

## Council 30 September 2013

### 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. Community Safety**

- 1.1 Crucial Crew 2013 took place at West Suffolk College during the first two weeks of July. The personal safety event for Year 6 children attracted 21 St Edmundsbury schools and taught 1100 children valuable lessons in keeping safe. The feedback has been extremely positive with one school commenting: *"I am sure that all of the subjects will be talked about in a lot more detail at school. It was good to see the children thinking! The children seemed interested in everything. A very good experience"*.

This annual event is organised by the Community Safety Officer and delivered in partnership with a range of partners including Police, Suffolk County Council, Abbeycroft Leisure, Fire and Rescue service, Environmental Health and the British Red Cross.

- 1.2 An Alcohol Diversion Scheme has been launched across Suffolk and Norfolk. It is designed to deliver brief interventions to those receiving their first fixed Penalty Notice for Disorder (PND) where alcohol is a contributing factor, or a Drunk and Disorderly, so is targeting a group of people who do not see their alcohol intake as problematic but whose behaviour has an impact on the local community. Those receiving a PND can pay the £80 fine or can elect to undertake the three-hour awareness session at a cost of £40. Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership has helped to fund this initiative.

- 1.3 'Reduce the Strength' campaign – As referred to in Councillor Clements' report, this voluntary campaign is now being rolled out as good practice across Suffolk and beyond.

Suffolk Police is working with the Community Safety Officer and Licensing Officer to roll out this initiative to off licence premises across St Edmundsbury in early October 2013.

## **2. Youth Provision/Children and Young People**

### **2.1 RAF Honington**

- 2.1.1 On 25 July 2013 the Youth Officer took the Council's Football Cage to RAF Honington to give the young people of service families the opportunity to come together socially and take part in this fun activity; this event was well received. This follows training on Safeguarding which had previously been provided to staff and volunteers on the base who are working to provide more activities for young people there. Both events are practical examples of the Council delivering on the commitment it made in 2012 when the Leader signed the Suffolk-wide Military Covenant.

### **2.2 Bury Skate Park**

- 2.2.1 The majority of the old wooden structure at the Skate Park in Olding Road has now been removed due to concerns about its dilapidated state. The key players in the skate park user group were advised of the need to remove the structure and were understanding of the need to take the action. Countless repairs had been carried out on the facility over the past few months to try and keep it going but following the most recent audit it was clear that we could no longer continue in this way as the costs would be prohibitive.
- 2.2.2 I am very pleased to report that the Skate Park committee, made up of the skate park users, is on track to bring in all the funding needed to refurbish the park. This means all the work can now go ahead in one go, rather than in two phases, as originally planned. We hope to have the contractors on site at the end of October 2013. The new facilities will then open in early spring 2014.
- 2.2.3 This has been a great achievement for the Skate Park committee and for our Youth Officer who has guided the committee through the design, procurement, planning application and funding processes, and the Parks' staff.

## **3. Westbury Community Centre**

- 3.1 Westbury Community Association is making good progress towards taking on the ownership of the Centre. It has taken advantage of a range of training and independent advice and is now in the process of working up a full business plan, which will culminate in it taking over and running the Westbury Community Centre for its own community.

#### **4. Bury St Edmunds**

- 4.1 May I take this opportunity to congratulate Bid4Bury, who ran its second successful Food and Drink event on the Sunday and Monday of August Bank Holiday 2013. It is testament that there is a joined up approach to making Bury St Edmunds the successful town it is, that continues to move us up the rankings of one of the best town's in the country. It is the partnership working across many organisations that keep's Bury St Edmunds the 'A Jewel in the Crown of East Anglia'.

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