
Council



St Edmundsbury
BOROUGH COUNCIL

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| Title of Report: | Report by Cllr Sara Mildmay-White Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Health and Communities | |
| Report No: | COU/SE/15/004 [to be completed by Democratic Services] | |
| Report to and date/s: | Council | 24 February 2015 |
| Portfolio includes: | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health and Wellbeing• Bury St Edmunds• Community Safety• Youth Provision/Children and Young People• Community Development• Third Sector/Localism• Equalities• CCTV• Emergency Planning | |

1. Health and Wellbeing

- 1.1 At its meeting in January, the Health and Wellbeing Board discussed a wide range of issues and progress made towards the delivery of its strategic outcomes. To support the Board's focus on promoting healthy lifestyles, we received a presentation on the plans for the Suffolk Year of Cycling campaign. The campaign will be launched in March and will run for 12 months and aims to encourage more people to cycle. This campaign coincides well with the launch of the Women's Tour in June in Bury St Edmunds.
- 1.2 Also on the agenda for discussion at the Health and Wellbeing Board was dementia and the Board members' role in promoting and leading dementia friendly communities. The vision for dementia friendly communities is to help people and their families carers who are experiencing dementia to feel healthy, well supported and safe at home. At West Suffolk we are already taking steps to become a dementia friendly employer, including providing training for our customer service and housing staff. We are also already an accredited Mindful Employer which means we have an agreed approach to all with mental health issues.

- 1.3 The next West Suffolk Health and Wellbeing Forum will be held in March and will include a presentation from a representative from Care UK about improvements to care homes in West Suffolk.
- 1.4 Following its successful launch in 2013, a revised version of the Haverhill Health Services Directory has recently been published by the West Suffolk Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and One Haverhill, with financial support from St Edmundsbury. The purpose of the Health Services Directory is to access the correct local healthcare services. Information is provided on GP surgeries, out-of-hours GP and dental services, clinics, dentists, community pharmacies and other services. Copies of the directory are available from various outlets in the town and can be viewed at:
<http://www.westsuffolkccg.nhs.uk/yourhealth/health-service-guides/>

2. Community safety

- 2.1 Following changes to funding arrangements, discussions have been taking place about community safety and the role of the Community Safety Partnerships across Suffolk. This has involved liaison with stakeholders including the county council, public health, Suffolk Family Focus, the police, fire and rescue, and the Police and Crime Commissioner. Discussions have focused on how Community Safety Partnerships can monitor and influence matters concerning local communities, whilst also managing a strategic response to wider issues such as sexual exploitation, youth and gang violence and domestic abuse. A county-wide workshop is being held on 23 February to discuss these matters further.

3. Children and young people

- 3.1 The Apex Youth Board has been established to increase opportunities for young people to get involved in the arts and creative industries. The Board's first meeting was held in January and included discussions about the programming of events and idea about the type of events young people would like to see at the Apex.

4. Community Centre transfers

4.1 Chalkstone Community Centre

- 4.1.1 The River of Life Church has undertaken consultation on the Chalkstone estate, enabling residents to express their views on the future of the community centre. There were opportunities for people to convey specific ideas on how the centre may be improved and the kind of activities that could be developed in the future. A postal questionnaire was sent to over 500 residences, contact was made with both local stakeholders and centre users. There was press and media coverage and an open evening at the centre where residents were invited to meet River of Life representatives to discuss the project. The results of the consultation will inform the development of the

business plan and it is anticipated that the centre will be transferred by the summer 2015.

4.2 **Leiston Centre**

4.2.1 Since August 2013, Haverhill Town Council has been providing caretaking, booking and management services for the Leiston Centre, as well as being the licensee. The Town Council and the Borough are now in a position to progress to a full transfer of the centre, subject to the usual development of a business plan. As the Town Council is experienced in running community buildings it already has much of the documentation and planning needed for a transfer. Subject to the business case, the intention is that centre would be transferred to the Town Hall Arts Centre Trust to provide protection for the asset. The charitable aims of the Trust will be amended to reflect the Trust's holding of a broader range of community buildings.

4.3 **Westbury Community Centre**

4.3.1 Westbury Community Centre transfer is progressing well and is on target for completion in Spring 2015. The management committee at the centre has worked hard to progress the transfer and have now completed the separation between the Westbury Community Centre and Westbury Social Club.

4.4 **Newbury Community Centre**

4.4.1 We continue to work alongside the Newbury Community Centre Management Committee to consider future options for this centre. An architectural feasibility study is now being commissioned to support the centre's development.

5. **Neighbourhood working**

5.1 The Families and Communities Team continue to work alongside councillors and partners in the community on a range of projects. An example of some of this work is outlined below.

5.2 Plans are coming into fruition for a collaborative project on the Nowton Estate surrounding a community garden. The request had been made via the chair of the Nowton and Neighbourhood Residents Association. The area in question is a green space on the estate that has in the past attracted some anti-social behaviour issues in the form of street drinking. Through the proactive approach of the community the Resident's Association is proposing to enhance the space to become a community garden and be more appealing for community use. This is to be achieved with the support of Councillor Stamp, Councillor Chung and locality budget funding, the Families and Communities Advisor and Park Ranger Service. Timescales have been set in place for the project to be underway in time for the spring.

- 5.3 Councillor Julia Wakelam and Councillor David Nettleton have been working together to establish interest from the community in bringing together a Friends group for Tayfen Nature Reserve. A leaflet inviting people to register their interest in supporting a group was delivered by the Councillors in December to approximately 600 properties in the immediate area. This was supported with press coverage in the town. An overwhelming response was received and an initial meeting took place in January. Over 30 people attended and the agenda included information from Councillors, Borough Council officers and Abbey Gardens Friends. At the end of the meeting eight people came forward to look into forming an official Friends group.
- 5.4 Following a meeting with Councillor Byrne, Councillor Andre from Haverhill Town Council and staff from the Borough a provisional date has been set for a clean up event on the Clements estate in Haverhill in April. Families and Communities staff have also continued to support the Haverhill Masterplan project.
- 5.5 Staff are working with organisers of the Magna Carta Festival in Clare, with funding applications to support the delivery of the event which takes place on June 2015. The festival will include a variety of activities for both local people and visitors and will include a colourful pageant through the town.

6. Locality budgets

- 6.1 We are almost at the end of the first year of our Locality Budget Scheme. I am delighted with the range of projects and communities that have been supported through the use of this funding. As promised when we implemented the scheme, I am conducting a review to understand how it has operated and to identify any improvements. Staff have already been in touch with each councillor to get their feedback which has been very useful and I would like to thank councillors who took the time to provide such considered responses. This feedback will form part of the review which will be considered by Cabinet in March so that the scheme can be ready to launch for the new intake of councils after the election.