



## Council 26 February 2013

### 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. Community Safety**

1.1 The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), Tim Passmore, has issued his draft Police and Crime plan for consultation. A joint West Suffolk response was agreed by portfolio holders from both St Edmundsbury Borough and Forest Heath District Councils, and the Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership (WSCSP) also made a response. It is very early days for the PCC, but I am heartened to see that Mr Passmore has included in his budget for 2013/2014 some funding to address community safety. Although the breakdown of the distribution of that funding is not yet known there are a variety of elements of the plan which I believe the WSCSP is well placed to deliver as the PCC plan reflects and complements the priorities that have been adopted by the WSCSP for 2013/2014. These priorities are:

- (a) **Creating a Safer Night Time Economy** – addressing the offending link to the night time economy and excessive alcohol consumption;
- (b) **Tackle Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)** – addressing young people as offenders, the perception of young people in the community and complex ASB cases;
- (c) **Domestic Abuse** – Recognising it is a driver for violent crime and abuse in family settings, as well as links to ASB and criminality;

- (d) **Tackling Substance Misuse** - this is a broad issue, but it is known that harm is greatest in the most deprived areas;
- (e) **Tackling Emerging Crime** – this priority allows space to respond to issues that are more short term and therefore not included in the Strategic Assessment, such as issues which are identified through the Safer Neighbourhood Teams and other forms of engagement and partnership working; and
- (f) **Rural Crime** – alongside the PCC draft plan we will also tackle the problems around rural crime, which include theft from farms and outlying buildings.

## **2. Wos Up 2012**

2.1 It was another very successful year for the Rural Youth Work Programme, the majority of which is delivered through the Wos Up mobile youth project. Details of the project, which engaged over 230 individuals last summer, were reported to the Rural Area Working Party in January. Nine villages were provided with the project which ran for 6 or 12 weeks depending on the size of the village and whether or not the Parish Council contributed to the cost of the sessions. There were over 500 attendances from young people and a similar programme to take the activities out to young people will be commissioned this year to complement the programme of events which are available in the towns.

### **2.2 Bury St Edmunds Skate Park**

The bury skate park project is developing well. The construction contract is currently going through the procurement process with a expected start date on site of early June for phase one to begin on the site. The Bury Skate Park Experience Committee have been working hard to secure the funding for completing phase two of the project; they have currently banked 30K and have three external funding bids outstanding, so things are looking very positive at the current time. I look forward to bringing further updates as the project develops.

## **3. Community Centre Transfer**

3.1 Cllr Gower's report provides an update on the position for the two Haverhill Centres. Work continues with Newbury Community Association and a local church which uses the centres for some community events to explore how to support the association in their work to understand what a transfer involves.

3.2 By contrast, work on the transfer of Westbury is moving on at a good pace. They have four days of training to support them in business planning, selecting an appropriate model of governance, sourcing funding and deciding how to engage with their local community. We will be encouraging them to share their experience of a transfer with Newbury as the two communities have many similarities.

## **4. Community Development**

4.1 Following the community engagement event on the Mildenhall Road Estate in November which I reported on in December I thought you would be interested to know that 20 referrals were passed onto Age UK and Havebury Housing. The

referrals were for day to day support services to enable older people to live independently.

## **5. Tourism**

- 5.1 The Tourism Officer attended the 'Excursions' travel show held at Alexandra Palace in London during January; the show is the largest travel show in the country, attracting over 200 group organisers and coach operators. Their details have been captured and packs of information are being sent out to them advertising our events. Additional information promoting the street Market, Christmas Fayre and Food and Drink Festival will be sent out to them later in the year. Representatives of SEBC will attend additional travel shows taking place later in the year at RAF Lakenheath (in partnership with Forest Heath District Council) and Best of Britain and Ireland Show (in partnership with Ipswich Borough Council)
- 5.2 The 'hits' to the Visit Bury St Edmunds website, which is managed by the Tourist Information Centre (TIC) on behalf of the Bury Tourism Group, increased from 89,000 in 2011 to 109,000 in 2012. The Group increased to 22 members in 2012.
- 5.3 English Tourism Week starts on 16 March and runs until 24 March 2013. Events planned by the Tourist Information Centre include a free 'Know Your Town Tour' which is being promoted to enable local people to learn more about what is on their doorstep and to impress their visiting friends and relatives. Other tours which will be promoted at the same time are 'tea shop' walks which include afternoon tea in some of the cafes and tea shops in the town, and guided walk gift packages which include a meal voucher for use in participating pubs and restaurants. The TIC has been working very closely with a number of eating establishments in the town to develop these events.
- 5.4 There will also be a free to enter town quiz with question sheets available from the Tourist Information Centre; prizes will be awarded to the winners.
- 5.5 On Saturday 23 March during English Tourism Week, the TIC is hosting an open day at the Unitarian Meeting House to promote this building as a venue for hire. The day will include tours of the building, and staff will be on site to answer questions and take bookings.
- 5.6 The TIC is working with the market representatives to host a children's Easter egg hunt around the market on Saturday 30 March. Trails will be available from the TIC and children will be given a small Easter egg on completion and return of the sheets.

## **6. Emergency Planning**

- 6.1 There are no incidents to report.
- 6.2 An '*Elected Member – Role in Civil Protection*' training session was delivered in October 2012 and attended by seven Councillors.
- 6.3 The Community Resilience campaign continues, with a great deal of interest in the Community Emergency Kits funded through the Rural Action Plan. To date, four communities have received kits and a further ten are working with the Emergency Planning Officers to develop their local Emergency Plans. Once these are complete they will receive their kit.

- 6.4 The next Community Resilience meeting will be in March 2013 and will be a joint meeting attended by groups from across West Suffolk. Through an exercise, groups with existing plans will be able to test them against the scenario, whilst those without can consider the issues that arise during their plan development process.
- 6.5 For the quarter ending 31 December 2012 the Performance and Capability Assessment was, for the first time, completed for West Suffolk as opposed to individually for Forest Heath DC and St Edmundsbury BC.
- 6.6 The combined Emergency Planning volunteer pool meets the revised minimum numbers for joint authority areas.
- 6.7 Business Continuity Arrangements are shown as amber due to the fact that the separate Business Continuity plans for each authority need to be combined into a West Suffolk plan. This work will commence in February 2013, with the first meeting of a combined Business Continuity Forum attended by officers from both authorities.
- 7. CCTV**
- 7.1 CCTV operates 24/7 all year round to enhance a sense of safety within the community for our residents and visitors by helping to prevent and reduce crime and disorder in the 6 town centres that we monitor (Bury St Edmunds, Haverhill, Mildenhall, Brandon, Newmarket and Stowmarket) including car parks and the surrounding areas. All cameras are reactively and proactively monitored, and as we have the Emergency Services Airwave radios in the Control Room the Police rely on CCTV obtaining vital evidence, in many instances before they are able to get there.
- 7.2 The Christmas and New Year period was overall very quiet in all the towns compared to previous years. Extra police officers were deployed to the Control Room on the two weekends leading up to Christmas and on New Year's Eve, working alongside our CCTV operators to keep any anti-social behaviour under control. The Control Room also monitors the Shop watch and Pub watch secure net radio systems, as well as undertaking the Out of Hours Emergency Service for both St Edmundsbury and Forest Heath councils.