

Report to the Council

Subject: Safer, Greener & Transport Date: 21 April 2015

Portfolio Holder: Councillor G Waller

Recommending:

That the Report of the Safer, Greener & Transport Portfolio Holder be noted.

Community Safety

Domestic Homicide Review

All reports of Domestic Homicide Reviews must be submitted to the Home Office for assessment by its Quality Assurance Panel, and are assessed as either 'adequate' or 'inadequate'. I am glad to be able to report to Council that Epping Forest District Community Safety Partnership's second Domestic Homicide Review has now been assessed as 'adequate' and is available on Essex Safeguarding Adults Board website, using the link below. The Panel commented that it was "a very clear and well-structured report".

'Gemma' (34) – not her real name – was stabbed to death by her former partner 'David' in October 2013, and 'David' then took his own life. The review of the case found that although there are learning points, it is unlikely that the agencies involved could have foreseen or prevented 'Gemma' 's death with the information available.

Report is available on this link: <http://alturl.com/8sr5e>

I would like to thank all members of the CSP Review Panel for their excellent work and their commitment to the Review's objectives. In particular, I would like to pay tribute to the original Chair, Judge Anthony Bradbury; to the Community Safety Manager, Caroline Wiggins; and to the final Report Author, John Gilbert for their special contributions.

Incident in Epping High Street

There was a serious incident in the early hours of Sunday 1 March, outside The Villa night club in Epping. CCTV images provided by the Community Safety team were helpful to the police in identifying how and where the trouble originated, and those involved. Since that time, the night club's licence has been reviewed by a Licensing Sub Committee and, following a change of ownership, the premises are due to re-open in due course as a restaurant.

Crucial Crew

At the High Sheriff's Awards in March, the Community Safety Partnership was successful in receiving a £1000 grant towards the Crucial Crew workbooks. Crucial Crew this year will take place between 8 and 19 July, and all primary age schools in the district, including state and private schools, are attending. For the second year, a number of Brentwood schools are also participating, with all monies received from these schools used to offset the cost of the event.

Safeguarding

Leadership Team Safeguarding Training

As part of the Council's commitment to safeguarding, Directors and Assistant Directors received a two hour safeguarding training session from Essex Safeguarding Children's Board Practice Development Manager. The session included information about safeguarding children and adults with needs for care and support and was complemented by a presentation by the Council's Community Safety Officer on domestic violence. The Leadership Team were joined by several Council members, who found the session very useful including particularly the aspects concerning accountability and governance.

Countrycare

Since my last report, Countrycare has continued its well attended weekly volunteer days, with tasks such as path maintenance, glade clearance and tree felling.

Countrycare was broken into on 19 February. Following that occurrence, and in order to prevent similar thefts in the future, a new security safe for the strimmers has been purchased and CCTV will be installed.

At the end of February, some Countrycare volunteers and Countryside Assistant Paul Ceconi entered a hedgelaying competition run by the Woodland Trust. Paul came third in the novice category of the competition and Peter Vaughan, a Countrycare Volunteer, came third in the veteran category.

On 17 March, 10 boys from St John's School, Epping, came to Swaines Green for a practical session digging scrapes and cutting back blackthorn on the Nature Reserve. This is part of a project run by the Council's Community Development service to get students out volunteering.

The Spring Tree Wardens meeting took place on 24 March, attended by 11 Tree Wardens and four members of staff. The Wardens were shown training videos on protecting the roots of trees and the effects of soil compaction, as well as how to maintain veteran fruit trees. Further Tree Warden training is to be undertaken by the Council during April.

Countrycare's events got off to a flying start this Easter with over 50 children attending the Easter Scavenger Hunt at Roughtalleys Wood. Countrycare also attended Community Development's Play in the Forest scheme, helping the children to hunt bugs in the Forest.

Car Parking

Council Car Parks Strategy

Following the recent Cabinet decision to set up a Portfolio Holder Advisory Group on the Car Parks Strategy, the first meeting of the Group took place on 2 April. with the Group supporting me in implementing and monitoring the adopted Strategy. The Group considered the timeline for the implementation of the Strategy, the specification of new smart meters, CCTV systems, car park lighting and associated works. The new pay and display machines are under order, with implementation of the Strategy, including new tariffs, scheduled for 1 July. I shall provide members with regular updates on progress.

Parking Reviews

The formal statutory consultation associated with creating Traffic Regulation Orders for the Buckhurst Hill Parking Review has been completed and officers at Essex Highways are now preparing cost estimates for the installation of signs and lines. Once the cost proposals are received from Essex Highways, the Council will be in a position to issue a formal order for the works to be carried out.

I have asked officers to review the previous proposals for the Loughton Broadway Parking Review and to make preparations in the first instance for a meeting with the local ward members to discuss the strategy for taking a scheme forward.

North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP)

At the most recent meeting of the NEPP Joint Committee on 13 March, the following six schemes were approved for the introduction of on-street parking controls:

1. The Green, Theydon Bois
2. Pentlow Way Buckhurst Hill
3. Alderwood Drive, Abridge
4. Hoe Lane, Abridge
5. Hillcrest Way, Epping
6. Smarts Lane, High Beech Road and Forest Road, Loughton

Cabinet has recently agreed changes to the way in which schemes are nominated to NEPP. Instead of relying solely on scheme scores by NEPP officers, more consideration will be accorded to local wishes, and this will involve a greater degree of consultation with ward members and with town and parish councils.