



St Edmundsbury
BOROUGH COUNCIL

E39

Council 18 June 2012

CABINET MEMBER REPORT TO FULL COUNCIL

Report by Cllr Robert Everitt Communities Portfolio

Portfolio includes:

- Bury St Edmunds
- Community Safety
- Youth Provision/Children and Young People
- Community Development
- Third Sector/Localism
- Equalities
- CCTV
- Emergency Planning

1. *Emergency Planning*

- 1.1 There are no emergency incidents to report.
- 1.2 Rest Centre and Control Centre training courses have been held for the SEBC employees that have volunteered to staff them.
- 1.3 In conjunction with the ICT service the resilience of emergency response capability has been increased by achieving consistency between the Emergency Control Centres at SEBC and at FHDC so that either location can be used in the event of an incident in the west of the county.
- 1.4 Liaison with the two Tier 1 COMAH sites (Control of Major Accident Hazards) in the Borough has continued and a meeting has been held with the businesses adjacent to Calor Saxham and IFF Haverhill. The purpose of these meetings was to ensure that they had an understanding of the Offsite Plan and were prepared for any potential consequences of an incident.
- 1.5 The Community Resilience Support Network meeting in March 2013 provided an opportunity for 13 groups from across West Suffolk to test their local emergency plans through a table top exercise.

- 1.6 Emergency Planning officers continued to support the West Suffolk Safety Advisory Group, providing advice and guidance to event organisers and promoters alongside colleagues from Licensing, Environmental Health, Highways and the emergency services.
- 1.7 Work is continuing on a combined West Suffolk Business Continuity Plan reflecting the shared service arrangements that are being implemented.

2. *Tourist Information Centre*

- 2.1 Between February and May 2013 we have hosted press trips for Aspect Country Magazine, The Daily Mirror, The People's Friend, The Times, Disability Magazine and the Eastern Daily Press. The feature by the Times and Aspect County Magazine are imminent. The others have already been published and have generated enquiries.
- 2.2 The Suffolk Walking Festival was a great success with over 75% of the walks fully booked. The event was organised by tourism officers from FHDC, SEBC, Mid Suffolk and Suffolk Coastal and Suffolk County Council Countryside Access Development Manager. The 2014 event is already in the planning stages.
- 2.3 All pitches for the Christmas Fayre are now full and we already have 35 coaches booked. The event will run from Thursday 28 November at 4pm to incorporate a 'residents/locals' evening with special offers, free parking and schools involved in entertainment.
- 2.4 Events happening during the summer which are being organised by the tourism team include: Armed Forces Day and Love your Local Market Day 29 June, St Edmunds Community Fete 4 August (in partnership with the Town Council), Street Food Festival 28 September and Harvest Festival Farmers Market 13 October (in partnership with the Cathedral).

Activities for Love Your Local Market include free fruit giveaways, street entertainment, start-up stalls for new businesses and recipe cards. Armed Forces Day includes free music including the Honington Military Wives Choir, 1940's dancing, military displays and children's entertainment.

- 2.5 Hits to the Visit Bury website have increased on last year by approximately 32%. Between March and May 2012 a total of 22,746 people visited the site; for the same period this year 30,079 visits to the site were recorded. In addition, 5 new members have joined since March.

3. *CCTV*

CCTV continues to operate in the background, enhancing a sense of safety and reducing the fear of crime for local residents and visitors to our town centres. Recent press releases for which CCTV are responsible include a

male charged with the murder of a woman in the town centre on 27 March. A suspicious male was monitored and this evidence was later used for a conviction. More recently was a story in the Bury Free Press where town centre shop windows were smashed; this was seen by CCTV who called the Police, and a male was charged with criminal damage.

4. Community Safety

- 4.1 The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) has awarded the Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership (covering St Edmundsbury, Forest Heath, Mid Suffolk and Babergh) a total of £72,238 to commission projects/initiatives which meet both the priorities of the WSCSP and the objectives of the PCC.
- 4.2 The Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership has published its plan outlining the outcomes from 2012-13, the new priorities for 2013-14 and an action plan to achieve them. The plan, along with a commissioning document for funding, is available to download on the SEBC website.

5. Community Centres

- 5.1 I am pleased to report good progress is still being made with the transfer of the Westbury Community Centre. The management committee have received support from Can Do Communities, a consultancy with expertise in this area, which has enabled them to start to develop their Business Plan and to carry out an organisational 'health-check'. This highlighted some areas which need development, but also showed what a good position the group are in to take on the centre.
- 5.2 The second centre in Bury, Newbury, is still not progressing at a rate it had been hoped for; however, there have been some small steps forward. There have been talks with other potential partners, but these are in the very early stages.

6. Community Picnic

- 6.1 Officers had worked with local residents to plan a community picnic for the Howard and Mildenhall estates on 29 May. Unfortunately the extremely wet weather overnight and on the day meant the event had to be cancelled. This was a great disappointment to all involved but was a sensible response to the conditions on the day. It is unclear whether an alternative event can be staged at a later date.

7. Fresh Festival 2013

- 7.1 The young people's business event is taking place again on 19 September at The Apex. Officers are building on the success of last year's event which over 400 young people attended. This year Barclays Bank are sponsoring the entire cost of the event.

8. *Bury Skate Park and Bury Skate Park Experience*

- 8.1 The project is progressing with the contract for construction being given to a Bristol based company who come with a fantastic track record of producing some of the best skate parks in the UK. The provisional start date for construction is the end of August 2013.
- 8.2 The Community group is going from strength to strength, with them now becoming a registered charity. The group are continuing to work hard to raise additional funds for the project. At the end of May they were granted a further £10,000 of funding from Havebury Housing.

9. *Wos Up Project*

- 9.1 The Wos Up rural outreach project is active again in the rural parts of the Borough. The project is working in 7 villages this summer, with a total of 60 sessions being delivered.

10. *BurySOUND*

- 10.1 The competition is back and is now being run by a committee of volunteers who are working hard to make the event as good as possible. They have been running workshops to get more young people involved and they organised a fantastic launch event at the Apex during half term week which was attended by over 200 people.