

## ***Report to the Council***

**Committee:** Cabinet

**Date:** 14 February 2012

**Subject:** Safer, Greener and Highways Portfolio

**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor Penny Smith

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### **Recommending:**

**That the report of the Safer, Greener and Highways Portfolio Holder be noted**

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### **Community Safety**

I would like to remind Members of the special Safer, Cleaner Greener Scrutiny Panel on 21 February. This is one of the Panel meetings dedicated to Crime and Disorder issues, and at next week's meeting we intend to hold a discussion on the effects of the Police Reform Programme and the process in preparing for the transition to Police and Crime Commissioners, who will be elected for the first time in November this year. There will also be an opportunity to discuss crime issues generally with members of the Safer Communities Partnership.

The Safer Communities Team has been very successful in using re-deployable cameras for the identification and prosecution of fly-tippers and in partnership with the police for the prevention of crime. Essex Police have purchased a number of re-deployable cameras which are compatible with Safer Communities equipment and Safer Communities were recently successful in obtaining four additional cameras on loan from the police. These cameras will be a valuable asset in the ongoing prevention of crime and for supporting the security operation in the district during the Olympic games.

In 2011 Safer Communities Team were awarded funding from Epping Forest Safer Communities Partnership for £27,000 to provide CCTV cameras in Epping High Street. In January 2012 this system went live. This is a new wireless system where images are transmitted direct to the Council Offices. The coverage is now from the Council Offices to the junction at St Johns Road Epping. The system will be managed and maintained by Epping Forest District Council

The Safer Communities Team was successfully awarded a grant of £3000 from Essex County Council towards the launch of the Restore Community Shop in the Broadway Loughton. On 17 February the shop will be holding a consultation day to find out what services and activities local residents and businesses would like to see provided in the shop. The Grand Opening will be on the 9 March and a number of activities involving the local community have been planned to celebrate the occasion.

Following on from work before Christmas to promote Domestic Abuse Awareness in the District. The Safer Communities Team will be shortly launch 'J9'. J9 stands for Janine Munday who was killed in 2003 by her husband. Free domestic abuse training will be provided as well as Information Packs to allow community Groups, business's and other groups to sign post domestic violence victims. After training organisations can display the J9 symbol in a prominent position so victims know where they can obtain the relevant information to access the support they need.

### **Highway matters**

I would like to remind Members of the forthcoming changes to the County Highways contracts. In November 2011, Essex County Council selected Ringway Jacobs as its preferred bidder, with the

intention of forming one of the largest integrated highways partnerships in the UK. The contract is due to commence in April 2012 and will have an estimated value in excess of £1 billion. Of the ten different highway contracts currently in place, nine expire in March and will be incorporated into the new partnership. The tenth contract expires in March 2013 whereupon it will also form part of the new arrangements. I hope to be able to report back to Members in due course with details of any changes to local highway arrangements.

### **Parking matters**

I am pleased to be able to report progress on the Epping Parking Review and that signing and lining work started on 26 January. The work will move forward in a phased manner and in the first instance the following roads, which are to have marked residents' bays, will be completed: Lindsey Street, Madells, Springfield and Sunnyside Road. It is intended to achieve an overall completion date for the whole of the review area of the end of March 2012. All the residents of the above roads have received an explanatory letter setting out the proposed changes and advising them of the contact details at District and County. As with previous exercises, for the first two weeks of the new regime drivers parked in marked resident parking bays will receive a 'warning ticket' rather than a Penalty Charge Notice so as to enable them to understand the new restrictions in their area. As I have previously reported, once work on the Epping review is complete, Essex County Council will commence work of the Buckhurst Hill review, which will be followed in due course by Loughton/Loughton Broadway.