

Cabinet Lead Report – Council 10 December 2014

Councillor Yvonne Weeks: Cabinet Lead for the Economy and Communities

Housing Enabling

Housing Development

Figures so far this financial year:

	Affordable Rent	Shared Ownership	Discounted Market Sale	Help to Buy	Mortgage Rescue	Total
Q1	10	0	6	37	2	55
Q2	24	18	0	5	0	47
Q3 so far..	60	27	0	4	0	91
Total	94	45	6	46	2	193

We are expecting at least another 20 Affordable Rent properties in January which will complete the developments at The Cricketers and St Michaels Place sites, plus a healthy number of additional completions before the end of March 2015 at:

Manor Farm- Denvilles
Nursery Fields- Denvilles
Park Grange- Scratchface Lane
Coopers Grange- Warblington School playing fields site
Old Park Farm- Waterlooville

The target for 2014/2015 was set at 200 but this will definitely be exceeded.

The development in Woolston Road named Mary Rose Close built for Guinness Hermitage consists of 27 units, 23 affordable rented, and 4 part rent part buy which were purchased by people with family in the area. All these units are spacious with plenty of storage and a nice size garden for families. A really nice development.

HAMPSHIRE HOME CHOICE; The HHC board meeting with Portfolio Holders was held at the end of October. Cross Boundary Moves were discussed, and the Board agreed to extend the pilot for a further 6 months. This to be reviewed at the April Board meeting and also to discuss whether Eastleigh becomes part of the CBM process.

Right to Move Consultation: the Localism Act encouraged LAs to remove existing tenants with no housing need from the housing register. The CLG have expressed concerns that existing tenants are now being prevented from moving to other LA areas for employment purposes because they are falling foul of housing register "residency criteria".

The key points for HHC are:

- HHC does not welcome further regulations; would welcome strengthening statutory guidance;
- does not support a new "Reasonable Preference" group;
- has already set aside a proportion of properties for CBMs and the existing arrangement could be tailored;
- currently uses local letting policies to give priority to working households;
- has concerns around fraud, collusion and increased resources associated with administering "right to move".

This feedback has been sent to the CLG.

Homelessness

There are currently 6 households in B&B accommodation awaiting alternative accommodation or under investigation

Increase in customers coming to the Housing Team for advice:

- Q1 and 2 13/14 we saw 2782
- yet in the first two quarters of 14/15 we saw 3485 – an increase of 703.

Increase in evictions both Housing Ass and private landlords. Has been due to rent arrears – non engagement with services rather than the Welfare Reform, and private landlords are choosing to sell as market has picked up – impact of this is more referrals to B&B.

Economic Development & Business Support

Unemployed Claimants and Residential Unemployment Rate:

October 2014

	Males		Females		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Barncroft	74	3.6	50	2.4	124	3.0
Battins	91	4.2	63	2.8	154	3.5
Bedhampton	37	1.4	19	0.7	56	1.0
Bondfields	78	3.7	45	2.1	123	2.9
Cowplain	25	0.9	15	0.5	40	0.7
Emsworth	27	1.1	24	0.9	51	1.0
Hart Plain	81	2.8	38	1.3	119	2.0
Hayling East	47	1.8	31	1.2	78	1.5
Hayling West	46	2.1	28	1.2	74	1.6
Purbrook	51	1.8	17	0.6	68	1.2
St Faith's	36	1.3	32	1.2	68	1.3
Stakes	79	2.5	49	1.5	128	2.0
Warren Park	116	5.2	71	2.8	187	3.9
Waterloo	53	1.9	29	1.0	82	1.5
Havant*	841	2.4	511	1.4	1,352	1.9

Unemployment still continues to fall in the borough.

Small Business Day Saturday 6th December

Havant Borough Council are once again supporting the small businesses in the borough by giving three hours free parking in council owned car parks all over the borough.

Sainsbury's

The new Sainsbury's store in Waterlooville will open on 3rd December this has created 250 new local jobs plus 70 transfers from other Sainsbury stores..

Emsworth Business Association Collect Prestigious Award

Several members of The Emsworth Business Association went to London recently to receive "Bring Home the Harvest / British Food Fortnight" award from Elizabeth Truss, Secretary of State at DEFRA. The "Emsworth British Food Fortnight" won this prestigious national competition.

With the changes to Executive Heads, Economic Development is now part of Julia Potters team in Planning, therefore this part of my Portfolio will now be within my colleague Cllr David Guest remit.

Communities & Tourism

Havant Tourism Working Group is progressing, the members of the group are working together bringing new ideas to the table. One such idea materialised

recently, the Langstone Hotel promotion in conjunction with Hayling Seaside Railway, Pepperelli's and the Terracotta Pot shop was a success.

254 people took up the promotion all from outside the Hayling area. This generated £1.7k direct plus additional revenues for both Pepperelli's and the Terracotta Pot shop. Proving that working together has its benefits.

2015 will see Havant, Emsworth & Hayling Island are being featured in "Visit Portsmouth" Tourism Guide. The publication of this guide is hundreds of thousands as well as the website and different languages.

The Visit Portsmouth website is to be relaunched, there will be a banner ad linking to "Visit Havant" on the new site

Visitor information – a visitor information point, with leaflets on what to see and do locally, at the Terracotta Pot Shop is working well with leaflets proving popular. An information point is now also installed at Langstone Hotel. A third information point will be installed at the kiosk at Beachlands

Horizon Leisure Trust

The building work has started at Waterlooville for the extension to the existing leisure centre, if all goes according to plan the new centre will be ready July 2015.

Havant Leisure Centre continues to flourish with the new gym being very successful.

Sport England

Unfortunately the bid for funding from Sport England for the improvements to the Front Lawn Recreation ground and Pavilion which is home to Havant & Waterlooville youth teams has been unsuccessful . We were aware that this was a very competitive process and Sport England received 187 applications for this stage asking for £62 million in grants from a pot of £9 million.

However our Sports Development officer will continue to seek other sources.

Health and Wellbeing

Havant Health & Wellbeing Strategy

The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy focuses on four strategic goals:

- Starting Well – ensuring every child can thrive.
- Living Well – Empowering people to live healthier lives.
- Ageing Well – Supporting people to have independence, choice and control and timely access to high quality services.
- Healthier Communities – developing strong, supportive communities.

GP Referral Scheme this is a scheme whereby a GP will refer overweight patients with their consent to attend the gym.

Horizon Leisure centres are participating in the scheme.