

Cabinet Lead Reports – Full Council 22nd September 2021

Councillor Gwen Robinson

Cabinet Lead for Housing, Communities and CIL

Housing

We have successfully recruited three Housing Support Officers to back fill current vacancies. Training, which is having to be carried out virtually, is going well, albeit challenging training three people at once. So as to maintain a high level of service, it has been decided to continue with the proficient agency staff that have been covering these roles until the new recruits are fully trained and able to take part in the duty rotas. This will then bring the team back up to capacity.

Rough Sleeper Programme

HBC has been successful in being awarded funding through the Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme to acquire one unit of supported accommodation to house rough sleepers or those at risk of rough sleeping. This will be achieved in partnership with Abri housing with Two Saints providing the support. However, the project is being reviewed before implementation as the original bid was for three units, but the two bed unit was rejected by Homes England as deemed to be not financially viable. Two Saints therefore have to review the viability of funding available to provide support to just one unit, rather than three.

Brent House

At the time of this report, I am awaiting an update on the refurbishment works. This is to include the appointment of a contractor and contract start date. I shall keep members informed as I receive the information.

Land West of Hulbert Road

An outline planning application has been submitted for access and a footpath. The proposal is for up to 100 dwellings, which will consist of both houses & flats, as per the Concept Master Plan.

Communities

Local Response Centre (LRC)

As numbers are still rising within the borough, the LRC will continue to support residents until January 2022.

Figures up to and including the 7th September show that the number of residents having received their first dose of the vaccine stands at 94,102 with 86,648 having received their second

Havant Community Lottery

Since the Lottery started 3 and a half years ago £140,626.80 has been raised for local Good Causes. There are 105 registered Good Causes and 767 players.

Since my last report there have been eleven prizes of £25 across the borough, and two of £250.

The next prize draw takes place on 30th October, supporters could win £1,000 in John Lewis vouchers as well as up to £25,000 cash.

Armed Forces

The Ministry of Defence has honoured Havant Borough Council with a Silver award as part of the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme.

The Council, which re-signed its Armed Forces Covenant in February, has long-standing bonds with the local Armed Forces and has worked hard to make its working environment welcoming and attractive to current and former servicemen. Policies will be put in place to support Reservists and members of the Cadet Forces, allowing them to fulfil their Armed Forces commitments while working at the Council.

Former servicemen and women and their spouses have a guaranteed interview when applying for HBC roles, providing they meet the job specification, and an employee assistance programme offers mental health first aid to veterans if required.

The council will receive its award at a ceremony in Portsmouth, due to be held in September.

Community Networks

The two Community Network meetings, Leigh Park and Waterlooville, continue to go from strength to strength with over 25 organisations attending the last meeting. With Covid numbers increasing we have made the decision to run the meetings virtually until the end of the year.

The information gained from these meetings is added to our Community Bulletin and What's On Facebook page.

Sport and Leisure

Play Investment 2021 – 2022

Officers are currently placing orders for this year's play investment programme, items this year have been identified due to their end of life, or, because they offer little play value. Work has been undertaken in partnership with Norse South East to ensure that input has been received in light of ongoing maintenance.

Works will be completed prior to April 2022. Before any work takes place Ward Councillors will be informed of improvements or alterations taking place within their ward.

Officers have also instructed an independent consultant to undertake an audit on all owned play areas. A report will be written from the findings of the audit and will become a strategic document that informs officers on how best to invest in play within Havant.

Waterlooville Recreation Ground Play Area Refurbishment

Officers continue to work with Waterlooville Action Group (WAG) to refurbish the play area at Waterlooville Recreation Ground. The project has been successful in raising £85,000. Officers and the WAG are awaiting on final decisions from further funding applications which will see the project fully funded. Officers have been working with the Procurement and Legal teams to produce all documents required to go out to tender for a contractor to complete the design and build of the play area. This went live Thursday 26th August and will close mid-October.

Artificial cricket wicket at Bidbury Mead

Contractors for the installation of the artificial cricket wicket have been identified at Bidbury Mead, in partnership with Bedhampton Mariners Cricket Club. Works are provisionally scheduled for the week commencing 4th October 2021. Efforts are focused on working with the Estates team to produce all formal documentation needed for onsite works and future

maintenance of the facility. Officers will project management the construction of this installation which will allow the club to improve their training and match play offer and reduce the pressure on the over used grass wickets.

A New Direction

Officers are working in partnership with Horizon Leisure Centres to deliver a 12-week physical activity programme funded by Public health, designed to support women aged 35-54 in becoming confident in themselves and to improve their overall wellbeing. The fully subscribed programme of 50 participants is due to begin the week commencing 13th September. Efforts are focused in supporting and monitoring Horizon's delivery of this programme across Havant and Waterlooville Leisure Centres.

Hayling Island Bowls Club Artificial Surface Project

Officers continue to project manage the build phase of the project to install the all-weather bowls surface and associated floodlights. Works have progressed well and there are an estimated one and half weeks left of the programme. Following completion, the bowls club will be responsible for the management and maintenance of the surface. There will be an opening event in October to celebrate the £160,000 project which enables year round bowls to be played by a wider audience and will improve the financial sustainability of the club.

Emsworth Recreation Ground Play Refurbishment

The project to refurbish and replace the existing play equipment has, unfortunately, been delayed owing to issues with material shortages at the manufacture stage. Officers have continued to liaise with the contractor to ensure that the works do not slip further. Currently officers are expecting the contractor to be on site the end of September and complete works within four weeks, during this time officers will project manage the build phase. This project is supported by CIL funding and will cost £84,000. Once construction is complete officers will work in partnership with Verity's Gift to deliver an opening event.

Hayling Island New Skatepark Provision

Officers continue to support the Hayling Skate Park user group in their aspirations for new provision at the existing West Beach location. Sport and Leisure officers have already secured £55,198.50 of Section 106 money for new provision at the site. The group have also been successful in securing Circa £17,000 of community funding.

The project is currently waiting on a decision from The Veolia Environmental Trust for £75,000 worth of funding. The decision date was the 7th September so the project will shortly know if it has been successful. If so this project would have a small short fall.

In the meantime officers have begun to draft a specification for tender for a design and build contractor and have worked internally with other teams, including Regeneration to ensure that the project aligns to wider council strategy. It has also been confirmed by the Planning Team that if the play area were made slightly larger on the existing site, planning permission would not be required.

Get Up & Go

The physical activity programme for inactive residents aged over 55's, as funded by Sport England, is running at full operation with 19 weekly sessions, either online or face-to-face in line with Covid safety guidelines. Several new activities have recently been launched including chair-based yoga, walking netball, and lawn bowling, all of which have engaged new residents and formed positive partnerships with organisations within the community. The successful lawn bowling delivery model is due to be replicated at Hayling Bowls Club following the completion of their refurbishment later in the year. Officer focus is currently on developing and implementing the beginning stages of a sustainable model in order to continue programme delivery beyond the currently funded period which comes to an end in April 2022. This has included an application to Hampshire County Council for £85,000 of funding from their Get Going Again fund, to support clinically vulnerable people.

Hooks Lane MUGA to Car Park

Civil Engineering colleagues have now submitted a request for quotes from contractors to complete the works to bring the MUGA into use as a car park and await their returns.

This project, funded in full by CIL, acts to support the priorities of the Havant Playing Pitch Strategy and provide ancillary facilities required for the new artificial grass rugby pitch to reach its maximum community capacity and also supports the other organisations and educational establishments on the site.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

Government recommends that CIL charging schedules are revised at the same time as local plans. As the Council is fully aware, our Local Plan is currently at examination. As such, the Council is updating the CIL charging schedule as well. This was submitted in June 2021. The report was received on 27 August 2021 and confirms:

- The submitted CIL Charging Schedule provides an appropriate basis for the collection of the levy in the area.
- The Council has provided sufficient evidence that shows the proposed rates would not threaten delivery of the relevant submission Local Plan.

- The submitted CIL Charging Schedule satisfies the drafting requirements without the need for further modification.

This means that the Council is now free to adopt the new charging schedule for use. However, as it relates to the emerging Local Plan, the Council intends to consider these two policies for adoption simultaneously, once the Local Plan examination is complete.

Further information can be found at www.havant.gov.uk/cil-charging-schedule-review-examination

Recent Expenditure

Since the last Council Meeting we are pleased to confirm the following spends are either complete or in process of being completed (to 31/08/2021):

Project Reference in Exacom	Name of Project	Date agreed at Council	Strategic CIL (S) or Neighbourhood CIL (N)	Amount of CIL spent (rounded)
20	Warblington Footbridge	21/02/2018	S	£2,485
29	Emsworth Community Centre Lighting	21/02/2018	N	£7,420
117	Emsworth Men's Shed	26/02/2020	N	£7,000
191	Acorn Community Centre Extension (Project Delivery)	24/02/2021	N	£31,654
194	Citizens Advice Centre and Help Hub	24/02/2021	N	£55,000
195	Surgery Fit Out Upgrade Emsworth Surgery	24/02/2021	N	£12,200
198	Energy Efficiency Improvements at The Spring Arts Centre	24/02/2021	N	£32,050

We have also agreed to allocate S106 funds totalling £54,219, Community Team are leading on this project:

Project Reference in Exacom	Name of Project	Planning Application No and Name	Date agreed by S151 Officer or their deputy	Amount of Potential S106 spend (rounded)
174	Emsworth Pavilion	10/74014/000 Hampshire Farm	16/06/2021	£54,219

Our public facing Exacom System provides up-to-date information on CIL income and expenditure and can be viewed via this link:

<https://pfm.exacom.co.uk/havant/>