

Cabinet Lead Report – 22nd February

Councillor Gwen Robinson - Cabinet Lead for Affordable Housing, Communities and CIL

Community relations, including sport, leisure and play parks

Get Up and Go

Officers have mapped existing physical activity offers within the borough, highlighting a vast number of opportunities available to adults to get more active. Resident feedback highlighted a need for a central location to find local activities and officers are working with the Communications team, planning how this database can be promoted to residents.

Using the mapping, officers are organising Get Up and Go, community based physical activities for those with health conditions, in areas of need. January saw the launch of Beginners Yoga at Waterlooville Community Centre and Walking Netball at Horizon Leisure Centre, Havant. Both activities are going well, with the return of participants weekly, including 3 women having not played Netball for 60 years.

In February there is an Introduction to Walking Football starting at Front Lawn Community Hub and an 8 week Tai Chi for health courses starting Tuesday 14th February at Waterlooville Community centre. Plans for the coming months include a Lawn bowls course, working with Waterlooville Bowls Club and a Dementia friendly football session working with Right at Home Havant and Horizon Leisure.

Wellbeing Walks

The coordination of Wellbeing Walks (previously Walking for Health) are returning to the HBC Community Team, after being coordinated by EHDC in recent years. There are currently just 5 walks in the borough and the Physical Activity Project Officer will be developing this provision and recruiting new volunteers to run walks where none are presently taking place, including in Waterlooville.

Horizon Leisure - Community Health and Wellbeing Team Update

January saw 351 attendances to Horizon's Health and Wellbeing classes, a 129% increase on December's attendances.

The Health Referral Scheme continues to grow, with 36 new referrals from medical practitioners in January. The top 3 reasons for referral being Arthritis, Joint Injury, Lower Back Pain. 68% of referrals are for the Havant site which is a larger proportion than seen in previous months.

The Horizon team have also introduced some new activities. This includes a Long-Term Conditions Swim (Dementia Friendly) which offers the support of a health referral instructor and a swim instructor to provide both pool based strengthening exercises and swim technique advice. This provides an opportunity to increase physical activity, socialise and improve water confidence.

A Falls prevention; Steady and Strong class is delivered in partnership with Southern Health NHS. Focusing on strength, balance, and co-ordination this helps reduce the impact on the NHS and individuals. The class is fully booked and another class is planned to start in March.

A first Tea Dance at Waterlooville Leisure Centre was delivered to attract new audiences to the centre and broaden the physical activity offer. The first dance was a huge success seeing 55 faces through the door. Another tea dance is planned on the 22nd March.

Springwood Avenue Play Area

Community consultation is now complete for the refurbishment of the play area at Springwood Avenue. Officers are now in the process of inviting contractors to view the site and consider their submissions. The tender pack is being drawn up and it is anticipated that this will be published in February. The budget for this playpark is £95k, funded by the department for levelling up and S106. Work is expected to be complete prior to the 2023 summer school holidays.

Front Lawn and Bidbury Mead Play Areas

The sport and leisure team are evaluating tender submissions for both these play areas and it is anticipated that contracts will be awarded at the start of w/c 13/03. Officers are pleased that there have been different contractors submit for both these sites meaning that regardless of who is awarded the contracts, they will be different for each site. The expectation is that works are to be completed by the half-term school Holidays in May. The value of each project is £113,000, funded in full by CIL.

Spencers Field Play Area Refurbishment

Officers have now secured Community Infrastructure Levy funding from the Neighbourhood portion to ensure a fully funded project. Working in partnership with The Spencers Field Community Group (SFCG), officers will shortly be undertaking community engagement through working with the Research and Insight team.

Feedback from engagement will influence the specification for works to ensure that new provision meets the needs of the community, officers will tender for the requirement once a specification is in place.

The total project budget available for refurbishment is £85,000 and it is anticipated that works will take place summer 2023.

Purbrook Health Sports Pitch

Officers are instructing the review of a feasibility study conducted in 2014 to resolve drainage issues at Purbrook Health Sport Pitch, to understand the best use of historic section 106 funding allocated for this specific purpose. Conversations with the Purbrook Cricket Club, English Cricket Board (ECB) and Hampshire FA have taken place to establish the best way forward for this multi sport site and how to maximise it's potential. Fixing the drainage issue will enable both cricket and football fixtures to take place, thereby aiding goals to increase the quantity and quality of provision as per the Council's playing pitch strategy.

Youth Justice Project – Your Goal

The youth justice funded project, Your Goal, taking place at Front Lawn is underway. So far, the number of formal referrals from partners has been slower than anticipated in the first couple of weeks of being live. In response to this the project team are considering opening up to self-referrals, to increase the project reach, as long as they target individuals from a Havant postcode.

Link Up Youth Hub

Link Up Youth Hub is currently supporting 106 young people from across the borough predominantly through referrals from Havant Job Centre with others coming through partner organisations, county council and word of mouth.

48 young people are currently being supported on an intensive caseload. This means the young people have longer appointments times with goal setting plans which allow them to access 1+ hour per week support from the hub.

To date, 29 young people have been supported into paid employment. Roles include construction, teaching assistants and hospital porters.

Throughout February we are joined by partner organisations to provide wraparound support and opportunities to young people attending the hub. This includes:

- Community First volunteering team to encourage young people to register for volunteering opportunities to gain experience, improve confidence and enrich their lives.
- Princes Trust Get into Retail with M&S to support young people with an aspiration to work in retail move closer to paid employment and gain soft skills to support employability.
- Safe New Futures to promote their virtual wellbeing course which uses CBT techniques to support improvement of mental health alongside goal setting to create personal aspirations.

- Motiv8 to provide 121 wellbeing, goal setting sessions with 11 young people from the youth hub. Increasing their ability in a range of areas including sleep health, addiction, sexual health, confidence building and communication skills.
- National Careers Service to offer practical support around CV writing and interview techniques.

We have set some targets for the first quarter of the month and by March would like to see 120 young people using the service, 50 young people moving onto paid employment and at least 50 young people being supported on an intensive caseload to move towards their next step.

Link Up Leigh Park Programme

Youth Engagement Survey / Youth Forum

A full report of Phase 1 of the Youth Engagement Survey has been written, which includes findings, learning for future engagement and steps being taken to develop a Youth Forum for young people (aged 16-24) living in Havant. This report has been circulated to Leigh Park councillors, relevant portfolio holders and programme partners.

Phase 2 of the survey is underway. Outreach activities are booked to promote the survey and directly speak with young people at the following locations: Link Up Youth Hub, Off the Record Young Carers Group, Motiv8's Lighthouse Project and HSDC SEND Hub. This phase is due to close on 17th March for analysis.

Following the closure of Phase 2, plans are in development to hold an initial Youth Forum session with interested young people to set expectations for the group and do training sessions that will focus on skills like leadership, confidence and project proposal. The aim is that a sustainable Youth Forum will be established to invite partners, councillors and officers to work together with local young people to co-create potential projects that will benefit the area.

Partnership with University of Portsmouth – Participatory Insight Programme

The University of Portsmouth has completed elements of the research project embedded within the programme evaluation. Interviews have now been conducted with 11 organisations and 6 focus groups have been completed with 15-16-year-olds with support from secondary schools in Leigh Park.

Interviews with businesses are nearing completion and plans are in place to conduct focus groups with 16-24-year-olds. Both HSDC and Link Up Youth Hub will be supporting with delivery.

An interim report is due to be produced by the university at the end of February 2023 with particular focus on themes/patterns found from interviews with local organisations.

Freeport

Formally approved by Government in December, the Freeport is still looking to appoint a permanent Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Interviews are scheduled for the 17th February. In the meantime, the Solent LEP continues to provide support for progressing towards delivery of the Freeport Business Case, although some areas of work have slowed pending the appointment of the CEO. There is still a significant amount of work to do to finalise many aspects of the Freeport's operation, including how the use of retained business rates is prioritised, phased and how supported projects are financed. Cllr. Gwen Robinson is HBC's representative on the Freeport Board and we continue to be closely involved in these discussions to ensure that HBC's priorities and interests are promoted.

Havant Community Lottery

The Havant Lottery currently has 107 registered Good Causes, 690 players are purchasing tickets and £201,574 has been raised for local Good Causes since 2018. The next Community Fund round takes place in April 2023, registered Good Causes will be able to apply for up to £2,000 to support their community projects and activities.

Armed Forces

The Armed Forces Stakeholder group is growing, 56 businesses, charities and community groups are signed up to attend meetings and receive updates.

Partners are keen to work together and share information to better support the Armed Forces community. We will be meeting with officers on Thorney Island and also the local Reservist branch to see what the issues are and how we can support in the future. The next Stakeholder meeting takes place on 26th June at the Plaza.

We currently hold a silver ERS (Employer's Recognition Scheme) award, we are applying for a gold award. The deadline for application is 15th March 2023. We are currently working through the application and supporting evidence. The Gold Award is the highest badge of honour for employers who support those who serve in the Armed Forces, veterans, and their families.

Havant Dementia Festival

Officers from the community team are leading and organising Havant's first ever Dementia Festival. We will be working closely with members of the Havant Dementia Network and Dementia Friendly Hampshire. The event takes place on Friday 16th June, 10am – 2pm at the Plaza.

This free event will provide an opportunity for people living with Dementia, their carers, friends and families to seek advice and support from local charities and organisations.

There will be a main 'marketplace' with stalls and information stands, free advice from a legal/health professional, musical entertainment specifically aimed at people living with Dementia, their families, carers, and friends. Arts and craft sessions as well as physical activity sessions run throughout the day, lunch and refreshments will be provided.

Ukraine

Drop-in sessions

Havant Borough Council will open its doors once again to welcome Ukrainian families and their hosts. The free drop-in session will take place on Tuesday 7 February between 11am and 2pm at the Plaza, offering face-to-face advice and support.

The Council's Community, Housing and Benefits team will be joined by representatives from the Job Centre, Health Service, Citizens' Advice and the Rural Refugee Network. Assistance from Havant and East Hants MIND and the NHS will also be available. To make the session feel 'homely and friendly' Ukrainian visitors are encouraged to bring their favourite homemade Ukraine dish to share. Pizza and refreshments will also be available.

36 people (5 children and 31 adults) attended the drop-in session that took place in December. There are currently 90 hosts, 65 Ukraine families (124 people in total) living in the Havant Borough area.

Bulletin

An extra Ukraine Bulletin was sent out just before Christmas and the January one has just been sent out. As ever this included relevant information alongside the invitation to join us on 7th February. These bulletins have been translated, the first into Russian and Ukrainian and the second only into Ukrainian. This was on the advice of the Ukrainian community who state that there is no one who would solely speak Russian. This is helpful as it cuts our costs.

Art Drop-in

Working initially with The Spring, Officers are investigating having an 'Art Pop-up event' that will start at The Spring but move around the Borough. This will be for the Ukrainian families to exhibit their art and cultural heritage. This is to support our welcome of our guests for the last year. There are likely to be other events, but these are still in discussion.

General

Officers continue to work with Housing and Homelessness to support those living with hosts in the Borough. We have had 15 more guests arrive during November/December taking our number up to 126.

ESOL

Officers are hoping to facilitate extra ESOL courses to enhance those offered by HSDC. A questionnaire is being created to send to all those who are living in the Borough to hopefully get these going by the end of March 2023

Christmas:

All works to remove the Christmas trees and other Christmas items throughout the Borough have now taken place. Officers will work with the Christmas Decorators to ensure all is in place for Christmas 2023. It is likely we will need to buy new lights for the trees as many of those taken down had been cut through or their battery packs removed.

Events:

There are a number of new event requests coming into the Council. We are already receiving Easter events and requests for the Coronation, including road closures. Officers across the Council are working across teams to align all processes.

New Developments

The recruitment to the Community New Development Officer post is now live. The closing date for applications is 7th February.

Work continues to support 4 major new developments across the Borough. Castle Avenue, Warblington is now complete other than the S278 works. Bartons Road has completed ground works and highway access but is yet to start building houses on site, the reserve matters application was granted at Planning Committee subject to S106 agreement and East Hampshire application. Lower Road, Sinah Lane and Forty Acres continue with their build and show homes are now open for all. All 50 dwellings are in build for Lower Road with the foundations for the final dwellings recently being implemented. The first 5 first occupancies moved in last year and the next 6 are likely to move in around late February. Sinah Lane has 72 dwellings in build out of 195 with the first occupancy expected in March.

Community Safety

The multi-agency “Partnership Action Group” featuring Council, Police, Youth Providers and Education colleagues met in January and the following areas were identified for the multi-agency approach.

Havant Town Centre – anti social behaviour by groups

Outreach work continues in the Havant area with groups being worked with and encouraged to move on. Y-Services continue to liaise with the Meridian Centre security regarding this.

ASB in Mengham town centre inc. damage to Public Toilets, Hayling beachfront.

Complaints continued to be received regarding a group of up to six people sitting in the doorway of a closed café. HBC Neighbourhood Quality Officers have engaged with the group and to possibly disrupt activities. Damage to HBC public toilets on the sea front continues. They are all reported online to the police. Y-Services will continue to visit on a Wednesday.

Waterlooville Town Centre – youth anti-social behaviour, damage, thefts, and drugs

Reports are being received about groups of young people congregating in Waterlooville Town Centre despite the cold weather. Reports of up to 25 11- to 17-year-olds on roofs in the town centre, with a fire having been set on the roof of Shoezone in London Road.

Reports that 3 windows have been broken since the new year. Y-Services are in the area on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays and will continue to engage where possible.

The Police and Council Teams are meeting with business owners and options such as drone and CCTV surveillance operations are under consideration

Graffiti.

The London Road area and surrounds are being blighted by graffiti with tags Chase and Turp. Best efforts are being made to remove the tags through contact with the respective land owners and enquiries are continuing to trace those responsible

Fly tipping investigations

Current fly tipping investigations are being undertaken in relation to waste being left outside of bottle banks across the borough.

Affordable Housing delivery

Q3, till the end of December 2022, saw a confirmed additional 24 affordable new homes across 3 sites in the borough, Castle Avenue Denvilles, Forty Acres Bedhampton, and Woodcroft Farm/ Catherington Park in the Wecock area of Cowplain. All have been delivered by VIVID housing Association.

Bedroom size	Shared Ownership	Social Rent	Affordable Rent	TOTAL

1BF			10	10
2BF			4	4
2BH	2		4	6
3BH	4			4
TOTAL	6		18	24

This takes our current total for 22/23 (Q's 1, 2, and 3) to 63 new dwellings.

VIVID are forecasting a further 156 potential completions in Q4, which initially included 94 new homes on the delayed Colt site. However, this development in Havant has suffered from ongoing delays, most recently the requirement to get the NHBC 10 Year warranty signed off, plus ongoing Highway issues concerning the creation of a cycle way. Recent discussions suggest that 63 of the expected 94 units may be able to be handed over to VIVID and be ready for letting around 01/03/2023.

On the 25th of January 2023 our Hampshire Home Choice scheme advertised 18 new homes across 2 sites, 14 at 40 Acres in Bedhampton & 4 at Castle Avenue in Warblington, all those properties are ready to let before the end of February 2023.

Brent House

This new project was able to welcome it's first residents just before Christmas, and 17 single people were nominated, accepted, and moved into this temporary accommodation in the centre of Leigh Park.

We have 29 units the breakdown is as follows:

17 Single units

1 Mobility unit

11 family units

Work is ongoing by Two Saints to have all other rooms/flats completed to allow the scheme to be fully operational in the next few weeks.

Housing Association Liaison

Regular meetings are scheduled in at Senior level with The Guinness Partnership as the organisation that we transferred our stock to under Large Scale Voluntary Transfer (LSVT).

The latest meeting was held on 01/11/2022 and subjects discussed included:

1. Housing Support Grant spending opportunities.
2. Housing First Pilot

3. Update on incoming regs for fitting of smoke and CO detectors & discussion on the challenging timescales on these.
4. Vacant property & the lack of information from Guinness when advertising properties through Hampshire Home Choice.
5. What support does TGP offer their tenants re rent arrears, cost of living rises etc

All meetings for 2023 are now scheduled in with the first being on 24/02/2023

Hampshire Home Choice (HHC)

Current active applications to Havant Borough Council through Hampshire Home Choice as at 03/02/2023:

		Band 1	Band 2	Band 3	Band 4	Total
	1	1	94	696	49	840
	2	2	36	545	10	593
	3	2	22	337	5	366
	4	1	11	54	2	68
	5			3		3
Total		6	163	1635	66	1870

Ukraine

Number of Ukrainian households in temporary accommodation - January 2023: **0**

There are 44 hosts arrangements equating to 97 Ukraine individual family members (latest figure available December 2022).

The council is working with 9 families who are actively looking for private rent.

Latest Homelessness interventions

People placed in out of area accommodation – **48**

People placed in Havant Borough Council area – **27**

Total figure of people in temporary accommodation: **75**

The total figure of 75 is made up of:

People placed into Self Contained accommodation – **56**

People placed into accommodation with shared facilities - **7**

B&B – people placed into Bed and Breakfast accommodation – **12**

Allocation of neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy to projects and other developer contributions expenditure

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

Our public facing Exacom System (which we use to monitor Developer Contributions) provides up-to-date information on CIL and S106 income and expenditure and can be viewed via this link: <https://pfm.exacom.co.uk/havant/>.

We are however pleased to report on the following new Neighbourhood CIL Spending Allocations:

Exacom Project Ref.	Name and Description	Date Funding Approved	Amount
252	Spencers Field Play Area – The project will refurbish the current play area within Spencers Field. The current provision was installed in the 80's/90's and has now all been removed due to its condition and being no longer economically viable to replace, meaning that there is no provision for play within Spencers Field	18/01/2023	£60,000*
263	Eastoke Corner Footpath Improvements – To improve the footpath on the Eastoke Plaza on Hayling island by laying a permeable resin bound stone on the existing structure, which will improve the slip resistance, lower future maintenance costs, stop the footpath from being barriered off when unsafe and improve the visual aesthetics	23/01/2023	£20,000

* Includes £30K of funds from the CIL Emsworth Neighbourhood Portion which has been supported by the Emsworth Neighbourhood Forum