged 35-54, providing a programme of specific sessions across both Havant and Waterlooville Leisure

Centre sites. The programme has been shaped following two focus group sessions that have informed the marketing and style of the programme.

The 12-week programme will be delivered at a cost of £40 per person and will look to tackle identified health inequalities. The initial session starts on 1st October 2019.

Stakes MUGA – Basketball Sessions

Following refurbishments works to the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) which were completed back in April, Officers have supported a community basketball programme throughout the summer. The investment of £34,000 has enabled increased use due to the inclusion of solar powered floodlights.

The sessions were well attended by the Stakes community, delivering positive outcomes for local young people. It is hoped that these sessions will become sustainable due to their popularity.

Community Infrastructure Levy

Officers have supported a total of 7 Neighbourhood CIL applications in relation to play, sport and leisure. Should these projects move forward they will work towards realising the recommendations in the Open Space, Sport & Recreation Strategy.

Hampshire Sports Conference

Officers will be delivering the Hampshire Sports Conference on 2nd October. This event is focussed on 'Delivering Differently' and is aimed at sports clubs, coaches, instructors and leisure providers. The event will provide information on how to engage with inactive audiences and develop an appropriate offer.

The Conference will be hosted at the Plaza and opened by former Olympian Gail Emms. Sessions will be delivered in partnership with Energise Me and the University of Chichester, including a UK Coaching accredited workshop.

Play Investment Plan

Officers have developed a Play Investment Plan, detailing priority spending of the capital play budget. This investment is focussed on developing play value at sites and aligns to the Open Spaces Strategy which provides an assessment of the borough's play areas.

The Play Investment Plan identifies specific play sites where improvements will be made. The contract for the works will go out to tender in September with new equipment being installed over Q3 & Q4 of 2019/20.

Economic Development

Havant Business Partnership

After 2 very successful events, the next Havant Business Partnership takes place on 14 November, kindly hosted by our largest employer SSE. This will focus on promotion of the next round of LEP funding opportunities for business and include an update on our regeneration programme. The partnership incorporates around 100 of the Boroughs' leading employers and is a key forum for engagement with the private sector.

Waterlooville MDA construction skills programme

The second year of the construction training programme to support local people into work is now complete. Of the 20 residents who started the second phase of the programme, 15 have successfully secured employment in the construction industry with 3 finding employment in other sectors. The scheme is funded through S106 contributions from the Waterlooville MDA and managed by HBC.

Sustainability and Climate Change

Figures for income from the Electric Vehicle charge-points are modest but growing, at £200.00 since commissioning

Retrofit installations undertaken in Havant for the first two quarters of 2019/20 are Q1 £93,000; Q2 £45,000: **Total: £138,000**. These are provided free of charge to the client under the Energy Company Obligation (ECO3) and HBC Statement of Intent criteria.

The process for working with retrofit partners has been revised, and has brought one new partner on board. The aim is to extend the activity, and we plan to do a publicity campaign to encourage residents to save energy, carbon and money through the Energy Company Obligation.

Community Development, Health and Wellbeing

Dementia

Monthly Dementia awareness sessions continue at the Plaza, and a special Councillor Dementia awareness session is taking place on Wednesday 25th September. Since November 2018, 98 people have attended the awareness sessions, these include Councillors, both HBC and EHDC officers, community groups and charities.

The Havant and Hayling Island Dementia Friendly groups recently merged and are hosting a Dementia Friendly Conference at the Plaza on Monday 30th September, 10am – 3pm. This is a public event, open to all. There will be guest speakers, information stands offering free guidance and advice, refreshments available.

A new Waterlooville based Group has also recently formed, the initial meeting takes place on Wednesday 18th September.

Havant Community Lottery

There are now 76 Registered Good Causes, which is an increase of 13 since the last update.

The Community Fund has raised £24505 to date. The total funds for Good Causes to date is £28249. Therefore the total funds raised are £52,755.

The next round of Community Funding is opening in September with applications from Good Causes to be submitted by end of October. This process sees the distribution of the Community Fund element of the Lottery proceeds. At the time of writing there is £9484 to allocate, however this will increase as more draws will take place before the deadline.

The recent push on publicity is seeing gradual lottery ticket sales increase:

- New posters designed and printed and promoted throughout the Borough and across social media, targeting players and new good causes.
- Half page adverts secured for all editions of PO Publications for the next three months.
- Summer draw – free bolt on prizes (total value £530) have been secured to run a special summer draw.
- Monthly newsletters being sent to all registered Good Causes providing motivational tips and news.
- Drop in Support sessions ongoing to support Good Causes manage and promote their lottery membership.
- Targeted support being made to Good Causes who have not made any sales.
- Facebook page is being better utilised and managed now HBC have taken it over from Gatherwell. This is a really useful tool and will be further developed over coming months.

Havant Remembers Silhouette trail

Building on last years 'There But Not There' project this year, the 15 silhouettes will be displayed throughout November in a variety of community locations as a reminder of local people who left for war but did not return. A map showing the locations of the Silhouettes has been created and a supporting booklet is being produced to share the local war hero stories including photos.

Community Events

22 applications have been received and processed.

Given recent changes regarding legislation the Events Applications Process is currently being reviewed and will be updated. Website information will be improved to be more comprehensive for people considering holding events on HBC owned land.

Funding

Officers have supported small/new groups on a number of projects which has resulted in 5 applications for grants from Hampshire County Council and other bodies totalling £52,000 being submitted. The outcomes on individual grants are expected between now and January.

Officers have supported 3 voluntary sector organisations with their CIL bids from Waterlooville, Wecock Farm and Emsworth. Further support is being given to a Hayling-based organisation regarding funding.

The Council continue to provide support to the Wecock Farm Big Local Partnership Board, acting as the Accountable Body for their funding, employing staff and attending their meetings. This resident-led project group has recently awarded funding to Y Services for youth work, Flip Theatre for drama workshops and three young person projects managed by the Acorn Community Centre. The group are looking at play provision at Hobby Close Open Space with a view to providing a new play area and skate park. The current arrangement to act as their 'Banker' runs until September 2020.

Health and Wellbeing

Successful meetings have taken place with colleagues from Adult and Children's Services and the three Primary Care Networks in the Borough and there is strong support for the formation of a formal Partnership with work toward joint priorities for the borough. Other key colleagues have been identified from the health and voluntary sector who will be invited to the next meeting taking place in October. The Partnership will work together to achieve a shared vision for the Borough, promoting wellbeing and preventing ill health. Draft priorities have been identified and evidence is being gathered to support these and a joint action plan will be developed.

Contracts

Following a robust Tendering process, a new award will be granted to Citizen's Advice Havant for a period of two and a half years with effect from September 2019. CAB have a proven track record of delivery in the borough at various locations including outreach at Waterlooville and Hayling Island in addition to Havant Plaza and their base at the Leigh Park Community Centre.