

Cabinet Lead for Communities and Housing –

Councillor Gwen Robinson

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

Front Lawn/Springwood Play Areas

1.1 The new play areas at both Front Lawn in Leigh Park and Springwood Avenue in Waterloooville are both now approaching 6 months since completion. Feedback from the community hubs at both sites inform the council that these sites have been well used throughout the year and seen a marked increase in usage.

Eastoke Corner

1.2 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 ON 26TH Feb 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.

Outdoor Gym at Jubilee Park

1.3 The active wellbeing team have recently been awarded £60,000 of funding from Public Health to install an outdoor physical activity facility in Jubilee Park, Waterloooville. The project is currently out to tender, and a contractor will be appointed by the end of March with a view to begin construction in July. The facility will be located near to the newly refurbished tennis courts to complement the parks physical activity offerings.

Waterlooville Boxing Club

1.4 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 Waterlooville 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 shortly after the ring has been installed. In addition to this, a further £13,900 of Sport England funding has been awarded to the club with the assistance of HBC active wellbeing officers. This will go towards new equipment, coaching costs and staff training. These funds will help launch a new era for the club and the active wellbeing team look forward to working with them to help achieve shared social aims.

Havant Parks Tennis

1.5 Within the past twelve months officers from the Community Team have successfully launched Havant Parks Tennis.

This project is a result of strong partnership working with the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) since 2016, which in early 2023 resulted in c£219K investment into Havant owned park court sites. This funding was used to completely refurbish three sites including, resurfacing, respray, new nets/posts, new fencing at the Waterlooville site and new access gate technology at all sites across the borough.

In order to ensure the long-term sustainability of courts an operator (NTA) was appointed to manage a paid for model, this will secure the life time maintenance of courts. This includes, pay and play tennis, annual household memberships, coaching, school holiday clubs and other tennis activity.

Key participation rates since the implementation of this operating model (as of February 2024);

- 233 annual members who have unlimited access to courts across the borough
- 2,441 court bookings / 3,320 hours of court usage
- 825 pay and play bookings
- LTA Youth Start courses delivered in September
- Coaching delivered on Tuesdays and Saturdays

Considering the project missed a majority of the summer and the Wimbledon fortnight, these figures are very positive and provide a really strong baseline to build on in 2024 and beyond.

Plans are currently being prepared to advertise the courts early Spring to promote the opportunity for residents. Plans include;

- Increasing coaching offer, including expanding on the current junior and adults offer
- Free Parks Tennis, weekly free access to courts. This is an LTA product and is managed in a similar way to park run
- Concessionary membership rates for those in receipt of certain benefits
- Further open events and community events to raise awareness of the project

Officers will continue to work in partnership with the NTA to maximise opportunity in activating tennis across the borough.

We are one of the first Local Authorities nationally to work with the LTA on their large scale investment into parks tennis, Havant has been used as a case study by the LTA at workshops to evidence what a successful project looks like. Officers have also supported colleagues from other authorities in developing their projects.

Summary to Investment into Play Areas and Outdoor Leisure Facilities

1.6 Officers from the Community Team have continued to invest in refurbishing play areas that have been identified as nearing end of life and require replacing. Officers utilise CIL funding from the neighbourhood portion to complete the works, as well as any additional external funding that can be levered in.

The following sites have been refurbished in 2023-2024.

- Springwood
- Spencers Field
- Front Lawn
- Bidbury Mead

Officers have worked with the Insight team to undertake meaningful community engagement in order to provide facilities that meet the needs of communities.

Feedback from engagement has informed each tender specification. Each project is very different, this has allowed for varied provision across the borough and diversifies the play offer.

Works have provided fun, educational, modern and more accessible play provision at each site. We understand the importance that play has on the development of children and young people within Havant and continue to work to improve areas where provision requires replacing.

Upcoming projects that are either starting imminently or are close to starting.

- Eastoke Corner, Hayling Island. (February/March 2024)
- Hayling Dirt Jumps, Hayling Island (DLUCH Funding) (Contractor appointed)
- Waterlooville Recreation Ground, Waterlooville. Installation of new outdoor gym equipment. (Public Health Funding £60K) (Tender closes early March 2024)

Projects identified for 2024-2025 CIL Funding

- Avenue Road, Hayling Island
- Scratchface Lane, Bedhampton
- Cowplain Recreation Ground, Cowplain

Havant Community Lottery

1.7 The Havant Lottery currently has 112 registered Good Causes and 731 players are purchasing tickets. Over £247,000 has been raised for local Good Causes since 2018. Since 16th December, 28 cash prizes have been won by supporters on the weekly draw, totalling £1,375.

The next Community Fund round opens in the spring, registered Good Causes of the Lottery can apply for up to £2,000 for projects that support Havant Borough residents.

In the last 12 months fifteen Havant Lottery Community fund grants totalling £22,274 have been awarded to Good Causes to support small community projects within the Borough

Havant Dementia Information Fayre

1.8 The Havant Dementia Information Fayre takes place at the Plaza on Friday 28th June between 10am – 2pm. This is a free, drop-in for people living with Dementia, their carers, friends and families to seek advice and support from local charities and organisations. The event will consist of a main ‘marketplace’ with 20+ stalls and

information stands, free legal advice, live musical entertainment, craft sessions and physical activity sessions. Last year 150 people attended this event.

The Havant Dementia Network nearly folded early last year, we stepped into keep the group operating whilst a new chair was found. The group now has a permanent chair and is thriving and growing.

Emsworth Youth Forum

1.9 The Emsworth Youth Forum held their second engagement event on Monday 12th February (half term). The event was a good opportunity to engage with young people to find out what they would like to see happening in their community. The long-term aim is to set up a Youth Forum run by local young people. 47 young people attended this event.

Support for Ukraine

The emphasis of HBC' support to our guests has changed to keep it relevant. Officers, working in partnership, are now concentrating on providing multiple levels of ESOL courses via Rural Refugee Network. Officers are also working with Bridge to Unity to support entry into employment.

We have offered seven face to face Ukraine drop-in sessions for hosts and families at the Plaza. Regular advice and support has been offered from a range of different organisations over the last 18 months including the Community and Housing team, Health service, Connect to Support, Citizen Advice, MIND, Horizon and Bridge to Unity. No other Council has offered this kind of support in the Hampshire area.

The Ukrainian Choir have gone from strength to strength. HBC supported their formation with funding received from the ICB to support mental health in our guests. They are now working with Community First and New Royal Theatre to become independent and to set up a CIO.

Growing Projects

The Grow it, Cook it, Eat it project has successfully moved to a much smaller plot on the Stockheath Lane allotment site. A volunteer day has been held and seeds have been planted ready to be put into the ground in March/April time when hopefully the weather is dryer. Officers are continuing to work with Oarsome Chance who are creating 8 raised beds to house salad, herbs and soft fruit.

The Emsworth project is getting underway. The site has been cleared and the voluntary group, along with officers from the Community Team, are working with colleagues from Estates to create a long-term management plan.

Food Project

Officers within the team are now working with the Strategy Unit to create a database of food initiatives within the Borough. This will include the food banks and pantries, the growing projects and also other food projects like Munch and Bridge to Unity offerings.

Community and Ukrainian Bulletins

These publications are sent out every month. The 'What's on in Havant Borough' bulletin goes out to 886 people and the Ukrainian bulleting goes out to 362 people each month.

New Developments

Work continues to support three major new developments across the Borough. The Camp Field development is well underway including the delivery of the orchard, however, the first occupations have been pushed back to the end of March. Sinah Lane and Forty Acres continue with their build. Currently, 45 dwellings are occupied out of 195 at Sinah Lane and 248 dwellings are currently occupied out of 320 at Forty Acres.

2 Homelessness

2.1 To encourage best practice with partners the Housing Team has carried out the following training in 2023/24:

2.1.1 The Housing Team has forged links with the Department of Work & Pensions (DWP) and presentations and training have been provided by the team to DWP officers on homelessness regulations, duties and processes. This will help officers to provide the right advice to those people who contact the housing service and/or DWP and are in housing crisis.

2.1.2 Links have also been made with Childrens and Adult Services as well as the County Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub and officers have conducted three detailed workshops on homelessness to officers from these teams.

2.1.3 Housing officers have spoken to young people at the Youth Community Hub to explain the risks associated with homelessness and the legal duties that the Council must undertake in relation to requirements under the Homeless Reduction Act 2017.

2.1.4 The Housing Team has participated in workshops with National Health Service colleagues and General Practice Social Prescribers.

2.1.5 Housing Officers have been part of the Armed Forces Covenant sessions.

2.1.6 Housing Officers have attended and provided advice at Ukrainian national's drop-in sessions.

2.2 The Housing service has undertaken some initiatives to reduce the costs of temporary accommodation:

2.2.1 On 27 September 2023 the Council approved the purchase of temporary accommodation to reduce the use of costly short-term solutions such as bed and breakfast placements which have an impact on the Council's budget.

Since then, officers have been working to identify potential properties. This resulted in two properties that have had offers accepted and the Council is proceeding to purchase. These properties will provide a minimum of 28 rooms for homeless people and will include a support function to help these residents to move on to settled accommodation. Once the properties have been purchased the Council will begin the necessary works to get them ready for occupation. A process will also take place to commission specialist management and support services for these properties.

2.2.2 The Council has been successful in securing match funding to purchase properties under the Local Authority Housing Fund scheme. This work is in progress and properties are being secured across the Borough.

2.2.3 The Council entered into a yearlong pilot scheme with BEAM, an organisation that helps to assist people at risk of homelessness to secure settled homes in the private rental sector. A review of the pilot will take place in April 2024.

3. Affordable Housing

Q3 (Oct-Dec 24) delivery figures have been confirmed by Vivid and Aster as follows:

Site address	Registered Provider	Affordable Rent	Shared Ownership	Total
Manor Farm, Bedhampton	Vivid	2	0	2
Forty Acres, Havant	Vivid	6	14	20
Woodcroft Farm, Waterlooville	Vivid	0	9	9
Pebble Walk, Sinah Lane, Hayling Island	Aster	5	4	9
Total		8	23	40

These additional 40 units will take the cumulative total for 23/24 to 94 new homes with the following split:

Shared Ownership = 35

Social Rent = 29

Affordable Rent = 30

Total 94

Aster continues to deliver on the Pebble Walk site, off Sinah Lane on Hayling Island. A further 15 units, 12 new homes for Affordable Rent and 3 for Shared Ownership, are forecasting between now and the end of this financial year, i.e., Q4.

Moving into the 2024/2025 financial year Aster are forecasting a further 21 Affordable Rent homes by the end of December 2024.

Vivid have further units to be handed over during 2024/2025 at their 40 Acres & Woodcroft sites, 17 Affordable Rents, & 4 homes for Shared Ownership, and these will be the last handovers for both these sites.

Pipeline of new build affordable homes

Planning approval for the Former Dairy Crest Depot, Dunsbury Way, Havant has been granted recently and once completed in 2025 to 2026, this site will deliver 74-, 1- & 2-bedroom homes through Vivid Homes. All these homes will be for Affordable or Social Rent and be advertised through our housing register Hampshire Home Choice.

Following a site visit to the new development currently under construction at South Hayling Court in Elm Grove, Hayling Island, the provider Housing 21 are forecasting the first available homes to reach hand over stage in the Summer of 2024. Once fully completed this scheme will provide a total of 39 new apartments, 25 rented and 14 Shared Ownership, for residents over the age of 55.

4. 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.

Future meetings and agenda items are currently being confirmed.

5. Hampshire Home Choice

Below is the current Hampshire Home Choice housing register data as at 01/03/2024.

	Band 1	Band 2	Band 3	Band 4	Grand Total
1	3	63	599	50	715
2		17	513	15	545
3	1	13	325	2	341
4	2	16	57		75
5		1	1	1	3
6		1			1
Grand Total	6	111	1495	68	1680

6. Health & Wellbeing

Active Wellbeing Strategy

6.1 The 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 met for the first time in January. A stakeholder workshop event is planned for April, with attendees from all Council services and partners who can directly or indirectly encourage people to move more. The workshop will identify themes and objectives that a new strategy could include. These themes can then be tested through public engagement later in the year.

Energise Me – Active Health Funding

6.2 Officers have been successful in securing £74,000 of funding from Energise Me and Hampshire County Council. The funding enables the expansion of the Get up and go physical activity programme to work with priority communities who face the most significant income deprivation to co design activity programmes that respond to their need. The programme will continue to support residents into more active lifestyles and subsequently improve health inequalities.

Horizon Wellbeing Hub

6.3 Since the opening of the Wellbeing Hub in partnership with Horizon Leisure Trust in June 2023, it has had 1,191 visits across a number of programs from people embarking on a journey to improve their health and wellbeing or increase their confidence in being active.

Programmes delivered include the 'Foundations' course, designed to support people in their first steps into being active with 4 weeks at the wellbeing Hub to gently introduce physical activity on an individualised basis, who then transition to the leisure centre when confidence allows.

There are a number of classes aimed to support people to be active including Male and Female only sessions, low impact circuits, falls prevention which have seen some great success stories, one person reversing their Diabetes after just 12 weeks. Quantitative tests including Blood pressure, BMI, Peak flow, glucose and cholesterol testing help people to have a better understanding of their overall health and

wellbeing and allowing the Horizon team to signpost into activities that support them to improve their health.

The Wellbeing hub has enabled greater partnership working with our Local health partners including, Southern Health NHS Musculoskeletal physiotherapy team, local social prescribers and Smoke Free Hampshire who all run clinics out of the Hub on a weekly basis.

The surgery pod was introduced in November through England's Innovation for Healthcare Inequalities Programme (InHIP) which aims to address Health Inequalities in Hampshire. GP practices have been inviting their patients to drop-in to have their blood pressure checked which the results feed directly into the NHS system. Those invited have not had a blood pressure check in the last 5 years to encourage early detection and CVD prevention with the aim is to allow, better use of clinical time – improved responsiveness for patients with significant health risks and allow patients to be empowered to monitor and achieve better health.

Get Up and Go!

6.4 It has been an amazing year of Get Up and Go with 800+ registrations in the last year, with 500+ people attending over 20 activities that have been on offer. Most activities have been fully booked and have waiting lists for the 2024 / 2025 season. These include: Coastal rowing, Stand Up paddle boarding, Learning to swim, Nordic walking, Yoga, Pilates and Open water swimming.

New partnerships have been formed with Hayling Island watersports, Bedhampton bowls club, Hayling island Bowls club, Shiyong Tai Chi, Steady and Strong, Hayling and Emsworth walking football club, Jon Hammond badminton coach, Leigh Park Boxing club and Salt and Pebble swimming coaching. Most of which will continue in the 2024.

The top health conditions of people taking part in activities are: Overweight / obesity (224 people), mental health conditions (170 people), a form of Arthritis (148 people), blood pressure problems (115 people), A form of respiratory disease such as Asthma (53) and controlled diabetes (48). These figures are promising, given recent figures that 66% of residents in the borough are overweight or obese, 17% have registered depression and 9% of residents have Diabetes Mellitus, all of which are higher in the

borough than the national average. The borough also has a higher prevalence of comorbidity, and many of our participants have more than 1 health condition.

We also know that from evaluation, people engaging in Get Up and Go are also making other changes to their lifestyles, including healthier eating, getting out more and meeting people and reducing alcohol intake.

Our participant feedback page is full of various quotes from participants informing us how the project has helped their health:

<https://www.getupandgohavant.com/success-stories>

"Since taking part in the GUAG activities, especially the Coastal Rowing, I have not only lost 20lbs but I have taken up jogging, my physical fitness overall has improved and my mental health is so much better. I've joined the CRAC and have taken part in my first coastal rowing race competition! I'm aiming for the World Championships in the Scilly Isles next year!

Wellbeing walks

6.5 Wellbeing walks provision in the borough has doubled this year, which is great news for residents, with 10 walks now on offer across 6 days a week. Over 20 new walk leaders have been trained, many of which have started a new walk or in the process of planning one so there will be even more walks in 2024! Some walks are seeing 40+ people attending, which has resulted in a shorter walk being introduced, with the help of having more leaders available.

In December 2023, a thank you event was put on for walk leaders, some of which have been leading walks voluntarily for 20+ years. Around 20 leaders attended, along with the Mayor of Havant, and it was a fantastic and positive event thanking these amazing people who are valuable to the borough.

7. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

7.1 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 Funding

7.2 As per the Council decision of 28 February 2024, we have allocated funds to the following projects as identified in the table below. The references allocated to these projects in Exacom are listed in the left hand column:

Ref.	Description	Amount
5	Langstone FCERM	£2,500,000
306	Changing Places	£150,000
307	Northney Drainage	£184,000
308	Hayling Seafront Signage	£50,000
309	Hayling Seafront Boardwalks	£30,000
	TOTAL	£2,914,000

7.3 Further information on these spends will be provided in due course. Most of our spending on Strategic CIL takes place in time for the end of the financial year on 31st March 2024 and these spends will be reported on in a subsequent report.

Neighbourhood Portion CIL

Ref	Name and Description	Date Funding Approved	Amount
280	Relocation of Havant and East Hants MIND to The Meridian Centre	23/11/2023	£50,000

7.4 The majority of the Neighbourhood Portion CIL funds for 1/4/23 – 31/3/24 have been committed.

S106

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

8. Freeport

- a. The Council continue to work collaboratively with the Freeport and Portsmouth City Council who own the land at Dunsbury Business Park that sits within the Freeport Tax Site.

9. Police & Crime Panel

9.1 Following the Service Review of the Prevention and Enforcement service there has been a new emphasis on the PAG (Partnership Action Group) meetings. The Executive Head and the Prevention and Enforcement manager have been working closely with the Chief Inspector for Havant to reinvigorate the meetings and to focus on dealing with strategic issues.

9.2 Police and Crime Commissioner, Donna Jones, has launched the Local Bobby Scheme; also known as Dedicated Neighbourhood Officers. The scheme means that anyone in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight can now find out not only who their Local Bobby is but also their email and direct phone number.

This can be done by entering your postcode on the dedicated webpage:
hampshirealert.co.uk/Content/AllLocalAreas

Feedback which Donna Jones received from the public was that not only do people want to see more police officers on the street, they also want a police force they feel connected to.

This scheme, the first of its kind in the region, aims to strengthen community-police relations; something which has been lost in recent years.

10. Community Safety

10.1 The Council have also sent its officers on a specific safeguarding training to renew their qualifications and to increase the number of qualified safeguarding officers. A new Safeguarding policy for the Council is currently being written and will soon be brought forward for approval by members.

10.2 The service review into Prevention and Enforcement is now concluded and the interviews for the new Prevention and Enforcement officers are currently taking place with a view to be up to full establishment by the beginning of April

2024. These new officers will be able to issue both Parking fines as well as working on Community Safety issues such as littering, fly tips and illegal encampments.

- 10.3 The Councils budget included funding for CCTV in both Leigh Park and Havant Town Centre and the team will start to look into this since the budget has now been approved. They are also looking at deployable cameras.