

Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 29 March 2011

Subject: Leisure and Wellbeing Portfolio

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Brian Rolfe

Item: 6(g)

Recommending:

That the report of the Leisure and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder be noted

Community Services

Limes Farm Hall Re-development: At its meeting on March 7th, Cabinet agreed to approve the award of Building Contract for Limes Farm Hall re-development to Beardwell Construction Ltd. of Grays, Essex. Five companies from within Essex tendered for the building contract, but the Beardwell tender was successful in winning the tender on the basis of cheapest price whilst complying with the specified quality criteria required for the work. Beardwell will take over the site at Limes Farm, Chigwell in late March and have a 24 week completion timeframe for the building works, which will result in a completely refurbished and extended community building. The new building will offer a range of new services to local residents of Limes Farm and the locality, including Benefits advice and Primary Care Services, new offices for Housing Services and improved provision of Children's Centre and extended schools activity.

Essex Book Festival – 15th March: World renowned Journalist and News Presenter Peter Sissons, presented a talk on his 45 years in journalism with readings from his recent autobiography, as part of the 2011 Essex Book Festival, hosted by Epping Forest Arts at St Mary's Church, Loughton. The talk was given to an audience of 160 local people and included the Chairman of Council, Cllr Anne Grigg. The festival, now in its 12th year, aims to encourage readers to widen their reading choices. Epping Forest Arts is a partner of the festival which presents 5 events in the district each year.

Motiv8 – 5th and 6th April: Over 200 local children and young people aged 6 to 20 years will be performing to an audience of over 500 at Motiv8, Epping Forest Arts annual youth and community dance showcase which will be taking place at Epping Forest College on 5th and 6th April. Motiv8 is a partnership project with Epping Forest College and has been integrated as a practical learning opportunity within the curriculum for students; EFC students, working to a brief provided by Epping Forest Arts, designed the publicity and marketing materials, technical theatre students will be providing the technical support during the performance, and dance students will be performing a piece created specially for Motiv8.

Active Health: Now in its third year of development, the Active Health programme which is funded by Big Lottery through Age Concern continues to be a hugely

successful health improvement programme for older people. The programme which is unique in that it is provided across Epping Forest, Harlow and Uttlesford has seen a range of innovative projects established across the three areas, including Lifewalks; seated exercise classes; Wii Fitness sessions and a range of allotments located at Sheltered Housing accommodation. The funding for the project comes to an end in March 2012 and the Project Officer David Hogg, is now working very hard to ensure the long term sustainability of the activities that have been introduced, through providing training; supporting groups to become formally constituted and enabling them to secure funding for equipment and further provision of sessions.

Museum Service: Following the success in securing a further year's funding from Renaissance in the Regions for the Assistant Exhibitions post, the Museum will be able to continue with provision of a Touring Exhibitions programme during 2011/12. This will see the production of a range of exhibitions that will initially be on display at the Museum in Sun Street, Waltham Abbey and then will be toured across venues in Essex and in the East Region. The Museum will also be looking at opportunities to tour these displays further afield, with the aim of establishing a new income stream.