

Portfolio Holder Report – Council 11 December 2013

By Cllr Yvonne Weeks – Economy & Communities

Housing Enabling

Homelessness and Hampshire Home Choice Update

There have now been a total of 29 households placed into B&B since 1st April 2013

5 placements in B&B since 1/10/2013, however, there was a period of time from 29th October until 22nd November where there was no-one in B&B.

There has been a slight increase in possible Mortgage Rescue claims. Race on now to make sure if they are suitable to get them approved before 31st March when the scheme ends.

730 visitors to housing for housing advice from 1st October 2013 – 15th November 2013

New starters compliment the team, settled in really well and keen to learn.. More work has been created by the implementation of new Allocations Policy, team have dealt with this well dealing with reviews for applicants that have been removed from the register due to the removal of Band 5.

The Housing Support Officers where congratulated by HHC manager for keeping all other aspects on HHC up to date whilst dealing with an increased work load due to implementation of new allocations framework and increase in phone calls and web messages.

Some staff will be helping out Eastleigh Borough Council to help them to achieve the transfer of their applications on their waiting list to Hampshire Home Choice for January 2014. They will be doing this work in their own time paid an hourly rate by Eastleigh.

Meeting has been held with Guinness to deal with their transfers coming over to HHC from 1/1/2014.

New Guinness tenants requesting a transfer are to be asked to register on line, their applications will become active 1/1/2014. those tenants who are already registered with Guinness will still be dealt with by Guinness until the 1st January 2014..

Affordable Housing Update

New Completions: October and November 2013

8 Affordable Rent properties at Berewood, Waterlooville:

- 2 no 1 bed flats
- 2 no 3 bed houses
- 4 no 2 bed flats

2 Social Rent properties at Berewood, Waterlooville:

2 no 4 bed houses

In addition there have been another 4 Help to Buy reservations at various sites across the borough.

Year to date totals so far are:

Social Rent	2
Affordable Rent	49
Shared Equity	2
Shared Ownership	20
First Buy (scheme pre April '13)	16
Help to Buy (scheme post April '13)	50

Total	139

Communities

Arts

The Spring Arts & Heritage Centre has secured funding to work in partnership with Motiv8 to deliver a project which aims to engage with hard to reach young people. In addition the Spring have also secured funding to deliver an arts and heritage project for people living in hostel accommodation or who are homeless living in Havant Borough. They will be working in partnership with Step by Step and Two Saints.

Sport & Physical Activity

Havant Borough Council in partnership with South Downs College is launching a variety of National Governing Body courses and Sports Coach UK workshops to benefit sports coaching skills and knowledge. Further information can be found on the South Downs website.

StreetSport will continue through a social enterprise model still led by Lorna Culnane (ex Guinness Hermitage employee)

A national campaign to increase the number of older people using table tennis as a way of increasing their physical activity is being supported. Linked to the Hampshire project there will be a screening of the inspiration promotional film 'Ping Pong – Going for Gold' at the Spring on 17th January which aims to educate voluntary groups, sheltered schemes and care providers as to how they can offer this opportunity for all. If any Cllrs wish to view the film please contact Nicki Conyard.

Havant will once again host a Sport Relief Mile at Staunton Country Park in partnership with the Victory Running Club. This event attracted over 300 participants and raised over £8,000 last time. The next event will take place on Sunday 23rd March 2014.

Health & Wellbeing

The Council has successfully secured over £47,000 to fund a number of health related projects. This money has been provided by Hampshire County Council and the projects will be delivered through partner organisations working in the borough.

Age Concern Bedhampton will be closing their doors on 19th December 2013. The lunch club attendees are being given alternative choices including transport. The small elderly committee can no longer continue and the building is no longer fit for purpose.

Community Development

Over the past few months there has been an increasing number of requests to set up Residents Associations. A guidance pack is being developed to assist new groups.

Work is underway to assist the 50+ Forum to expand its membership.

Waterlooville. Following consultation the name for the new Primary School on the Major Development Area site will be Berewood ; this will be an Academy.

Leigh Park. Off the Record has secured funding to retain the service until March 2014. The trustees have also determined that they will be able to afford a limited amount of paid support to manage the day to day operation.

An organisation called Big World Impact has secured funding to work in Leigh Park wards for the next 3 years. The project aims to work with young people aged 9-19 yrs and are forging strong links with the Community Team, Motiv8, Communitas and Hampshire County Council.

Leigh Park Community Led Planning – Initial surveys have been processed ready for the group to analyse the open ended questions, in the hope to identify any emerging trends at the next meeting. Further consultation was undertaken at Asda Havant and the group will soon be looking at other ways to obtain more completed surveys.

The Community Team have been advising and supporting a number of different individuals and organisation working in Leigh Park who are either new to the area or looking to engage more with the community. These include Pastor Steve Carey (Havant Family Church), Julian Wadsworth (Big World Impact) and Luke O'Neil (Step by Step).

Havant. St Faiths Church are fundraising for a new roof and HBC are helping the church to raise a large amount of monies (expected to be around 400K). The Heritage Lottery – Places of Worship fund have met with HBC and the church and have shown a lot of interest. The 1st stage application is in progress with a deadline of February 2014.

Havant 50+ Forum have changed venue and now meeting in the Masonic Hall in Havant.

Emsworth Community Association have written a new business plan and are looking to recruit a fulltime Administration and Development Manager. HBC have written several bids for the association that have been submitted to Santander Community Plus Fund and Lloyds Community Foundation to help raise monies to fund this post. Local consultation is being carried out to attract new members and focusing on older persons and families with children aged 0-5 years.

Hayling Billy 50 Heritage Project is a partnership of local residents and community groups, HBC and HCC. HBC submitted a bid to the Heritage Lottery and have been awarded 88K. This three year project will focus on the local heritage of the Hayling Billy 50 steam train, the oyster beds and regenerating the Hayling Billy trail, creating a viewpoint to enhance the accessibility to be able to observe rare birds and other wildlife and educating local people and visitors about this fascinating heritage. Match funding has also been contributed from HCC, PUSH, HBC, Veolia and Hayling Best local fundraising events.

Hayling Island Community Centre Association have used an Architect to draw up plans for a possible building extension. This will be for a two storey building.

Leisure

The Council has pledged its support to the National Watersports Festival held on Hayling Island until 2016.

Havant Rugby Club are aiming to increase community use of their facilities; we are working with them to explore possibilities for additional community use.

Special Events

As part of the Veterans Charities awareness event, the Council held the signing of an Armed Forces Community Covenant between Havant Borough Council and 47 & 12 Royal Artillery Regiment on Thorney Island. The event was led by the Mayor and attended by senior members of the Armed Forces, local community representatives, Councillors and voluntary sector partners.

I will be working with the Community team on ensuring the borough marks the 100th anniversary since the outbreak of World War 1 and the 70th anniversary of the D-Day landings next year.

Economic Development

Havant Skills & Employability Conference 29th Nov

The 8th Annual Skills and Employability conference took place on 29th Nov at Langstone Technology Park. Attended by over 100 delegates from the private, public and voluntary sector, delegates discussed a range of issues relating to recruitment and employability of young people. A very enthusiastic and constructive discussion identified a series of priorities for the Havant Borough including private sector engagement in education and training provision, and the importance of work experience and apprenticeships. The

outcome of the conference will be reflected in series of priority actions that will be taken forward by the partnership over the coming months.

Small Business Saturday – 7th December 2013

As part of the council's support for Small Business Saturday, residents and visitors shopping in the Borough of Havant will get three hours free parking on 7th December 2013. This will entitle people parking in Havant Borough Council car parks to park for free for any three hour period on that day. The free parking is in support of Small Business Saturday, a UK wide campaign to get people to support local small businesses. This parking concession will be promoted alongside the benefits of shopping locally and compliments HBC's broader business support activity including the business grant scheme, now in its fourth year which has supported 240 new businesses since its inception.

Unemployment figures.

A slight rise this month, up from 1919 (2.6%) in September. This is going against regional and national trends which show that unemployment is continuing to fall. There are no identifiable local factors to account for this rise and may signify that unemployment has bottomed out locally.

Unemployed Claimants and Residential Unemployment Rate:

October 2013

Havant

Census Area Statistic Ward	Males		Females		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Barncroft	125	6.9	60	3.1	185	5.0
Battins	145	7.5	86	4.1	231	5.7
Bedhampton	47	1.7	50	1.8	97	1.8
Bondfields	133	6.4	56	2.7	189	4.5
Cowplain	41	1.5	30	1.0	71	1.2
Emsworth	45	1.9	34	1.3	79	1.6
Hart Plain	101	3.6	55	1.8	156	2.7
Hayling East	66	2.6	35	1.3	101	2.0
Hayling West	54	2.5	25	1.1	79	1.7
Purbrook	63	2.2	30	1.0	93	1.6
St Faith's	60	2.4	39	1.5	99	1.9
Stakes	121	3.9	73	2.2	194	3.1
Warren Park	162	7.9	97	4.1	259	5.9
Waterloo	75	2.7	35	1.2	110	2.0
Havant*	1,238	3.5	705	1.9	1,943	2.7