

Portfolio Holder Report – Council 16 October 2013

By Cllr Yvonne Weeks – Economy & Communities

Housing Services

Development Update

I am delighted to report that in Quarter 2 (July- September) of 2013 we have seen a record total of 63 new affordable housing units delivered across the borough:

31 Affordable Rent homes
4 Shared Ownership homes
2 Shared Equity homes (Merlion Homes- South Park Court, Havant)
26 Help to Buy homes

These units are spread across various sites including:
Redlands Grange Emsworth, 158 Hart Plain Avenue, Cowplain, Purbrook Place, Waterlooville and Berewood, Waterlooville (MDA).

Current development sites

- **Hampshire Farm, Emsworth** - 75 affordable units in total, all units now delivered in Phase 1, Bellway. Phase 2 under construction with a further 49 affordable units to be delivered by Bloor Homes in partnership with First Wessex. 4 Shared Ownership units delivered Q2 with 4 Affordable rent units due March 2014. Timescales for other Bellway units to be confirmed.
- **Mary Rose House, Woolston Road**- 25 affordable units, to be delivered by Guinness Hermitage. Start on site achieved, slow build and completion dates yet to be confirmed
- **St Michaels Convent** - 25 affordable units to be delivered by Linden Homes in partnership with Guinness Hermitage. Completion expected from 12th November 2013 for first 4 flatted units. Anticipate slippage due to unexpected asbestos issues within demolition.
- **Dukes Meadow** - Phases 3 & 4, 88 affordable units, mixed tenure to be delivered by Taylor Wimpey in partnership with Radian, application granted 28/06/2013. Start on site achieved. First units in Havant area due for handover August 2014.
- **Berewood, Waterlooville MDA** - Phase 1, Bloor Homes (194 units in total), 78 affordable homes, rented to be delivered by Guinness Hermitage (Social & Affordable), intermediate to be delivered by Grainger. First completions now confirmed as October 2013.

Housing Options

During Quarter 2 recruitment to vacant posts has taken place resulting in the new structure being in place in preparation for tackling the potential impact of the Welfare Reform.

The team has placed fewer households in B&B this quarter and for one week there were no households in B&B. At the end of the quarter there were 3 households in B&B with two of these in the process of moving to alternative accommodation. The reason for the slight reduction in B&B use has been attributed to the prevention and early intervention work being carried out. Emphasis is always on prevention or sourcing alternative forms of accommodation.

Hampshire Home Choice

The final changes to the Allocations Policy are now being implemented – removal of Band 5. Applicants have all been written to and given a three month transition period which is now coming to an end. I will be attending a Hampshire Choice Board meeting later in the month to consider the impact of the changes.

A Hampshire Home Choice staff conference was held for all the partners on 9 October 2013 at Test Valley giving officers the opportunity to consider the impact of the first six months of the revised Allocations Policy,

Sport & Leisure

The National Watersports Festival took place for the first time in it's new format from Friday 30 August – Sunday 1 September. This year the festival took a larger area of land at Beachlands to offer competition and taster sessions in four watersport disciplines. Havant Borough Council provided the opportunity for local residents to book onto windsurfing taster sessions over the course of the weekend and provided a total of 80 places for residents aged 8+. The taster sessions were delivered by the Official Test Centre. Overall it was estimated that 8000 people visited the event over the course of the weekend with over 600 competitors. Another strong positive from the event was the partnership that has been developed with South Downs College to provide an opportunity for Public Service students to gain valuable work experience. The National Watersports Festival organiser has requested a provisional date of 5, 6 & 7 September 2014.

The Community Officer (Leisure and Sport Development) has been representing Havant Borough Council on the community access to schools strategic group. This group is driving a Sport England pilot project looking at how best to utilise school sports facilities for community use, linking in with local sports clubs. This project continues to move forwards and has developed strong links with the Havant Federation Heads. As part of a strategic approach the group is developing a vision for sport and physical activity in Havant which will support the development of the project as a whole.

The Community Officer (Leisure & Sport Development) has been working closely with the Havant Borough Sports Association to support their growth and development. The Havant Borough Sports Association play a key role in supporting local sports clubs and individuals to work together and achieve their objectives. The Mayor of Havant hosted a Havant Borough Sports Association Networking event on Thursday 10th October at Havant Leisure Centre.

The Havant Borough Sports Association have confirmed that the Havant Sports Awards will take place on Thursday 13 February at Havant Leisure Centre.

The Community Officer (Leisure and Sports Development) is working with a variety of sports clubs and organisation, including schools, on developing their sports facilities and infrastructure. Many of the projects are at different stages of development, covering a number of different sports and activities.

Economic Development

FSB Business Friendly Awards

At the Hampshire Federation of Small Business Awards, Havant BC was Highly Commended in the Best all round Business Friendly Award. The award recognises the hard work of the economic development team and wider council services in supporting local businesses and will be formally presented at the next Full Council meeting.

Asda Roundabout – Pinchpoint Funding

Hampshire CC was successful in its bid to the government for Pinch Point funding for improvements to the Asda roundabout. The bid which was supported by HBC and Portsmouth CC enables the delivery of part of the infrastructure required to unlock Dunsbury Hill Farm and the creation of up to 3500 new jobs in the borough in the future. The Department for Transport have awarded HCC £3.7m for the project.

Leigh Park High Street – improvements

Over the past 2 years, local entrepreneur Mark Smith has acquired and refurbished a number properties in Park Parade, Leigh Park. As a result of his work, 14 retail units have now been let to small businesses at sensible rents bringing new life back into Park Parade.

While this is an example of strong private sector led regeneration, HBC have supported this initiative by providing start up grants to some of the new tenants, installing vinyl images on empty units prior to their occupation and providing support and assistance to Mr Smith through the planning process. This latest phase of the project culminated in the official opening of four of the new shops by the Mayor of Havant on 1st October.

Mayors Business Reception

The Mayor of Havant will be hosting a business reception on Tuesday 15 Oct 2013 (1830 -2030) at Public Service Plaza, Havant. The event will include introductions from the Mayor and a keynote speech from Solent Local Enterprise Partnership. The event will also include a small exhibition of business support products available from Govt and local authorities. All Havant businesses are welcome and up to 100 local businesses are expected to attend.

Leader Rural Development – transition funding

West Sussex CC's bid to Defra for LEADER Transition funding for 2014 of £30,000 for Three Harbours & Coastal Plain Local Action Group has been approved in full. The bid which is matched by a £2,000 contribution from HBC, allows programme capacity to be retained allowing the Hayling and Emsworth area to be positioned to benefit from the next Leader programme that commences in 2015.

Tourism

On Sunday 15th September 2013 at Hayling Island, Sir Richard Branson joined 317 other kitesurfers as they attempted, successfully to break the world record for the 'Largest Parade of kitesurfers' ever assembled. HBC staff assisted with the practical arrangements for the highly successful event which further cements Hayling's reputation as a watersports destination.

Unemployment figures

Unemployment continues to fall. Numbers are down from 2028 (2.8%) in July to 2000 (2.7%) in August.

Unemployed Claimants and Residential Unemployment Rate: August 2013						
<u>Havant</u>						
Census Area Statistic Ward	Males		Females		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Barncroft	116	6.4	52	2.7	168	4.5
Battins	156	8.0	93	4.4	249	6.2
Bedhampton	54	2.0	42	1.5	96	1.8
Bondfields	144	6.9	62	3.0	206	5.0
Cowplain	49	1.7	30	1.0	79	1.4
Emsworth	55	2.3	34	1.3	89	1.8
Hart Plain	118	4.2	60	2.0	178	3.1
Hayling East	64	2.5	32	1.2	96	1.9
Hayling West	55	2.5	27	1.1	82	1.8
Purbrook	58	2.1	35	1.2	93	1.6
St Faith's	61	2.5	38	1.4	99	1.9
Stakes	121	3.9	77	2.4	198	3.1
Warren Park	164	8.0	94	4.0	258	5.9
Waterloo	70	2.5	39	1.4	109	1.9
Havant*	1,285	3.6	715	1.9	2,000	2.7

Community Development

Havant

Havant 50+ Forum & H50 Coffee mornings – a timetable has been arranged to take older persons groups to each H50 coffee morning. The groups will be invited from Hayling Island, Emsworth, Leigh Park and Waterloooville. The aim is to then attract new members to join the Havant 50+ Forum from different areas of the borough. Asda are very kindly providing free transport.

The V Team, a Community First (CF) project, has been shortlisted for a Cash for Communities Grant; officers have been promoting the project and aiming to gain as many votes as possible to help CF obtain funding. If successful, CF will be made aware by 7 October 2013.

Hayling Island

Hayling Island Community Network are planning to publish the completed community plan and share the results with members of the public and partner agencies.

The first Heritage Lottery bid for the Hayling Billy 50 Project was unsuccessful; therefore a second application has been submitted taking on board comments from the panel. A decision will be made within eight weeks.

Emsworth

The Community Team has been approached by the Emsworth Community Association who have requested assistance in recruiting a newly created post within the Centre and to help with some wider consultation in the area.

Waterlooville

Waterlooville Community Forum

Events team - The 'Waterlooville Events team' organised the 'Waterlooville Summer Fete' which was held in Jubilee Park on 18th August. The fete was very well attended by all ages of the community. The feedback from attendees was extremely positive with many asking for the date of the next one.

Community Planning - Havant Borough Council have been recording and analysing the responses collected from the Waterlooville Consultation surveys. 1,100 were completed by local residents. The results have been passed to the Waterlooville Forum. The issues highlighted from the surveys will be a focus of a meeting between residents and partners who will discuss the issues and negotiate actions to be taken and a Community plan will be produced.

Wecock Big Local (£1million Lottery Funding)

Wecock residents and supporting agencies who formed the 'Big Local group' in December have been busy over the summer months 'consulting' with local residents of all ages to find out what they feel the £1million should be spent on. The group attended several venues and events including the Acorn Community centre, Hart Plain Infants school fete, Woodcroft school fair, Living Waters Big lunch, Asda and WACA Community Awareness fun day and the Waterlooville Summer Fete. All of the ideas and suggestions are currently being collated and the priorities will be identified.

As requested by members of the group a 'Big Local' American supper took place at Living Waters Church as a way of attracting more local people to the project and as a way of existing members to get to know each other better.

Members of the 'Big Local' group continue to promote the project via word of mouth, email and through Social Media. Letter box mail shots have been requested by residents as another way of keeping them up to date. The website has proved to be a good source of information, plans to develop this site are ongoing www.webiglocal.org

Residents have decided that a 'project officer' should be employed as part of the '£20k Getting started grant', this money is in addition to the £1million Lottery funding. Interviews have just taken place, Community First HEH will act as the 'employer' and the project officer will be based at the Acorn Community centre.

Monthly meetings take place and are held at the Acorn Community Centre.

Community and Housing – Community Advice Day

The 'Community Advice day' which was held at the Plaza on Monday 16th September was a huge success. Over 150 Havant Borough residents attended to seek advice and guidance from a range of exhibitors about changes to their benefits including under occupancy (bedroom tax), debt, money advice and tenancy issues including rent arrears. Free guidance and support was on offer from a range of local services including Housing benefit, Guinness Hermitage, Citizens Advice Bureau, Community First, Southern Domestic Abuse Service, Southern Scottish Electric and the Waterlooville Food Bank. The aim of the event was to offer help and support to those families facing difficulties in today's economic climate. 14 residents won gift vouchers from local food stores such as Tesco, Asda and Iceland in the free prize draw. Children were kept entertained by Peppa Pig and a local children's entertainer. The event is the first of its kind but after receiving positive feedback from residents it has been decided that this event will return next year.

'Community Development in Waterlooville' Facebook page

The HBC 'Community Development in Waterlooville' Facebook has attracted another 163 new followers totalling 873 people. Interaction from members of the public has increased resulting in increased participation in local projects and events.

Age Concern

Members of the Cowplain community are being encouraged to attend monthly meetings at the Borrow Centre to participate in the 'Cowplain History project'. 50 members of the Community attended the first meeting. Old photos and maps of the area are being sourced in order to develop the project.

Leigh Park and Bedhampton

New Team Member

A new Community Officer for Leigh Park and Bedhampton was successfully appointed and joined the team in early August. Andy Wheeler has been settling in well, spending a majority of his time making contact with individuals and local groups in Leigh Park and Bedhampton. Andy used to work for HBC back in 08/09 overseeing a lottery funded play project within the Communities Team. He organised the running of events such as 'Play Day' at Staunton Country Park and co-ordinated play development projects such as the 'Adizone' on Hayling Island.

Community First Funding Panels

The Barncroft and West Leigh Community First Panel year three applications have now been uploaded onto the Community Development Foundation (CDF) website. The CDF should be distributing the £8,489 per ward shortly and will be liaising with each recipient on their grant allocations. The Community First panels will meet soon to discuss year three activities, and funding allocations for the final 2014/2015 year.

Leigh Park Community Forum

The last Forum meeting was held on 16th September where a discussion took place around the continuation of the group. A sub group met the following week to discuss how the group could improve and become a useful resource for local residents. It was felt at this sub group that the Forum had been in the same situation for over a year and had always struggled to engage residents. The Forum has now been suspended for the immediate future.

Leigh Park Community Led Planning

Consultation has now been extended until a greater amount of surveys have been completed. Approximately only 300 surveys have been completed and the group's aim is to try and obtain 1000. Plans to increase survey up take will include future engagement with groups, who already have hard copies of the survey and reaching out to the community with days at ASDA supermarket.

Making Space

A representative from the team will be sitting on the Making Space heritage project advisory group, 'On The Street Where We Live'. Advising on the

project's planned activities, helping the group to make relevant contacts and promote the project within the wider community.

Leigh Park Activity Challenge Enterprise (ACE)

The Leigh Park ACE group are aiming to obtain charitable status by March 2014 and officers are supporting with this.

Parchment Place

The play equipment at Parchment Place, which was due to be removed in May 2013, has now been removed.

West of Waterlooville Community Development

Children and Young People

Links have been made with Denmead Youth Club to engage with and support young people from the development. Youth Workers from HCC and the Youth Club will be visiting the development on a regular basis between October and Christmas, getting to know the young people and helping to arrange joint activities. The longer term aim is to use the Communicare minibus to take a group to the club on a weekly basis. Should the detached youth work be successful then further funding can be secured based on the ideas and needs of the young people.

Subject to securing external funding, agreement in principle has been given for a partnership with Action for Children (who run both Happy Valley/Denmead and Mill Hill/Waterlooville Children's Centres) to employ a Family Outreach Worker and Play Worker for the development. The outline aim is to provide weekly play sessions on both the Taylor Wimpey and Grainger sites, to work with those families needing additional support and linking them back to the activities being offered by the Centres. More details will be available once a suitable funding source has been identified and further discussions have taken place.

Halloween Event – Thursday 31st October

A Halloween event is planned for children and young people during half term. Winchester Theatre Royal will be hosting a Zombie workshop to teach children costume design and face painting as well putting together a short performance. This will be followed up by a taster session at a later date for those interested in joining the drama group in Denmead. Denmead Youth Club, Happy Valley and Mill Hill Children's Centres and Winchester City Council Neighbourhood Wardens will be also be supporting the event and it is hoped the activities will encourage a safe, trouble free Halloween.

Pride in Old Park Farm

The early problems of young people visiting the development on pushbikes have been resolved and residents have reported a quiet summer. The few isolated incidents that have occurred have been dealt with quickly and efficiently by the police to the satisfaction of residents.

Some repairs have been made to the Play Area but unfortunately the swing seat is still missing. There is a lot of litter and damage to the bench and bin which has been reported to Taylor Wimpey but has yet to be addressed. HBC are ready to inspect and adopt the play area, but this cannot take place until the repairs have been made and the site inspected.

Old Park Farm Residents Association

The AGM took place on September 12th 2013. The Management Committee (4 residents) and Committee members (7 residents, 3 vacancies) were elected, providing a good mix of skills and backgrounds and geographically covering the whole development. Residents present were given the opportunity to put forward their top three priorities and these are being firmed up to create a plan for the development.

Neighbourhood Watch

A number of interested residents have come forward and a pilot scheme is being established in Coulter Road and Sickle Way. Once this scheme is up and running it is hoped to roll it out into other areas on the development.

Portakabin

The Community Officer Portakabin is now fully installed (except water) and equipped and provides a base for the Development Officer, however as it is situated in the Bloor Compound it is not yet accessible to the public.

Household Waste

Discussions have begun between HBC & WCC. Should it be decided that a single authority take over the collections there would need to be some synergy over customer service and expectations as these are different for each authority (for example response times for missed bins). A meeting is due to take place soon.

Waterlooville Baptist Church Minister

Rev. John Thompson recently joined the Baptist Church as an Associate Minister with a focus on Families, Children and Youth Work, but also working half time as a Community Minister to the new Berewood Estate. The Community Officer and Minister have met and are already working on a number of initiatives to engage with the new residents of the Berewood development.

Public Art Programme

Three events took place throughout August and September, arranged by Clare Halstead. Activities included Free Running, Table Tennis, Story Telling and Drama Games, along with a photography project. Partners included Winchester Theatre Royal, The Spring, Motiv8, WCC, HBC & Radian and more. The events were well attended, particularly by children. Partners commented on the good sense of community and the positive attitude and

behaviour of the children. These events are the last to be funded through the Public Art Programme.

There is still funding for a further two commissions but following consultation with the Residents Association and with the issues of not being able to install work on the development until the land is adopted, it has been agreed that these commissions will be put on hold for the time being while further consultation with residents can be carried out. This also ensures the public art is spread across the whole development, including Phases 3 and 4.

Community Notice Board - Two notice boards were installed, one on The Green and one by the Play Area and a third one stored until the footpath through to the school on the Grainger site is complete. It was agreed by the Advisory Group the standard of workmanship on the Boards was not acceptable and a list of required works has been identified. The Boards were collected September 17th for repairs and should be reinstalled within 6-8 weeks.

WoW Pod versatile meeting space - The WoW Pod is complete and is being stored in Brighton (at the artists studio). Taylor Wimpey will not permit the Pod on site until the land is adopted therefore an interim location is needed. An agreement has been reached with Cowplain Secondary School to locate the WoW Pod near the Business Centre with the a clear understanding that the Pod was created primarily for the enjoyment of the West of Waterlooville residents and must be accessible for wider community groups and events. The school site is busy and overlooked with activities on site until 10pm and this arrangement means the Pod will be used day and night by a variety of groups and ages. This is a temporary arrangement until the Western Open Space is adopted or other sites become available and can be reviewed at any time.

Taylor Wimpey are holding an exhibition on the revised plans for the Phase 5 Development of Old Park Farm on **Wednesday 16 October 3.00 - 7:30pm** at Basepoint, Waterberry Drive, Waterlooville. Taylor Wimpey have been given outline planning permission for employment/industrial units in this area but wish to submit a revised planning application to include 103 residential dwellings.