



## Council 27 September 2012

### CABINET MEMBER REPORT TO FULL COUNCIL

#### ***Report by Cllr Robert Everitt Tourism and Community Services***

**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 Heritage Open Days took place between 6 - 9 September, and for the first time covered the whole of West Suffolk. Over 30 attractions opened and over 15 walks and talks took place. The whole event was a great success with many compliments coming from the public and the organisers.
- 1.2 The organisation of the Christmas Fayre is well underway with all the stalls now taken. The event will take place between 23 - 25 November, and for the first time we will also have a provisions market on the Friday. There will be extra stalls in the arc and more entertainment on the two stages. All businesses in the town have been approached via Bid4Bury and the Bury Free Press to put on special offers during the event. In return we are offering free promotion and advertising.
- 1.3 The Tourist Information Centre (TIC) has had a busy summer despite a slight drop in numbers during the Olympics. The town has hosted over 1500 students at the Bury Language School and has worked with them on tours and outings. The guided tours have also been very busy, with a tour for the 'Red Hat Ladies' coming up in October. This will be attended by the Mayor and will be the biggest tour the town has ever seen, with over 200 ladies joining in.
- 1.4 June was a very busy month - the TIC organised the Jubilee Fete in the Abbey Gardens with funding from the Town Council. Over 3000 people turned out for this traditional family fun day, and I do hope we can repeat this event as it was so well received. On 30 June we organised another successful Armed Forces Day. A great day was had by the service personnel and their families as well as the general public, and money was raised for Help for Heroes charity.

- 1.5 The tourism officer continues to work with other districts on promotions. The new 2013 visitor guide is now in the planning stages and will incorporate West Suffolk, Mid Suffolk, Babergh and Ipswich Borough Councils. This will make the guide cost effective and increase advertising revenue.
- 1.6 The TIC is working closely with the Theatre Royal and other organisations on the 'Octobury' promotions in October. Many venues are getting together to provide a joint marketing plan to promote October events. The TIC will be helping with ticket sales and organising special evening guided walks.

## **2. Community Development**

- 2.1 Crucial Crew 2012 took place in early July at West Suffolk College. This is a personal safety event for year six children in St Edmundsbury. The children have an opportunity to visit eight different situations and learn how to keep safe. The topics covered were: internet safety, anti social behaviour, water safety, fire safety, railway safety, first aid, road safety and germ busting. Over 1100 children from 21 schools took part this year and the feedback was very positive. There is always an open invitation to Members to attend, and I would encourage anyone who has sampled this event to come along next year. I certainly enjoyed my day helping groups from the school where I am a governor work their way around the scenarios.
- 2.2 The Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership, that incorporates 4 district Councils: Forest Heath, St Edmundsbury, Mid Suffolk and now Babergh, have produced and distributed a 'brochure' to the prospective candidates for the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) election. This document outlines the positive contribution that the partnership makes to keeping our community safe in the West, together with details of the priorities for the coming year. There are currently two declared candidates but there is plenty of time for others to come forward before the October deadline for nominations.
- 2.3 The Police and Crime Panel will be the group which scrutinises the work of the new PCC. Each authority has a representative and reserve on the group. Cllr Tim Marks is our representative and brings with him the knowledge built up as a member of the Police Authority, and Cllr Patsy Warby is our substitute member. The Panel members and substitutes have started their training ahead of the first formal meeting of the Panel which will take place in October, so the Panel is in place by the time the PCC is elected.
- 2.4 Following a merger of the Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury Domestic Abuse Forums earlier in the year, the new group for West Suffolk have now elected a new chairman and vice chairman. Cllr Anne Gower (Chair) and Cllr Maureen Byrne (Vice Chair) will be leading the group to form a local action plan to tackle domestic abuse. As well as addressing local factors, the plan will also support the County and National strategies, especially in the area of awareness raising.
- 2.5 I am delighted to inform you that Westbury Community Association is stepping up to the mark and has committed to work with the Council towards the transfer of the West Bury Community Centre on Oliver Road. The group are very committed and are in the process of securing some free practical support for the work ahead of them from two of the organisations we have previously worked with – Locality and Suffolk ProHelp. This will give them access to independent advice to sit alongside the support which officers will provide.
- 2.6 Bury Skate Park Experience - The Bury Skate Park Experience is the voluntary committee set up and organised by young people. It is a well attended group with 30 young people at each meeting. The focus of the committee is the replacement of the current wooden skate park which has reached the end of its natural life. The Council has committed up to £150,000 to the cost of building a new concrete skatepark. The committee are now

fundraising and putting in grant applications to raise the remaining funds needed for the build.

- 2.7 Skate JAM 2012 - The Bury Skate JAM, the last on the old wooden park, was a huge success again this year with 1000 people attending and enjoying this amazing event. They raised £2,300 for the new skate park fund. The Skate JAM provided young people from the Borough with an opportunity to showcase their skills and enjoy a very positive day celebrating youth culture. The committee of young people played a huge role in running the event which also benefited from sponsorship of the prizes by Hardcore Hobbies.
- 2.8 Street Football Cage - The Street Football Project is aimed at young people and attends areas in the Borough where youth related anti-social behaviour is higher than average or where a specific need has been identified. Over the summer sessions have been held in Haverhill, Clare and Bury. The attendance at all of these sessions has been excellent and the project has been delivered by our team of volunteer youth workers.
- 2.9 Fresh Festival - The Fresh Festival was the young persons' element of the Business Festival. This new event, which was held at The Apex, was aimed at aspiring young business entrepreneurs. The event was attended by schools and colleges from across the Borough. It featured over 40 local interesting and creative businesses. The event was a huge success and we thank our partners for all of their support, it was quite inspirational.
- 2.10 Bury Sound Unplugged - After a pilot session at Easter, BurySound Unplugged is being established as the new monthly youth acoustic music showcase. It is being held at The Apex and will showcase youth musicians from the Borough.
- 2.11 Wos Up Project - The rural youth project has continued to do very well over the summer delivering over 70 sessions in the rural areas of the Borough. The attendance has been very good and the feedback from young people using the service has been excellent. The project has just completed its fifth year of activity in the Borough.