

Cabinet Lead for Communities and Housing –

Councillor Gwen Robinson

1. Community relations, including sport, leisure and play parks

1.1 Active Wellbeing Strategy

A strategic steering group of physical activity, health and community partners has been set up to provide oversight and support in the development of a new Active Wellbeing Strategy for Havant. The steering group includes representation from the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Integrated Care Board, Community First, Horizon Leisure, Energise Me and Hampshire Public Health. The group will meet for the first time in early January 2024.

The group will enable the development of a strategy focused on providing long term sustainable active wellbeing (physical activity, sport, leisure) services and infrastructure in Havant that meets local need. It aims to provide a direction for improving health outcomes for residents and outline an approach to how moving more can contribute to wider local strategic objectives, including, but not limited to health, economy, crime and safety and the environment.

1.2 Get Up and Go

The physical activity project officer has been planning the 2024 season, using evaluation and feedback from the public to shape the programme. Yoga, pilates, walking netball, women's boxing and multi sports sessions will continue, along with the return of popular summer activities; lawn bowls, paddle boarding, coastal rowing, open water swimming and Nordic walking. New activities for 2024 include badminton, learning to swim (with Horizon), a Cowplain falls prevention exercise class, Canoeing, dance and Tai Chi.

The Wellbeing walks continue to grow in popularity, with all 5 current walks seeing new people attend weekly. All current leaders were invited to a Wellbeing Walk leader thank you event, celebrating the time and efforts given up by these wonderful volunteers, many of

which have been leading walks for 20 years! Within 3 days of the event, new walk leaders have been inspired to launch 4 new walks with a further 2 being planned. This now gives Havant 9 walks weekly.

1.3 Eastoke Corner Playpark Refurbishment

Six submissions for the refurbishment of Eastoke corner play area have recently been evaluated and Proludic produced the winning submission. The whole site will use an investment of £200k CIL funding to remove all old equipment and replace with new. This will include separated areas for play and exercise as well as a new enclosed multi use games area. Work is scheduled to commence in early 2024 with the aim being completed by the Easter Holidays.

In addition to the play area refurbishments the Community Payback team have carried out some clearance work from the existing landscaped area that borders the current facilities. The Civil Engineering and Landscaping Team have reinstated the existing sleeper beds and the ground has been prepared and new planting has been instated. The plants were provided, for free, by the Woodlands Trust.

1.4 New Ring at Waterlooille Boxing Club

The Community Team were successful in obtaining £5000 from the Police and Crime Commission's Emerging Needs Fund. This will pay for a new, up to standard boxing ring to be installed at the Waterlooille Boxing Club. Officers will take this opportunity to partner with the club to deliver some boxing programmes that aim to reduce antisocial behaviour and serious violent crime in the area. These will be aimed to begin early in the new year.

1.5 Chess tables at Waterlooille and Springwood Avenue Parks

The Community Team were successful in securing £5000 of DLUCH funding to procure some outdoor chess tables to be installed in both Jubilee and Springwood Avenue parks. The tables have been

purchased and will be installed upon their arrival. The team will be working with the charity Chess in Schools on their initiatives to increase participation in chess. This will serve to promote the new tables and encourage usage.

1.6 Spencers Field Play Area Refurbishment

The play area at Spencers Field, Emsworth, is due to complete its £85,000 refurbishment ahead of Christmas (weather dependant). The project is funded by a combination of Neighbourhood CIL and community group fundraising.

1.7 Havant Community Lottery

The Havant Lottery currently has 110 registered Good Causes and 741 players are purchasing tickets. Over £238,000 has been raised for local Good Causes since 2018. Since 25th November, nine cash prizes have been won by supporters on the weekly draw, totalling £325.

The next Super draw takes place on the 23rd December, supporters purchasing tickets will be in with a chance to win £3,000 cash.

Nine applications were received from registered Good Causes of the Havant Lottery in the autumn Community Fund round. The panel have assessed each application and have decided to award funds to all of the projects, they include:

Final Straw Foundation - £1,999 (moulds for an environmental project)

Havant and East Hants MIND - £2,000 (furniture)

Leigh Park Christmas Grotto - £2,000 (Christmas Grotto running costs)

Langstone Pilot Gig Rowing Club - £2,000 (shelter)

PAWARA - £1,300 (newsletter)

The Leigh Park and Warren Park Community Panto Players - £500 (LED lighting & cables)

Cowplain Bowling Club – £1,000 (replacement benches)

WAVE – £2,000 (contribution to the WAVE music festival)

HICCA – £2,000 (contribution towards the Chit Chat Club and the Meet, Eat and Heat project)

Good causes are able to apply for up to £2,000 to support their community projects and activities. They can only apply once a year, the next round opens in the spring.

1.8 **Support for Ukraine**

The last drop in event of the year was held on 28th November. Employment, Housing, ESOL courses and the continuation of the host monthly payment were the key issues that guests and hosts needed support with.

Over the last 12 months the Community Team have organised regular face to face drop-in sessions for Ukraine guests and their families at The Plaza. The team have worked in partnership with 26 local organisations all of which have provided valuable advice and support on a range of subjects such as Housing, employment, English courses, volunteering, mental health, children's activities and more.

1.9 **Craft Sessions**

A new, Ukrainian artist has been engaged to support the mental health of the Ukrainian guests in the Borough. The craft sessions are well attended and will continue next year.

1.10 **ESOL**

Officers are continuing to support our guests to improve their language skills. Many of the younger guests show a marked improvement in their English language skills and confidence.

1.11 **Grow It, Cook It, Eat**

Officers are currently in discussion with Emsworth residents to expand the project there.

1.12 **New Developments**

Developer/Community liaison meetings continue for the Camp Field on Bartons Road and Sinah Lane in Hayling Island.

Camp Field -The 1st private occupation is expected towards the end of February 2023, in addition to housing association plots being handed over in March 2023. Sinah Lane - 31 dwellings are now

occupied, and an additional 9 dwellings will be handed over to the housing association in the new year.

2. Affordable Housing

2.1 Affordable Housing delivery

The affordable housing handovers for Q3 (October to December) 23/24 will not be confirmed till after 31st of December 2023 so will be reported at the first opportunity after that date.

VIVID have continued to provide new social homes at three sites across the borough:

Forty Acres, Bedhampton

Woodcroft Farm, Cowplain

St Thomas's Mead, Lower Road, Bedhampton

Moving forward both Woodcroft, and St Thomas's Mead are expected to deliver their final affordable units by the end of this quarter which will consist of a total of 15 new homes.

ASTER continues to deliver on the Pebble Walk site, off Sinah Lane on Hayling Island. Further units are forecast between now and the end of this financial year. However, this development has experienced multiple delays, but the housing association have confirmed that tenancy sign ups have now been able to take place recently with residents able to move in before Christmas after patiently waiting for several weeks.

2.2 Pipeline of new build affordable homes

Other ongoing development sites that will continue to deliver new build affordable housing across the borough through VIVID during the remainder of 2023 and into 2024 are:

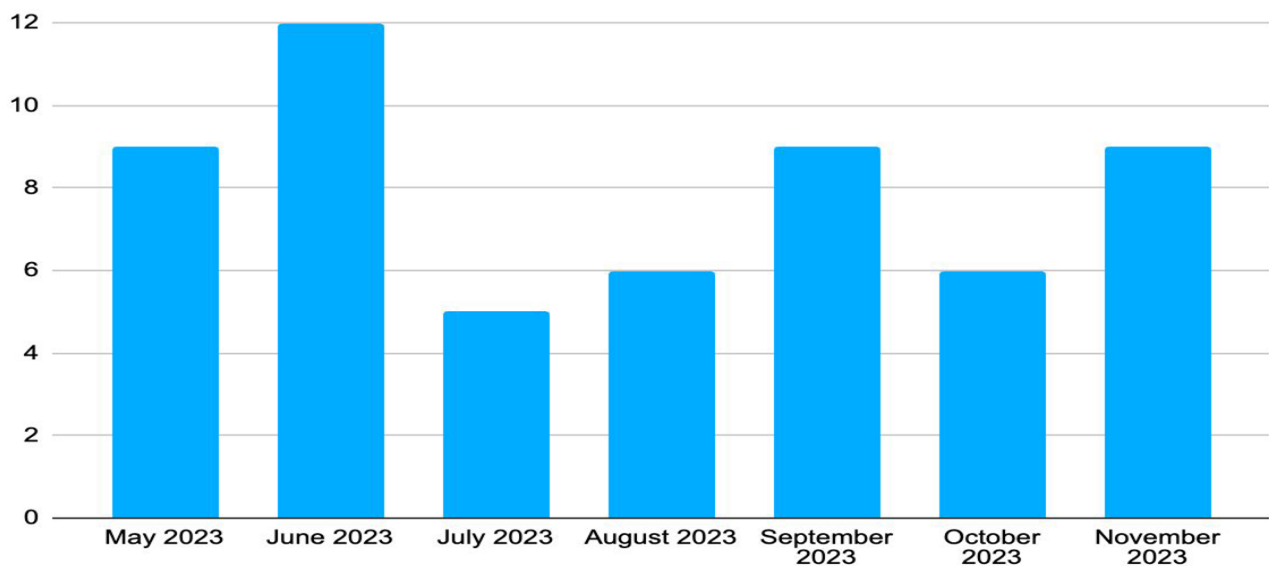
Harbour View- Bedhampton

3. Homelessness

3.1 There are currently just over 100 people in temporary accommodation, this is an increase on the more recent monthly average of circa 90 people. Figures tend to show a rise in the winter months. To tackle this demand, the Housing Service is continuing to focus on prevention work. This activity is identified in each case

when housing assessments are carried out for persons presenting to the Council as homeless or at risk of homelessness. The BEAM homelessness & employment pilot scheme continues and is in place until 31 March 2024. The scheme seeks to match people at risk of homelessness or who are homeless access to accommodation and/or employment. There has been some recent success with the Beam homelessness pilot scheme and as a result a homeless person has secured settled accommodation. BEAM also funded their moving in costs.

Below is the overview of referrals completed by the Housing Team to Beam



3.2 In another case of note Council offered financial support to enable a person at risk of homelessness to remain at home therefore saving temporary accommodation costs. This person has now been rehoused via the housing register.

3.3 Members of the Housing Advice and Prevention team have given presentations to external stakeholders including the NHS, Ministry of Justice, the Job Centre, and local community groups to enable more cohesive relationships and better understanding of the procedures and processes of the Homeless Reduction Act 2017 and how Havant Borough Council implement this Act.

4. Housing Association Liaison

4.1 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 24/11/2023 covered topics including:

- TGP Internal Management Move Policy
- Cross Walls Project- this involves TGP stock that needs significant investment to bring it up to an acceptable standard and requires the tenant to be decanted to another property whilst major works are undertaken. Guinness have piloted the scheme on a small number of homes in the Cowplain area and are now looking for funding approval from their Board to extend the project. Guinness will provide addresses of the affected residents to HBC so that we can monitor process.

Next meeting TBC

5. Hampshire Home Choice

5.1 Current number of applicants active on Hampshire Home Choice as of 19th dec 2023:

Band	Bed size Need						Grand Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
1	3		1	2			6
2	70	21	18	17		1	127
3	651	531	327	62	2		1573
4	48	14	3				65
Grand Total	772	566	349	81	2	1	1771

6. Health & Wellbeing

6.1. CA Havant

Demand remains high for support services, with the anticipation that there will be a surge in demand following the Christmas period. The inevitability of the cost-of-living crisis combined with need to pay credit incurred because of Christmas is something that CA are preparing for. CA Havant intend to highlight this issue by hosting the Spotlight on Havant Cost of Living Workshop on Wednesday 31st January. This has been timed to report on early New Year trends to help progress and influence key partnering work to better our combine capabilities for more effective joined up support for our communities.

7. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

7.1. The Council is required to produce an Infrastructure Funding Statement for 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023, to comply with the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations, which came into force 1 September 2019. This document has been published on our website during December and is available to view from this page:

www.havant.gov.uk/community-infrastructure-levy-cil/cil-and-s106-monitoring

7.2. 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/>.

Strategic CIL

7.3. We were inviting expressions of interest/bids for Strategic CIL from Infrastructure Providers in the Borough. The closing date was 21st November 2023. More information is available here: [Community infrastructure levy spending process | Havant Borough Council](#). Decisions on Strategic CIL spending will be concluded alongside the budget setting process allowing Capital expenditure to be captured appropriately.

- 7.4. In respect of funds previously allocated, the following payment in balance of Project 65 has now been made to Hampshire County Council:

Ref	Name and Description	Date Funding Approved	Amount
65	Elmleigh Road Pedestrian and Cycle Improvement	27/02/2019	£249,348.03

Neighbourhood Portion CIL

- 7.5. There is no up-to-date news to report on Neighbourhood Portion CIL spending presently.
- 7.6. The provisional allocation of these funds means the majority of the Neighbourhood Portion CIL funds for 1/4/23 – 31/3/24 have been committed.

S106

- 7.7. There is no up-to-date news to report on S106 spending presently.

8. Community Safety

- 8.1 Work on Saferstreets5 is underway, we have a South East bid which has seen Eastleigh join the SaferStreets4 Solent group with Portsmouth, Isle of Wight, Fareham, and Gosport. We are also working in partnership with the North Hampshire Bid with Basingstoke & Deane, Rushmoor, and Hart.

The key initiatives are:

Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) Support Hub

Mentoring in Violence Prevention (MVP) is widely regarded as a best practice model, that has been delivered in educational establishments, to address factors leading to VAWG. MVP is a peer-led leadership and bystander programme. Under Safer Streets 4, Portsmouth, IOW, Havant, Gosport and Fareham Councils commenced the MVP programme and engaged training in 12 schools/colleges. To further enhance this work, an MVP Support Hub will be created. The hub will include action learning sets, case

studies, lesson guides, comms, and other resources, and be an online support platform. The hub will also provide a resource for new schools who want to start their MVP journey.

Stronger Community

The stronger community project brings together several elements designed to increase local capacity to respond in and around the Night-Time Economy and public places. Focused on addressing behaviours like street harassment that create a space for more serious violence to occur. The project will equip those working in and around hospitality and leisure areas with the understanding, and skills to respond; including being able to intervene safely, reporting incidents and signposting to support agencies in a trauma informed way. It will challenge those operating and working within venues and their customers thinking around the issue of violence including VAWG as culture, beliefs and attitudes that contribute and often lead to physical acts of violence and the thinking around these prevents positive intervention.

With You

Women in the sex industry are particularly vulnerable to sexual crime, and less likely to report offences because of stigma and fear of reprisal. In Portsmouth, Gosport, Fareham, Havant, and the Isle of Wight, whilst there is no recognised on-street presence, there is evidence of an active sex industry, affecting some of the most marginalised people in society. Aligning with other projects, the With You project will pilot direct outreach in Gosport, Fareham, and the IOW, working with business owners and women to recognise sexual offences, be safe whilst at work, get home safely and build capacity to report, via training and practical support to implement learning. Other work will include improving information sharing pathways, and confidence to report in partnership with local police.

Changing Direction for Success

Changing Direction for Success is a detached youth project. It builds upon successful use of detached youth in Havant and Gosport during safer streets 4 and previous pilot work undertaken by Eastleigh borough Council that demonstrated good outcomes for young people engaged who were NEET. This Youth Work Team will operate out in the community, engaging with young people in areas in which they congregate allowing a direct impact on levels of youth

related anti- social behaviour. Using data and intelligence from the Community Safety Partnership, Police and other local intelligence Changing Direction for success youth workers will be deployed to hotspot areas where issues of youth ASB are apparent. These youth workers will offer young people a visible alternative to traditional services, developing relationship with them, and the local community with the aim of making every contact count.

National Probation Service.

National Probation Service continue to carry out 'unpaid work' across Havant Borough, specifically carrying out cleaning and clearing work in Waterlooville's London Road Precinct as part of the town centre regeneration. They have also been clearing waste from some of HBC's woodland, including dens and green waste.

Havant Borough was visited on Friday by a group from Alton Town Council and 'Cycle Alton' regarding footpath installation that has taken place across the Leigh Park area, arranged by Damian Hinds MP for East Hampshire following his visit in the Autumn to see the National Probation Service in action on Hayling Island on a Marine Conservation Society Project (This project has since been nominated for a 'Fifty Years of Unpaid Works' award).

Thanks go to Alderman Ralph Cousins for his support and copies of his excellent reports on work carried out buy the NPS in the twenty five years of our partnership.

Waterlooville Town Centre CCTV.

Since installation, the council has received 10 requests from Waterlooville Police for downloads regarding specific incidents in the town centre. Officers will search the stored footage within a 30 minute time frame and if the incident has been caught on camera, the video can be uploaded direct to Hampshire Police. Access to the CCTV system is strictly controlled and review undertaken only on receipt of necessary data protection forms.

'Operation Sceptre' Police foot patrols.

Neighbourhood Quality Officers and CEO's from Parking have been taking part in early evening patrols with Hampshire Police around Waterlooville and Havant Town Centres, and at Greywell and Park

Parade, providing a uniformed presence and reassurance in the approach to the festive season. Operation Sceptre is a national scheme aimed at reducing knife crime.