

**Cabinet Lead for Communities and Housing – Councillor Gwen Robinson****Affordable Housing delivery**

**Q1 23/24 has seen a good start to the new build affordable housing delivery in the borough. Vivid anticipated handover of 52 new homes up to 31/05/2023 however the final total has come in at 36 units over 3 sites:**

*Elm Tree Place (the Colt International site) in New Lane, Havant*

*St Thomas' Mead (Manor Farm site) in Bedhampton*

*Woodcroft Farm, Cowplain.*

These properties include:

*Social Rent= 29*

*Affordable Rent= 4*

*Shared Ownership= 3*

**TOTAL 36**

**Pipeline of new build affordable homes**

The new development at the Pebble Walk (Sinah Lane) site in the south of Hayling Island is now moving along and will see its first affordable homes handed over to the Registered Provider Aster before the end of July 2023. The first 5 new Affordable Rent homes will be advertised on Hampshire Home Choice week beginning 10/07/2023, and marketing is ongoing for the Shared Ownership Homes.



*Figure 1 Shared Ownership Homes-Pebble Walk  
Homes-Pebble Walk*



*Figure 2 Affordable Rent  
Homes-Pebble Walk*

Other ongoing development sites that will continue to deliver new build affordable housing during 2023 across the borough through VIVID are:

Harbour View- Bedhampton,

Woodcroft Farm- Cowplain,

Manor Farm- Bedhampton.

Once planning approval has been gained VIVID hope to deliver another 72 affordable homes throughout 2024/2025 on the Dunsbury Way site in Leigh Park. These will be a mixture of 1- & 2-bedroom apartments all to be let as Social Rent.

### **Homelessness**

Demand for homelessness services remains significantly high.

As at the end of June 2023 there were a total of 89 households in interim (emergency or temporary) accommodation provided by the council.

<b>Accommodation type</b>	
B&B inside our borough	3
B&B outside our borough	10
Self-contained inside our borough	13
Self-contained outside our borough	36
Supported accommodation inside our borough	27
Supported accommodation outside our borough	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>89</b>

### **Housing Association Liaison**

Regular in-person quarterly catch-up meetings are held with The Guinness Partnership, our largest provider of social housing with over 4000 properties across our borough.

Meetings are attended by Cllr Gwen Robinson, manager representatives from the Housing Services team, Clare Easton-Regional Head of Customer Service, Ian Joynson- Executive Director of Asset Management, both from TGP, and enable discussion relating to both strategic and operational matters.

The latest on 26/05/2023 covered topics including:

- TGP Void Standard prior to re-let

- Provision of carpets
- Pets' policy
- Letting policy regarding those with current/spent convictions
- Update on damp, mould, and repair cases.
- TGP Management Move policy

Next meeting currently scheduled for 24/08/2023.

### **Hampshire Home Choice (HHC)**

Current active applications to Havant Borough Council through Hampshire Home Choice as at 06/07/2023:

	Band 1	Band 2	Band 3	Band 4	Grand Total
1	1	91	682	49	823
2		34	541	13	588
3	2	21	314	6	343
4		15	57	1	73
5		1	2		3
Grand Total	3	162	1596	69	1830

### **BEAM Project- Helping residents access safe housing through partnership**

As part of a comprehensive programme addressing housing need and homelessness, Havant Borough Council has undertaken an inspiring trial supporting those in temporary accommodation to secure permanent housing.

The council is working in partnership with BEAM - a charity that assist the homeless through vocational training and support. The one-year trial, project covers two key areas:

- Assisting people in temporary accommodation find a permanent and sustainable home by creating a fund-raising campaign to pay for their rental deposit, first month's rent, moving van and furniture. The organisation also supports individuals to sustain their tenancies for 12 months after they first move into a property.
- Helping our Ukrainian guests to find employment as they settle into homes in the borough.

The latest monitoring meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> of July 2023 reported that:

- 34 residents have been referred to Beam
- 28 have completed the sign-up form and engaged with Beam
- 8 clients have assessments booked throughout July, with a further 5 currently booked for August

- 3 clients have successfully joined Beam and will start house hunting.

This exciting housing project is just one of many the council is involved in. For example, the council also secures supported accommodation for vulnerable adults by working closely with the charity Hope into Action.

The council's partnership approach represents one of the elements identified in the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities' positive assessment of the council's housing function and the progress it continues to make.

### **Housing Support Fund**

This fund is £140,000 for 2023/24. HBC has discretion to support households with exceptional housing costs. The grant guidance states that in exceptional cases of genuine emergency and where existing housing schemes do not meet the exceptional need, support for housing costs can be met. The Capita Revenues & Benefits service will administer the fund. The application process should be finalised before the end of July.

### **Community relations, including sport, leisure and play parks**

#### **Grow it, Cook it, Eat it**

This project is underway now and whilst in its infancy it is starting to take shape. By the end of the week it is hoped the ground will be cleared ready for the next stage of building sheds and green houses. Officers are working with the Payback team to clear the land, Oarsome Chance to build the sheds and planters and are contacting the community to get volunteers.

#### **Springwood Community Orchard**

No update from June report

#### **Havant Dementia Festival**

The Festival took place at the Plaza last month, 150 people attended. The day consisted of a good range of information stands, free legal advice, guest speakers, live music/singing, physical activity sessions, arts/crafts and poetry, defibrillator and Love to move session and lunch.

We received lots of positive feedback, here are some of the comments:

- 'this event has given me the strength to carry on'
- I feel pleased that I have found a care home for my mother
- I wasn't aware of the support available, coming here today has been really useful and thank you for lunch. I was able to sit and eat and talk to people who are in a similar situation to me.

The next event will be called 'Havant Dementia Information Fayre' and will take place on Friday 28th June 2024. We plan to continue working in partnership with the Havant Dementia Network and Dementia Friendly Hampshire

### **Ukraine drop-in session**

Our family drop-in sessions for Ukrainian refugees and hosts living in the Borough of Havant continue. The next one takes place on **Tuesday 18th July** between 11am and 2pm at the Plaza.

Face to face advice and support will be on offer from the Community and Housing team, Health service, Connect to Support, Citizen Advice and more.

Refreshments will be on offer.

### **Ukraine Integration Support**

### **Two Colours Choir**

There are two performances of the Choir in the next few weeks. One is on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July, 7.30 at the Spring and the other is on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July at 3pm at the Plaza. Officers would welcome attendance from both Members and colleagues.

### **Havant Borough Community Lottery**

No update from June report

### **Armed Forces**

ERS (Employers Recognition Scheme) award

We submitted a gold ERS (Employers recognition Scheme) award to the MOD early this year. The application was assessed, panel members have approved our application and have awarded us with a GOLD award. This is a huge achievement for the Council, it proves that we actively support the Armed Forces community. The leader will receive a letter of congratulations from the Minister of state shortly. There will be an award ceremony on board HMS Warrior on 5th October 2023.

Stakeholder group

The Havant Borough Armed Forces Stakeholder group meeting took place on 26th June at the Plaza. This meeting was attended by 16 representatives from various charities, community groups, Housing providers, Hampshire Constabulary, local businesses, Veteran groups, Community First, Health, Hampshire County Council, Deputy Lieutenant of Hampshire and The Mayor of Havant.

#### Key subjects discussed:

- The Court Diversion Scheme - supporting Veterans with mental health needs
- The Forces Connect app - a free app that lists support for Veterans and their families (20,000+ downloads so far)
- Hampshire Constabulary - need support with signposting and funds to help house people during out of hours
- Drug and alcohol issues
- Domestic and sexual abuse amongst the Armed Forces community
- Mental health support for Veterans
- Local Veteran support groups
- Future Armed Forces events
- Terms of reference – members feel the group needs to meet quarterly to discuss key issues instead of twice a year

#### Events

As part of Armed Forces week, we attended the Hampshire Constabulary Armed Forces event in Netley. This involved a short service in the memorial garden followed by several guest speakers.

We held a flag raising event at the Plaza, this was led by the Mayor of Havant. Attendees were invited to join the Mayor for tea and cake afterwards.

Falklands Memorial Day was commemorated in Havant, with the unveiling of a memorial bench in the Meridian Shopping Centre, followed by a wreath laying and a minute's silence at the War Memorial.

#### Armed Forces staff support group

The group will meet again on 29th August, to talk, share information and seek advice. This group is open to any employee who has served or has links with the Armed Forces community.

#### Partnerships

Havant Borough Council have been invited to be a member of the Solent Armed Forces Covenant Partnership Board. We attend monthly meetings and will work closely with Southampton, Portsmouth, Gosport and IOW Council.

#### **Events**

No update from June report

**New Developments**

No update from June report

**Get Up & Go**

The Get Up and Go project continues to build rapidly with increasing numbers of activities running, people participating and recognition of the project across the whole borough.

Most of the 20 weekly sessions offered are fully booked or have very little capacity remaining. Newly launched summer stand up paddle boarding, coastal rowing, open water swimming and women's only boxing sessions have been particular recent highlights, attracting those living with a range of health conditions, improving their confidence and allowing those most inactive residents the chance to increase their physical activity levels. An average of 170-200 people per week are attending an activity.

**Horizon Wellbeing Hub @ The Meridian Centre**

The Horizon Wellbeing Hub opened on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023 and performance to be monitored by leisure officers ongoing.

This innovative project will provide health checks, small group exercise classes and 1-2-1 support for people in becoming more active in a welcoming and friendly environment. It aims to encourage residents who wouldn't usually engage with physical activity within a traditional leisure centre or gym environment.

**Tennis Court Refurbishment and Management**

Refurbishment of Cowplain Recreation Ground tennis courts will be completed during July. This is the last of the refurbishments due, following LTA funding of £218,000.

National Tennis Association (NTA) have been appointed to manage the HBC owned tennis court sites across the borough following the refurbishment programme.

NTA will manage court bookings and maximise tennis opportunities and will generate an income from user bookings to manage the maintenance and operations of the courts. This will provide an annual sinking fund to HBC to be retained towards the future costs of court refurbishments.

After the first three weeks of operation, NTA have over 80 annual pass members registered across the borough.

**Springwood Avenue, Stakes, Play Area Refurbishment**

Contractors, Kompan Ltd have been awarded the contract for the £90,000 Springwood Avenue project and are due to begin work on site 24<sup>th</sup> July, as funded by DLUCH levelling up parks fund.

**Front Lawn, Leigh Park and Bidbury Mead, Bedhampton Play Area Refurbishments**

Works have been completed at Front Lawn Rec and the new £110,000 play area is now open for use. An opening event is planned for the 24<sup>th</sup> July.

Works have been completed at Bidbury Mead to remove the existing equipment and site levelled by Norse. Contractors Proludic can now progress installation of the new £115,000 play area, to be completed by end of summer.

Both projects funded by neighbourhood CIL.

**Spencers Field, Emsworth Play Area Refurbishment**

The tender has closed and contractor, Kompan, chosen to deliver the new £85,000 CIL Neighbourhood CIL funded play area. The project aims to be completed in Autumn 2023.

**Eastoke Corner, Hayling Island Refurbishment**

Community consultation for the refurbishment of the Playpark, MUGA and outdoor gym at Eastoke corner is now complete and the tender for a contractor to build will become live this month. The £200k project is funded by Neighbourhood CIL.

**Hayling Island Dirt Jumps Refurbishment**

Community consultation is live through the citizen lab tool throughout July, for feedback on proposals to provide purpose-built pump track style cycle provision in place of the current dirt jumps, which are no longer fit for purpose.

The project has an available budget of £80,000 from UKSPF.

**Waterlooville Leisure Centre Extension Project**

No update from last report.

**Playing Pitch Strategy Review**

No update from last report.

**Emsworth Pavilion Refurbishment**

No update from last report.



## **Youth Justice Project – Your Goal**

No update from last report.

## **Havant Health and Wellbeing Partnership**

No update from June report

## **Community Safety**



## **Making your business a Safe Space - We Stand Together**

**Join the Safe Space Network and make your community a safer place by tackling issues of violence against women and girls (VAWG).**

As part of the We Stand Together Project, Portsmouth Abuse and Rape Counselling Services (PARCS) is offering free training aimed at any business the public can go in to help make our community a safer place and tackle violence against women and girls.

We Stand Together is funded by the Home Office's 'Safer Streets 4' programme, alongside Hampshire Office Police Crime Commissioner (OPCC) as part of the 'Solent Stands Together' programme that is working across Portsmouth, Havant, Fareham, Gosport and Isle of Wight.

The We stand together (Safe Space network) is a direct response to local feedback from women and girls who identified a need for safe places they can walk into, report issues and receive support when they are experiencing sexual violence and harassment in and around public spaces including visitor attractions, shopping areas, parks and hospitality hot spots.

In signing up, you will be joining a network of venues who want to make Portsmouth, Isle of Wight, and Southeast Hampshire a safer place to be for their customers, clients, staff, volunteers and the wider community. The onsite training focuses on how to respond to sexual violence/harassment in public spaces using the Bystander Intervention Model. While your workplace/venue may have already had similar

training recently on the Bystander Model, PARCS are sexual violence/domestic abuse specialists and the We Stand Together training focuses on this aspect.

It is appreciated that certain venues may struggle to ensure their staff are able to access this training, whilst remaining operational and may require backfill staff to cover absence. The training is approximately 2.5 hours in duration. If this is a potential issue, there is accessible financial assistance available.

In signing up you will receive your welcome pack which will contain relevant information and documentation, on successful completion of the training your We Stand Together sticker for your business's window will be posted out to you along with We Stand Together badges for staff.

There will also be an online networking forum accessible for venues that have completed the training. This forum aims to create a space to network, share information and allow venues to support each other with bystander intervention queries. If you are interested in attending, these details will be provided once training is completed.

If you have any questions or queries, please contact Helin at PARCS on 07989731603 or [helin-khan@family-action.org.uk](mailto:helin-khan@family-action.org.uk), or email [Julie.ponton@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:Julie.ponton@portsmouthcc.gov.uk)