

Report to the Council

Committee: Council
Date: 28 July 2022
Subject: Wellbeing & Community Partnership
Portfolio Holder: Councillor A Patel

Recommending:

That the report of the Wellbeing & Community Partnership Portfolio Holder be noted.

RideLondon - Cycling Activation Programme & Community Engagement

A comprehensive programme of cycling events was organised for residents of all ages in the lead up to the RideLondon weekend including an adult all-day ride to the Olympic Park, led women's rides, family group rides and bike maintenance workshops hosted at Epping and Ongar Fire Stations. Residents are able to continue with their new-found interest in cycling by engaging with the Council's yearlong Cycling4Health programme which provides weekly rides across the district catering for all abilities and also includes bike hire for those without their own cycles.

To complement the RideLondon Activation Toolkit distributed to all primary schools in the district prior to the event, CCW worked with local clubs and cycling providers to offer BMX and Mountain Biking sessions for schools located along the RideLondon route. Four schools took up this offer, with one school applying to the Active Essex Capacity Grant to cover costs. During half term, inclusive cycling sessions were provided for children with special educational needs and disabilities in partnership with Trailnet. This gave children the opportunity to try specially adapted bikes.

The RideLondon weekend itself saw a real community buzz over Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 May. Ahead of the two-day cycling festival, CCW approached community groups to invite them to be part of the fan-zone area. A total of 12 community stalls were sited opposite the Civic Offices on Saturday including; Epping Forest Re-use, St. Clare's Hospice, Trailnet and Canalability. Partners from the NHS Clinical Commissioning Group and Essex Police were also present alongside the Council's own Community Champions who were on hand to promote CCW's wider services and activities. Fun bikes which people could peddle to make fruit smoothies proved popular, as did the pavement art for children. Feedback from the public was resoundingly positive over the weekend with one resident emailing CCW to say "What a wonderful day we had in Epping High Street (Saturday). Weather perfect, shops, cafes and pubs buzzing. The atmosphere was amazing and joyful. The organisation was unbelievably good."

CCW staff were in Ongar High Street on Sunday delivering the same activities which were equally well received by the community. Staff also supported residents at the Norway House Homeless Hostel to host a joint RideLondon / Queens Platinum Jubilee party. One of the residents DJ'd and party games were provided for the children. The residents enjoyed a buffet and engaged with arts and crafts.

CCW are investigating how funding opportunities such as the Big Bike Revival and Essex Cycle Grant might allow us to create a RideLondon legacy moving forwards.

Refresh of the Epping Forest Health & Wellbeing Strategy

Work is underway to review and refresh the current Epping Forest Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2018-28. The Strategy is overseen by the multi-agency Epping Forest Health & Wellbeing Board and priority objectives are collaboratively agreed and delivered on through a whole system, partnership approach. On behalf of the Board, CCW has led on the facilitation of a comprehensive consultation exercise to help inform the refreshed Strategy. Alongside an online public consultation platform, focus groups have been held with numerous local community groups, GPs, the Youth Council and Council staff. A Stakeholder Consultation Conference event was hosted at the Civic offices on 7th June with 55 representatives from over 20 organisations in attendance. The refresh of the district's Health & Wellbeing Strategy is in line with Essex County Council's refresh of the Joint Essex Health & Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the emerging 10-year West Essex Health & Care Strategy (formally known as the One Health & Care Partnership).

It is anticipated that the new Epping Forest Health & Wellbeing Strategy will be launched in the Autumn with four refreshed multi-agency action groups, which will be themed in line with the Robert Wood Johnson model around the wider determinants of health, being established in line with this.

Health & Wellbeing Initiatives: Finalists in National Housing Heroes Awards 2022

The Community & Culture Team was named as a Finalist in two categories at the recent prestigious national Housing Heroes Awards 2022 held in Manchester in June. Working in collaboration with colleagues from the Council's Estates and Land Management team, initiatives have been established to improve the health and wellbeing of tenants and the wider community on key estates. There were 350 entries for the 2022 awards. The two categories the team was a Finalist in were; Team of the Year (1001-15000 homes) and Best Company Health & Wellbeing Initiative which highlighted the More than Bricks and Mortar Project alongside the Start Well, Be Well and Age Well as aspects of the district's Health & Wellbeing Strategy.

Community Champions

Building on the success of being awarded "Team of the Year" at the Civic Awards ceremony in March, the Council's 26 Community Champions have been hard at work. Numerous events and celebrations to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee were organised in communities across the district. With a little support from CCW, Champions have recently held picnics and fetes, afternoon teas for sheltered housing residents, staged old fashioned games, run quizzes and supported tree planting days. All activities have been heralded as a great success and are well promoted on the Champion's social media platforms.

Epping Forest Dementia Action Alliance

Supported by CCW, the Epping Forest Dementia Action Alliance (EFDA) completed a Dementia Friendly Communities Annual Assessment in May 2022 and has been awarded the status of 'Working to become a Dementia Friendly Community'. Partnership working co-ordinated by CCW staff continues to encompass a whole range of activities, advice sessions and Dementia awareness training. The Museum successfully achieved Dementia Friendly Venue Status in October 2021 and so work is now underway to achieve the same accreditation for The Limes Centre in Chigwell.

MiLife C19 - Adolescent Mental Health Resource

Building on the success of the MiLife C19 adolescent mental health project CCW, in partnership with the Red Balloon Foundation, has updated the MiLife website and online resources. The award-winning educational resources, which originated from work of the Epping Forest Youth Council, will now also be promoted to schools outside the Epping Forest district in order to reach a wider audience and generate revenue income for the Council. The project will be renamed MiLife Blue and will support a trauma informed response to young people dealing with mental health issues. This will sit alongside the inaugural award winning MiLife Green resource which relates to more general mental health awareness.

Epping Forest Youth Council (EFYC)

The EFYC induction training programme for newly elected Youth Councillors continues and will include; mentoring, diversity & equality, team building, communication skills and the role and qualities of a good Youth Councillor. To date the new cohort of Youth Councillors has contributed to consultations on the district's Health & Wellbeing Strategy and the Harlow & Gilston Garden Town Quality of Life Mapping Project.

Youth Councillors have been pleased to welcome the Leader of Council, Cllr Chris Whitbread, to their schools and have joined the Leader and their Head Teachers to discuss youth democracy.

Southend Youth Councillors will be visiting Epping Forest on 26 July and the EFYC will host a youth debate in the Chamber as part of the day.

The Youth Council has received the first instalment of its Jack Petchey Award Funding for this year. The EFYC receives £1,800 annually with a top up grant of up to £1,200 for project work and educational visits.

#Consequences and Stop & Think Roadshows for local teenagers

The #Consequences Roadshow has been delivered in 6 of the district's secondary schools in this academic year with 1720 pupils attending this educational community safety awareness and wellbeing event. The Stop & Think roadshow has been delivered in 4 secondary schools with 1265 students participating.

Adult Disability Buddy Up Project

Utilising funding of £100K secured via the West Essex Health Inequalities Committee, CCW is leading on a project across West Essex to support the health and wellbeing of adults with disabilities. There have been 14 direct referrals into the "Buddy Up" project to date, with the majority coming from the Epping Forest district. The project is being supported further by the Epping North Primary Care Network of GP practices (PCN) who have identified adults with Learning Disabilities with a BMI of over 35 as a target group.

Epping Forest District Museum

The Museum's education service continues to be in high demand with schools. In total in the financial year 2021/22 the service engaged with 10,000 children - the most successful year to date of the heritage education programme. Early signs are that this trend will continue for 22/23 clearly highlighting the value schools place on the Museum's heritage education offer.

The Museum is currently displaying the Natural History Museum's Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition. Since opening on 21st May, over 1,700 people

have visited the exhibition with over £600 in donations given and £800 of sales generated in the Museum shop.

The Museum has submitted a Stage 1 application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for a project to work in partnership with the Lea Valley Regional Park and English Heritage to preserve important heritage in the Abbey Gardens in Waltham Abbey as well as improve interpretation on the subject of the Abbey Church. The project would be extremely high profile for the district, increasing tourism to the area and protecting major heritage within the district.

The Museum has recently been approached to acquire two Early Medieval gold coins- known as *tremisses*- found by a metal detectorist near Chipping Ongar, Essex, an important and significant addition to the Museum collection. To date, the Museum has been successful in securing £3,750 from the V&A Purchase Fund to go towards the purchase of the items along with commitment from Waltham Abbey Historical Society, Ongar Town Council and other individual donors to the value of £1,575. There are two further funding bids awaiting decision from the Headley Trust and Essex Heritage Trust for the remaining amounts in order to secure the items.

The Museum continues at pace with its “Review and Reimagine Project” to assess and digitise its photograph collection. To date 1000 photographs of the 7000 strong collection have been scanned. 12 volunteers have been recruited to help identify locations, people and scenes in the photographs to enhance the information available on the collection.

New Style “What`s On” Brochure Launched

CCW are delighted to be piloting a new style brochure for the months of July, August and September promoting its activities, programmes, events and community initiatives for all ages in one publication. Details about everything from volunteering opportunities for adults through to the school holiday programme for children and young people is now easily accessible in the “What`s on in Epping Forest” booklet available online via the Council`s website or in hard copy from the Civic Offices or Epping Forest District Museum.