



Council 5 April 2011

CABINET MEMBER REPORT TO FULL COUNCIL

Written report by Cllr Robert Everitt, Bury St Edmunds and Community Safety Portfolio

Portfolio includes:

- Cabinet commitment for Bury St. Edmunds;
- Community Safety;
- Safeguarding Children;
- Licensing;
- Environmental Health;
- Environmental Management;
- CCTV;
- Emergency Planning;
- Youth Action Plan (excluding Haverhill);
- Community development (excluding Haverhill); and
- Grants

1. Community Development and Community Safety

1.1 Transfer of Southgate Community Centre

You will see from the report of the Portfolio Holder for Economy and Asset Management that Council this evening is being asked to endorse the recommendation from the Cabinet on the principle of transferring at nil value the freehold of the Southgate Community Centre to the Southgate Community Partnership. Subject to approval by full Council, Councillor Mrs Mildmay-White and myself will have delegated authority to confirm that the Council's requirements and safeguards have been met and finally approve the transfer, which has a target date of June 2011. This transfer will be the first community centre to be transferred and will, hopefully, form the template for other communities to take a more active involvement in their centre.

1.2 BurySOUND Launch Event

This is scheduled for 13 May 2011 and is being held at The LP venue in Bury St Edmunds. This new venue for the launch will provide more space and, with the entire event being broadcast live as part of a BBC Suffolk 'Introducing' show the launch will reach a much wider audience. The competition itself will take place at The Apex over three Fridays in October and November 2011.

1.3 **Go Rwanda**

As part of the activity in the build-up to the Olympics the Youth Development Officer is working on a youth film initiative to produce a short film about Rwanda. The officer will be working with a London-based film maker call Jamie Quantrill, who originates from Bury St Edmunds. The film will be used as a resource in local schools to assist with lessons and assemblies to increase interest and awareness from young people. There will be a first showing in Bury St Edmunds for Councillors, schools and officials from the Rwandan embassy. The film will also be entered in the Film Nation Olympic Legacy initiative.

1.4 **The Apex Student Events**

We are working in partnership with West Suffolk College and University Campus Suffolk and hope to run three youth-led student nights over the next year. Bringing events such as these and BurySOUND to The Apex are important in demonstrating that it is a venue for everyone in the town and surrounding areas, including young people.

1.5 **Wos Up Rural Youthwork Project**

Last year the reach of the project was extended by reducing the length of time the project ran in each village. Having evaluated this approach and having the benefit of debate at the Rural Area Working Party officers have this year been encouraged to approach Parish Councils to see if they are willing to commit funding to the project in order to restore longer runs of sessions. I am very pleased to say that all but one village has come back and agreed to contribute, which will greatly extend the reach of the project as the extended number of villages can be visited for longer run of sessions. The full programme will be out in early May 2011.

1.6 **Events planning**

Work continues on the planning for the Community Picnic on the Howard Estate in Bury St Edmunds in the May/June 2011 half term week. Officers are also busy ensuring work can get underway on the upgrade to the facilities on the Skatepark, also in Bury St Edmunds, which are being funded from a successful Lottery Bid. In addition, the Skate JAM is being organised by the Skate Park Committee for Sunday 10 July 2011.

1.7 **Crucial Crew**

Planning is well underway for this personal safety event, which is run each summer for year six students. This year it will be taking place from 4 to 15 July 2011 at West Suffolk College. Over 1,200 students from middle schools across the Borough are expected to benefit from the event, which is supported by the police, fire service, Abbeycroft Leisure, and voluntary groups.

2. **Environmental Management/Environmental Health**

2.1 **Greener Homes Do It Yourself Grants update**

Officers, along with other public sector and private sector organisations, have organised a Greener Homes DIY showcase event at Haverhill Arts Centre for 1 April 2011. Everyone attending will be able to apply for at least £50 of free products, with some households eligible for up to £350 of products, saving money on fuel bills and reducing their carbon footprint.

- 2.2 Further showcase events are planned over the coming months. The list of goods on offer includes loft insulation, draught proofing, pipe insulation, hot water tank jackets, solid wall insulation, reflective radiator panels, and water butts. The events also provide the opportunity for residents to find out about renewable energy systems and the exciting opportunities available from Feed in Tariffs.

3. Citizens Advice Bureaux

- 3.1 You will recall that the Cabinet had agreed that in order for the first full six months of funding allocated for 2011/2012 to be payable to the Bury St Edmunds and Haverhill Citizens' Advice Bureaux that the funding would only be released in full provided the Bureaux had held Extraordinary General Meetings (EGM) committing to merger by 1 April 2011, something both Bureaux had advised was achievable.
- 3.2 Officers and myself have held discussions with staff and the Chairmen of the Board of Trustees of the two Bureaux and we are now advised that the due diligence process, which each Bureau had to go through, is underway but not progressing as quickly as originally envisaged. Therefore, both Bureaux will not be able to hold EGMs by the due date of 1 April 2011. However, there is clear commitment from both Bureaux to a merger and the Borough Council is in receipt of minutes from both Bureaux which clearly states this commitment.
- 3.3 On 16 March 2011 the Cabinet, having considered a report and representations made by the Bureaux and Councillor Spicer, the Borough Council's representative on the Bury St Edmunds and District Citizens' Advice Bureaux Management Committee, concluded that in the circumstances it would be extremely counter productive to delay the funding available for the two Bureaux in respect of the first six months of 2011/2012 because they had failed to hold an EGM by 1 April 2011.

4. Bury St Edmunds Area Working Party

4.1 Petition: 'Make the King's Road Area Safe'

The Area Working Party received a petition, which contained over 130 signatures, that raised concerns regarding safety, traffic flow and footway widths in light of a serious collision which occurred at the junction of King's Road and Albert Crescent. The Working Party was informed that officers from both the Borough and County Council had discussed issues and in particular the possibility of allowing some parking in sections of King's Road at all times and introducing a 'no waiting at any time' restriction to the rest of the road. The parking will have the benefit of slowing down traffic and deter some unnecessary use of the road as a through route. In addition, the installation of bollards in front of number 1 Albert Crescent is to take place.

4.2 St Andrew's Street South

There have been concerns surrounding vehicular access arrangements in St Andrew's Street South for some considerable time and various consultations have taken place in order to find a realistic solution that deters unauthorised use, facilitates authorised use and pedestrian safety. I now consider that an appropriate solution has been found, which includes additional loading and waiting restrictions, the signing of existing access restrictions and physical changes to the layout, which will incorporate 'build outs', moving the bus stop on the east side of the road, and the introduction of a priority system.

4.3 West Suffolk College: Amendment to Masterplan

The Area Working Party received an informative presentation from West Suffolk College on the amendments to their adopted Masterplan to take account of the loss of funding from the Learning and Skills Council. The draft amendments are out to consultation and the results of that consultation will be reported to the Sustainable Development Working Party.

4.4 Vinery Road Car Park

Following on from concerns expressed about the difficulty users have regularly in finding a space in the Vinery Road car park adjacent to Holywater Meadow, a survey of the car park had been undertaken. The survey revealed that long stay (over 2 hours) parking was prevalent but there was little evidence that the long stay users were then proceeding on to the hospital. Long stay use appeared to be by town centre commuters, but the majority seemed to be related to staff at the adjacent shops and nearby residents. The Area Working Party considered that there should be a charge introduced for long stay users and that nearby residents and shop employees should be offered season tickets. On the recommendation from the Area Working Party, the Cabinet approved that parking charges should be introduced.

4.5 Highways Works

Other highways works agreed include the implementation of a traffic calming scheme in Horsecroft Road, and, on the request of the Police, the installation on each corner of the War Memorial located on Angel Hill of additional signage to reinforce the message that parking is prohibited.

You will also see from the report of the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning that there has been a review to the extension to the Zone H Neighbourhood Parking Scheme to parts of Queen's Road and York Road.