



Council 19 June 2012

CABINET MEMBER REPORT TO FULL COUNCIL

Report by Cllr Robert Everitt, Tourism and Community Services Portfolio

Portfolio includes:

- Bury St Edmunds;
- Children, Young People and Safeguarding Issues;
- Emergency Planning, Community Safety and CCTV;
- Grants;
- Localism;
- Markets.
- Tourism; and
- Community Development (excluding Haverhill).

1. Tourism

- 1.1 The Suffolk Walking Festival Launch took place at Ickworth House on 20 May. Organised by the Tourism Officers from Forest Heath, St Edmundsbury, Babergh and Mid-Suffolk Councils. The event had over 40 walks during the three week period. Bookings went well and plans are for a bigger and better event next year.
- 1.2 Working with Visit East Anglia (VEA), the Tourist Information Office (TIC) has offered several promotions including "2 for 1" guided tours of Bury St Edmunds for visitors travelling to the area by train. This is in partnership with Greater Anglia. The offers have also been put onto the Enjoy England's Olympic offers website.
- 1.3 Use of the Bury Tourism Group website www.visit-burystedmunds.co.uk is 30% up for the first four months of this year, which follows it receiving over 90,000 hits in 2011. This website also remains the first result which appears on Google for searches involving Bury St Edmunds tourism.
- 1.4 I attended the Jubilee Fete that took place on 5 June in the Abbey Gardens, Bury St Edmunds. It was a great success with thousands of people enjoying the event. Funding was provided by the Town Council, Borough Council and Suffolk County Council. The event was for visitors and residents alike, and was along the 1950's style fetes, with plenty of competitions and free activities for children. We hope to repeat this event next year.
- 1.5 The TIC is working with Bid4Bury to promote Bury St Edmunds to the 20,000 journalists who will be visiting the UK over the summer for the Olympics. We will be offering bespoke packages, with overnight stays, meals and guided tours.

2. Community Safety

2.1 Partnership Impact events have taken place in Anselm Avenue in Bury St Edmunds and on the Clements estate in Haverhill. These multi-agency events were organised by Havebury Housing Partnership and involved the Borough Council's staff from Waste Management Services and Community Safety. It also involved Havebury Housing Partnership neighbourhood officers, rangers and maintenance staff, together with Police and Fire colleagues. The events were focused in areas of concern on the estates, and residents were given the opportunity to have small repairs done at their property, register for a free fire safety check, have bulky items of rubbish removed, and have their say on any concerns in the area. There were also litter picks and graffiti removal where required. Both events were well received by the residents and the feedback has been very positive.

2.2 Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership has agreed its new priorities for 2012/2013 as follows:-

- (a) Sustaining a safer night time economy;
- (b) Protecting and developing our communities; and
- (c) Protecting vulnerable families.

A copy of the plan has been circulated to Members and is available on the website.

2.3 Domestic Homicide Review

(a) The Home Office has made carrying out a domestic homicide review a responsibility of Community Safety Partnerships. This means that should any domestic homicide occur in the area of Western Suffolk, as Chairman of the Western Area Community Safety Partnership, I have the responsibility of carrying out the review. The review is not about determining guilt on any party or failings in any agency, it is about identifying any gaps in provision of support or services which may have resulted in a different outcome. The first official review in the County was carried out in St Edmundsbury in February this year. It was determined after the initial collation of information, that a full review was not required in this case, and the Home Office was informed of the decision. We now await the Home Office's response to our decision.

2.4 Hidden in Plain sight

(a) A disability hate crime seminar was hosted in The Apex, and delivered by the Suffolk Hate Crime Consortium and Suffolk Hate Crime Service. The event took place on 30 March, and was well attended from colleagues across the County. There were case studies from people who had been the subject of this type of crime, which was very powerful.

2.5 Jubilee Big Picnic

(a) On Wednesday 6 June, I also attended the third Community Picnic which took place on the Howard Primary School playing field in Bury St Edmunds. To celebrate the 60th year of the Queen's reign it was rebranded the Jubilee Big Picnic. External funding and locality funding enabled the activities on offer to be further enhanced. The popular 4 in 1 mobile bungee trampoline returned, as well as an inflatable slide, trailer trampoline, chair-o-plane fair ground ride and magician. The event was again supported by our local partners who provided a number of craft and sporting activities as well as a face painter. Both the Howard and Mildenhall Estate Residents' Associations support this annual event, and play a growing role in its organisation.

2.6 **Community Centres**

- (a) With support from officers, Newbury Community Association has been successful in gaining support from both Locality and Suffolk Pro-Help to assist them in exploring what an asset transfer of the Community Centre would involve.
- (b) Officers have also worked with the Southgate Community Centre to address an issue over long-term parking in the car park, which serves the Centre which was transferred in September 2011. A solution which works for local residents and the centre is being sought.

2.7 **Bury Skate Park Experience**

- (a) It is very heartening to see so many youngsters getting involved in running this very popular facility. With parents' support, we now have 30 plus members. The group continues to operate well, with a strong buy-in from the young people and parents with general attendance at 30 plus members. The group is organising a Fundraising Skate Jam on Sunday 9 September 2012, with all proceeds going toward a new skate park facility.

2.8 **Fresh Festival Youth Business Event: 14 September 2012**

- (a) An exciting new youth event is being organised as part of our very successful Business Festival. The Fresh Festival is aimed at 16 plus age group and aims to encourage entrepreneurship amongst young people. There will be a wide range of speakers and contributors from Suffolk and further afield.

2.9 **Wos Up Project**

- (a) The Wos Up rural youth project has been running again since late May. The project is operating in nine villages this summer, and the project is being attended by up to 25 young people per session. The project offers a wide range of activities to young people in their own villages.

3. **Markets and Bury St Edmunds Christmas Fayre**

- 3.1 The drafting of the proposed new market licence agreement has been completed, and the Task and Finish Group set up with myself, officers and trader representatives has met on a number of occasions. It is hoped that at the Task and Finish Group meeting scheduled for 12 June final feedback will be received and the document can be finalised.
- 3.2 Applications for processing casual traders has been speeded up by allowing them to turn up without first having to complete an application form. Recent casual product lines introduced in this quarter include: Flat roof systems, Motoring School, Gift Products, and Cakes. New interim permanent trader product lines recruited to the market in this quarter are: Indian Food, Handmade Jewellery and Corsage, Italian Food Stuffs, Gourmet Sauces, Butcher, Hungarian Cake, Puppets and Educational Games, Organic Herbs.
- 3.3 A programme of potential market events was drawn up by the Market Business Development Officer, and presented to Traders for consideration. As a result, the Markets Management Team is planning a special event on 30 June to celebrate National Market Day in Bury St Edmunds and Haverhill. A 'seed house' marquee for new businesses trading less than 12 months has been planned and traders have been recruited in partnership with MENTA. 'La Tasca' will be providing cookery demonstrations of Spanish food throughout the day at the National Market Day event, and trading hours will be extended to 5 pm on the day to benefit the expected footfall in the market on both event days.

3.4 I was very pleased to recommend the adoption of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommendations regarding the Bury St Edmunds Christmas Fayre. The quality of the work of the Task and Finish Group was very evident in its final report to the Committee, and it was pleasing that, overall, the Fayre continues to be seen as having a positive community and economic impact. The organising group is now working through the recommendations in time for the 2012 Fayre, particularly in respect of parking and infrastructure.

4. CCTV

4.1. CCTV works very closely with the Police to reduce crime and disorder in the towns that it monitors. Images captured by the CCTV team in Bury St Edmunds during the early hours of New Years Day were used on TV, and played a significant role in the arrests. Also the CCTV worked closely with the Major Investigation Team investigating another serious incident, and has provided vital evidence to be used in an ongoing court proceedings.

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