

Portfolio Holder Report – Council 16 April 2014

By Cllr Yvonne Weeks – Economy & Communities

Housing Services

Development Update

Quarter 4 (Jan-Mar 2014)

No new development completions however a large number predicted for 2014/2015.

27 additional Help to Buy transactions completed in this quarter. Radian has recently been awarded the tender for the new Help to Buy Agency Service Lot 7- South that replaces the Homebuy Agency. This may necessitate a rebranding of the current Homes in Hants scheme as the coverage of the new Agency will extend to Wiltshire, North Somerset, Bristol, Bath, Gloucestershire, Berkshire, Oxfordshire, and of course Hampshire & IOW.

Totals for the year to date April 2013 to March 2014

Social Rent	2
Affordable Rent	49
Shared Equity	2
Shared Ownership	20
First Buy	16
Help to Buy	83

Current development sites

- **Hampshire Farm, Emsworth-** Construction continues with delivery scheduled throughout 2014.
- **Mary Rose House, Woolston Road-** 25 affordable units, to be delivered by Guinness Hermitage, delivery scheduled for June 2014.
- **St Michaels Convent-** 25 affordable units to be delivered by Linden Homes in partnership with Guinness Hermitage. Completion anticipated from May 2014 onwards.
- **Dukes Meadow-** Phases 3 & 4, 88 affordable units, mixed tenure to be delivered by Taylor Wimpey in partnership with Radian, application granted 28/06/2013. Affordable housing within HBC area expected late 2014 onwards.
- **Little Oaks, Emsworth-** originally 14 affordable units but now revised to 6 following viability assessment. These agreed as Discounted Market Sale. Start on site achieved.
- **Former Cricketers pub site, Leigh Park-** 10 units, all Affordable Rent. Radian to complete construction October 2014.

- **Dukes Meadow, Waterlooville Phase 2-** Extra 21 Affordable homes following conversion of commercial to residential. Mixed tenure to be delivered by Guinness Hermitage.
- **Manor Farm/ Copses Nursery-** 67 affordable units across 2 phases, First Wessex in Partnership with Barratts. Start on site achieved.
- **Warblington School-** Granted permission 16/05/2013, 23 affordable units, mixed tenure, Bloor Homes in partnership with Guinness Hermitage, start on site achieved. Delivery date to be confirmed.
- **Homewell House-**14 units of supported accommodation to be delivered by Havant Housing Association.
- **Goldring Close, Hayling Island-** Planning approved, 39 affordable units, possible RP Home Group.

Housing Advice and Homelessness

Use of Bed & Breakfast has been quite high in the last quarter of the year and reflects the increase in the numbers of homeless customers applying to us for assistance.

During the month of February we had 9 people in B&B. Three of these households are still in B&B due to their cases being subject to a review and awaiting vacancies in appropriate accommodation. During March 3 people were placed into B&B. One is a review, one was an emergency out of hours call out who has now moved onto a refuge and the other is a family who is waiting for a Supported Tenancy to become vacant. At the time of writing this report there are five households in B&B.

During January & February 2014 there were 1200 customers who came into the Plaza for Housing Advice. This is a 50% increase in comparison to the same period for the year before.

The increase is due to a number of reasons – as partner organisations work within the Plaza such as the CAB and Children's Services customers can see a Housing Advisory Officer at the same time which is very positive and saves them the inconvenience of visiting different venues. In addition there is the impact of the Housing Benefit changes which has increased the footfall and since Havant BC has taken on all the transfer applicants from Guinness Hermitage officers have seen a marked increase in Hampshire Home Choice enquiries.

Mortgage Rescue Scheme ends 31/3/2014 and the Team has been working on 5 final cases for Mortgage Rescue and they are now all passed over to Radian to process now.

We welcome to new members of the team this month - Maria Watson as a Housing Support Officer and Sarah Tate Housing Advisory Officer.

Arts

Nothing to report

Sport & Physical Activity

Three nominees from the Havant Sports Awards are finalists in the Hampshire Sports Awards which takes place on Wed 2nd April at St Marys stadium, Southampton.

A national programme which promotes the benefits of ping pong in older people has been a huge hit with Havant residents. The Council has facilitated a number of community events to promote the programme and following these, a number of ping pong groups have been established.

As one of four public health funded schemes the 'Couch to 5K' course is due to start in early April. Organised in partnership with Victory Athletics Club, this scheme will give up to 30 individuals the opportunity to follow a beginners running course, enabling them to improve their health and wellbeing in a supportive and social environment. Two courses are being delivered from Havant and West Leigh, with further courses due to run from other areas of the Borough in the near future.

Community Development

Approved By You

6 projects in Emsworth were supported to a total of £2785, with approximately 70 people taking part in the voting process. The Hayling event has been rescheduled to take place on Tuesday 29th April.

Voluntary Sector support

The Council has asked Community First to work with Home Start Havant to support them through a period of financial difficulty.

Emsworth

Emsworth Community Association have received a £100,000 grant from Hampshire County Council which will enable them to employ a part-time member of staff to assist with setting up new projects and enable them to reach out to families living on Thorney Island.

Hayling Island

Hayling & Warblington Local Children's Partnership held their annual Impact Event on Tuesday 18 March 2014 at Warblington School where the following objectives were agreed for the Partnership: transition, attendance and parenting continue.

Hayling Billy Heritage project is progressing and will shortly be tendering for a Project Worker.

HBC are supporting Hayling Police to deliver a “missing person” style event egg hunt event on Weds 9th April 2014 aiming to raise awareness of the subject with children, young people and their families.

Hayling College hosted the Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP) to explore ways the community can work together to reduce the consumption of alcohol in the 11-15 year members of the community. HBC Community team is be the link between the CAP and other voluntary sector partners.

Leigh Park

The Barncroft and Bondfields Community First Panels have now met to co-ordinate their fourth and final year of funding. Each panel has distributed £11,300 to local groups for projects taking place during the 2014/15, with 23 groups working in Leigh Park being allocated funding.

Officers will be taking on the role of chairing the Leigh Park Network meetings, working in partnership with Leigh Park Community Association. These meetings provide a good opportunity for organisations working in Leigh Park to network and will enable Officers to further engage with local groups.

Leigh Park Community Association have recently appointed a new Centre Co-ordinator and are working with The College of Social Care to employ an apprentice.

Waterlooville area

The Waterlooville Community Forum events team are planning events for 2014, to include the popular Summer Fete and Christmas Grotto. They are also planning a re-enactment event in Waterlooville town centre in 2015 to commemorate the Battle of Waterloo.

The Waterlooville Community Forum Community planning team have identified the top priorities from the Consultation surveys and are in the process of contacting relevant partners and agencies to action the points made by local residents.

The Wecock Big Local group organised their 3rd Community Chest event, allocating grants of up to £500 for new projects that benefit the residents of Wecock Farm. A further, and final, event will be held in April 2014.

The Big Local group have also written a Community profile and created a film to be launched in May showing how Wecock Farm stands today and what people think of the area.

Facebook is proving a popular way of reaching many age groups in the Waterlooville area, with the Waterlooville Community Development Facebook page having over 1,600 followers.

West of Waterlooville MDA

After numerous warnings, on March 17th ten horses were removed from the Taylor Wimpey/Grainger site at West of Waterlooville in an overnight operation by Winchester City Council accompanied by GRC Bailiffs. The horses had repeatedly strayed into the road, posing serious road traffic hazards, and into residents' gardens causing nuisance.

There is an ongoing problem with litter and waste in Tiller Road/Sickle Way on the MDA which affects both WCC & HBC residents and is a significant drain on resources. A joint action plan has been agreed, with officers from both authorities jointly door knocking, bin numbering and education planned for early April.

Working in partnership with Radian, the Police and both WCC and HBC, a community survey is being distributed to all properties on Old Park Farm to give residents the opportunity to share community safety concerns. The survey will be followed up by an Easter Community Day where agencies will be on hand to answer questions and offer reassurance. The results of the Community Survey will be used to draw up a joint action plan by the Partnership.

A briefing session was held for local Councillors to meet with Radian to discuss the issues presented on the development at the West of Waterlooville. It was agreed the main issues are the inappropriate reporting of incidents and the perception residents hold of Radian as the Housing Provider for the development. Several actions were agreed and it is hoped this work will address these issues.

The Old Park Farm Residents Association held a special General Meeting at which they agreed to focus on engaging with new members, developing the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and ensuring residents views are represented as Planning Applications for Phase 5 are considered.

Meals on Wheels

The table below shows customer take up of the Meals on Wheels service:

	w/c 8 th April 2013	w/c 20 th January 2014
Customers receiving meals Monday –Friday	46	119
Customers receiving meals Saturday and Sunday	19	78
Customers temporarily suspended *	-	6

* These are customers not receiving a meal due to, for example, being in hospital, a hospital appointment, a visit a relative etc.

An Afternoon tea service is now also provided; these are delivered at the same time as the mid day hot lunch and include a sandwich, savoury pastry, fruit, piece of cake and a juice drink. The cost of the teas is not subsidised by Hampshire County Council. There are already over 700 individual teas being delivered to customers per week throughout the county.

Food and Friendship service

This service was actively promoted from 1st June 2013, to enable the meals on wheels provider, Apetito, to concentrate on the meals service and for the drivers to familiarise themselves with the rounds and their customers. There have been 37 referrals, with 9 receiving visits and a further 2 awaiting allocation with the local voluntary organisations.

The discrepancy in numbers is due again in part to those not receiving a meals on wheels at the moment e.g. in hospital (require to be in receipt of meals on wheels for 2 weeks before F&F visits to begin) and those who after referral do not wish to start the service immediately, or where a Food & Friendship befriender cannot be sourced.

The priority now is to ensure those who are referred go on to accept and benefit from the service. Critically, with the introduction of the afternoon tea service, the Food & Friendship service has a much larger window so visits can now take place up until 4pm.

The local voluntary organisations carrying out the visits in the borough are: Christchurch & Portsdown Good Neighbours Group and Age Concern Cowplain are the voluntary organisations delivering Food and Friendship.

Special Events

In order to commemorate the commencement of WW1 and the 70th anniversary of D-Day, the following activities are planned for the borough:

Promoting events in the borough

Many communities are planning local events to commemorate both landmarks. HBC Community Officers will be capturing the various activities, offering support and assistance with both sourcing funding for the events and planning the events. It is proposed the HBC hosts a web page where the organisers can promote their activities, acting as a central source for the community. This web page will also provide a source of information for organisers, such as funding advice

Havant Borough Council run events

A) Community event

A small grant pot of £4k has been made available within the community budget to support WW1 and D-Day events. The intention is to run an "Approved by You" style of event for young people to bid for small grant funding – this will be promoted through schools and other youth organisations. Groups will be invited to present their project to Councillors, with an aware of up to £250 being made to all those who present. An advanced deadline for applicants will ensure the budget can be fairly allocated to all requesting funding.

B) "Thank You" event

The Council will then host a "thank you" event in the Autumn, around Armistice Day.

C) Commemoration event

A solemn event will be hosted in recognition of both landmarks. Working with the Royal British Legion through the Mayor's office, the event will be built around Armed Forces week.

Economic Development/Business Support

Unemployment figures.

There was a small fall in unemployment last month - down from 1929 (2.6) in Jan to 1877 (2.6%) Unemployment is fairly stable across the region

Unemployed Claimants and Residential

Unemployment Rate:

February 2014

Havant

Census Area Statistic Ward	Males		Females		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Barncroft	109	6.0	54	2.8	163	4.4
Battins	143	7.4	73	3.5	216	5.3
Bedhampton	51	1.9	36	1.3	87	1.6
Bondfields	121	5.8	57	2.7	178	4.3
Cowplain	40	1.4	19	0.7	59	1.0
Emsworth	49	2.1	32	1.3	81	1.6
Hart Plain	120	4.3	54	1.8	174	3.0
Hayling East	66	2.6	39	1.5	105	2.0
Hayling West	54	2.5	28	1.2	82	1.8
Purbrook	73	2.6	20	0.7	93	1.6
St Faith's	56	2.3	40	1.5	96	1.9
Stakes	125	4.0	68	2.1	193	3.0
Warren Park	150	7.3	104	4.4	254	5.8
Waterloo	69	2.4	27	1.0	96	1.7
Havant*	1,226	3.4	651	1.8	1,877	2.6

The 2014/15 grants programme opens on 1 April 2014. 50 grants of £500 are available to new businesses and those that have been trading for less than 12 months. Since the scheme began in 2010, 240 new businesses have been supported. For more info please contact: david.harris@havant.gov.uk

Thurs 15 May 2014 – Funding Opportunities for Business. Speakers include: Chichester College, Solent Growth Hub and National Apprenticeship Service. Langstone Technology Park, Havant 0830-1000 (promoted by Havant Skills and Employability Partnership)

Havant BC has been awarded by BIS a 2nd tranche of funding to assist businesses affected by recent flooding. Tranche 1 was for £25K and tranche 2 is £45k,

HAVANT BOROUGH TOWN CENTRES VACANT UNITS Feb 2014

Type of retailer	Havant	Waterlooville	Emsworth	Leigh Park
Independents	110 (48.46%)	71 (37.77%)	77 (71.30%)	38 (44.71%)
Multiples	86 (37.88%)	87 (46.27%)	24 (22.22%)	23 (27.06%)
Charity	11 (4.85%)	11 (5.85%)	4 (3.7%)	4 (4.71%)
Vacant	20 (8.81%)	19 (10.11%)	3 (2.77%)	20 (23.53%)
total	227	188	108	85

Please note that the town centre data has been “rebased” to more accurately reflect the town centres. Nationally, 14% of shops are vacant.

Tourism

Work has started to develop an action plan for the future of tourism in Havant Borough, promoting Emsworth and Hayling Island as places to visit. I gave the opening remarks at a meeting of the Havant Tourism Forum recently, encouraging the businesses that attended to get involved and start to take the lead on developing our area as a visitor destination. There was a good discussion at the meeting, with the hoteliers, b&bs, visitor attractions, other businesses and Borough Councillors looking at the challenges and opportunities to be addressed. The end result was agreement on three areas; Develop a coherent tourism brand; Work in partnership with businesses and local authorities to develop and promote tourism in the area; Identify funding to implement actions.

Next steps will be for a group of businesses, with Havant Borough Council coordination and support, to develop the plan and start to take forward some of the actions.

Special Events

- Hampshire Chamber of Commerce Meet the Buyer event. Thursday 27 March 2014. Aegas Bowl, Hedge End, Southampton. Havant BC is a sponsor of this event.
- Sun 13 April 2014. Mayors' Classic Car Run, The Public Service Plaza Havant
- Sat 19th April Emsworth Market Day featuring Hampshire Farmers Market includes Easter Egg Hunt, South Street Car Park Emsworth
- Wednesday 23rd April 2014 St Georges Day parade in Emsworth
- Friday 25 April 2014, Mayor's Charity Dinner, Newtown House Hotel, Hayling
- Sunday 27 April 2014. The Best of English entertainment and music will be performed on The Plaza at Eastoke Corner, Hayling Island (1200-1700)
<http://www.haylingforstgeorge.co.uk/>
- 28th April 2014 Careers Fair, Havant Public Service Plaza . Up to 1200 young people are expected to attend.
- 23 May - 8 June 2014. 70th Commemoration of D-Day Festival (various locations- promoted by Wemsfest)
- Sat 14th June Emsworth Summer Market featuring Hampshire Farmers Market Summer Berry Festival South Street car park
- 26, 27th & 29th June Havant Passion Play Havant Park
- Sat 5th July Waterlooville Classic Motor Show Waterlooville
- Sat 12/Sun 13 July Staunton Festival, Staunton Country Park
- Sat 26 July Waterlooville Food & Drink Festival (Provisional)
- 5-7 September National Windsurfing Festival Hayling Island
- Sept/Oct Virgin Kite surfing Armada Hayling Island
- 26 September - 15 October 2014. WemsFest: incorporating 2nd P G Wodehouse Festival (various locations in Emsworth and Westbourne).