

Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 20 December 2018

Subject: Community and Partnerships Services

Portfolio Holder: Councillor S. Kane

Recommending:

That the report of the Community and Partnerships Services Portfolio Holder be noted.

Community Safety

Community, Health and Wellbeing (CHW)

Award Nomination: The Council's Disability Inclusion Project has been shortlisted in this year's Active Essex Services to Inclusive Sport Award. The project provides 25 sport and leisure opportunities per week for children, young people and adults with various disabilities in the Epping Forest District. The Award will be given to an organisation that has made a significant contribution in the last year, to advancing sport and physical activity for people with disabilities.

Stay Well This Winter Events: CHW in partnership with West CCG have delivered four "Stay Well This Winter" events to help residents prepare for the cold spell ahead. These free, informative health and wellbeing events provided an opportunity for residents to speak to local service providers including; pharmacists, Community Nurses, NHS specialist providers and local voluntary organisations, to learn about keeping warm, fit and healthy over the winter months. This year the events took place in Nazeing, Ongar, Epping and Fyfield and over 240 older people attended and 14 different partner organisations supported the delivery.

Junior Park Runs: With funding from Epping Forest Public Health Grant, the District now has a Junior Parkrun, based at Roding Valley Recreational Ground. This volunteer lead event takes place every Sunday at 9am and all participants have to do to take part is register online. To date over 200 young people have taken part, with numbers rising by the week!

Buckhurst Hill Social Isolation Project: This new project was launched following work with West CCG and local doctors' surgeries in Buckhurst Hill and Chigwell, which identified a high number of older people presenting to GP's with symptoms of isolation and loneliness rather than medical conditions. Partners including Community Agents, Community Matrons, doctors, West CCG, Essex County Fire and Rescue, Independent Age, VAEF, Waitrose and Buckhurst Hill Parish Council, are now working together to support local residents through sustainable, community-led social action. It is hoped that in doing so, social connections will be strengthened, and experiences of isolation and loneliness will decrease. A multi-agency Action Plan has been developed with a set of recommendations and is available from Patrick Arnold, Senior Community Engagement Officer.

Community Champions: Linked to the above, ten district Community Champions have now been recruited from the following Parish and Town Council areas: Buckhurst Hill, Chigwell (x 2),

Loughton, Nazeing, Ongar, The Lavers, Theydon Bois, Waltham Abbey and Willingale. To date, Community Champions have attended a number of peer group meetings, undertaken an induction session, completed a Dementia Friends Awareness session and basic Safeguarding training. They have already been busy out in their communities and promoted and attended the Stay Well This Winter events. Many have also produced articles for their Parish magazines and organised coffee mornings to promote the work of the Community, Health and Wellbeing Team. In Buckhurst Hill the Community Champion has promoted a number of community events via social media and co-ordinated a group for consultation as part of Essex County Council's wider Social Isolation project group.

Epping Forest Youth Council: The Youth Council Drugs Awareness Project is now complete and the young peoples` full report is available for Members and partner organisations. Youth Councillors consulted with around 3200 local young people, and also took on board concerns shared by adult Councillors and their constituents, about drug taking amongst teenagers. The impact on the wider community and environment caused by drug taking and, specifically, discarded NO2 canisters, was identified as a major concern facing people living in the Epping Forest District. In response to this the Youth Council has undertaken and delivered:

- 1) A one-day event to clean up Nitrous Oxide cannisters
- 2) A drug awareness poster campaign which featured on local buses
- 3) An anonymous on-line survey
- 4) The production of a project report and associated recommendations for key agencies

Next on the agenda for the Youth Councillors is a project to keep young people safe. A practical guide to personal safety, including how to avoid becoming involved in a gang and an awareness of issues such as County Lines, is in the planning. Expert advice is being gathered through close work with Essex Police and wider agencies in the development of the project.

Economic Development

Business support: The Team continues to work to attract external grant funding for businesses within the District, although the Officer leading this work has secured another role in the council and the team is looking at how this can be resourced in the short term pending the organisational review. Work on the current Eastern Plateau LEADER programme which supports projects that will benefit the rural economy has so far approved investment of more than £300,000 locally and the Team is working to ensure that local projects earmarked for awards progress to completion.

Economic Development supported the Chairman of Council in hosting an event for local businesses in late November, with over 70 partners in attendance. Councillor Bassett has stated that he wishes to use his period as Chairman to understand what the district Council can do to help local businesses thrive, and celebrate the contribution our businesses make to the life of the district.

Visitor Economy: Our annual Tourism and Visitor event was held on 26 October at the Marriott Hotel Waltham Abbey, with sponsorship from the Marriott Hotel. The topic for this year's event was better cross border working to build the tourism economy. The event was attended by over 70 local businesses and other stakeholders, who were joined by colleagues from across west Essex, eastern Hertfordshire and beyond. Speakers highlighted the opportunities for enhanced cross border working and the results of the annual tourism value study were presented. This study showed a total value to the districts economy from tourism and visitor spend had reached £226 million, up by 7% on the previous year, while many other areas of the UK had seen in a fall in the value of this sector. The Tourism Conference report, which contains details of the presentations and the outcomes of the event is now available from the Economic Team. An

initial meeting of council officers and members from East Herts, Harlow, Broxbourne, and Uttlesford will be reconvened to explore a more formal link up of tourism promotion and coordination following the conference.

The Visit Epping Forest website continues to grow and the board has set a target of 250,000 individual users for this year. Work continues to progress for a major Food Fair in 2019 for Waltham Abbey on 05 and 06 May, which will involve many local partners including Waltham Abbey Town Council, Waltham Abbey Church, Waltham Abbey Town Partnership, Vibrant Partnerships, Epping Forest District Museum, Abbey View Produce, P A Sparks and Sons Ltd and One Epping Forest. A bid from Waltham Abbey Town partnership to the Town Centre's Fund is anticipated to help fund this important event.

Epping Forest District Skills Board: Members of the team have met with the new leadership of Epping Forest College to relaunch the Skills board. The joint principal of Epping Forest and Redbridge Colleges has confirmed their wish to continue supporting this programme and it is hoped the next meeting will be held early in the New Year.

Superfast Broadband High-Speed Internet

Whilst the new Phase 4a Superfast Essex broadband project remains at a very early planning stage, discussions between Superfast Essex, BDUK and Gigaclear have resulted in a revised timetable for delivery of the programme being issued. It is planned that all proposed works will be completed by July 2020.

At the time of writing the next in the series of ongoing Smart Place Seminars, Future Proofing Garden Towns Through Digital, delivered by the Essex & Herts Digital Innovation Zone, was scheduled to take place on 14 December at the Chesterford Research Park. The seminar will explore the opportunity to ensure future garden communities are future-proofed for all ages from their inception and design. Works has also continued to promote and raise the profile of the Essex and Herts Digital Innovation Zone (DIZ) with numerous engagement events undertaken. Officers and Members engaged directly with DCMS to discuss upcoming 5G Funding programmes and representatives from Southend Borough Council and Business Partnership were hosted to discuss potential synergies between the DIZ and Southend Borough Council's own approach to digital technologies and service delivery.

Museums, Heritage and Culture (MHC)

Take Over Day: Takeover Day is a national celebration of young people's contributions to museums, galleries, arts organisations, archives and heritage sites. It's a day on which they work alongside staff and volunteers to participate in the life of the organisation or venue.

As part of Lowewood Museum's current Heritage Lottery Funded project, St Catherine's School: 200 years of memories, twelve Year 6 pupils took over and ran the museum on Friday 23 November. They ran tours and activities for over 100 visitors including Year 5 pupils from St Catherine's School. Epping Forest District Museum was also taken over by eleven Year 8 pupils from King Harold's Business Academy, who gave over 130 members of the public a guided tour of the Museum.

Education and Outreach: In October and November over 2100 children and young people from local schools took part in the outreach programme, which included history, dance and arts and crafts workshops and many adults took part in a range of talks.

Cavalcade of Light: On Friday 30th November, the District Museum stayed opened late to celebrate the Cavalcade of Light event in Waltham Abbey. Pupils & students from King Harold

Academy and Upshire Primary School performed in the garden, where the historic building was lit in a stunning light display, and visitors enjoyed refreshments and crafts in the museum. A total of 358 people visited the museum during the 2 hour event, many of them for the first time.

Volunteers: During October and November MHCs volunteer contribution totalled over 490 hours which equates to over £4,000 in kind support. Volunteer duties combine a mix of collection work, Museum garden and visitor service support.

The Great War Centenary Dance: The District Museum came to life as Essex Youth Dance Company's Dance Station and Re:Generation's Forever Young, (both dance groups from The Dance Network Association) performed The Great War Centenary dance, a piece choreographed especially for 2018. One of the older performers, Frances Maynard, recited a poem called 'Never Forget', that she had specifically written for the Great War commemorations. This project was part of The Dance Network Association's 'Keeping Dance Alive' annual en masse performance at events all over Essex.

"A Purely Agricultural Parish?": An exhibition by the Nazeing History Workshop linked to its new book of the same name which tells the story of Nazeing in the decades before and during the First World War can currently be seen at the museum. Production of the exhibition was funded by a community grant from the Council.

Westminster Abbey Centenary Service: MHC staff attended The National Service of Thanksgiving at Westminster Abbey, commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Armistice. The team were invited to the service by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), after having worked on three key centenary projects funded by them: Walter Spradbery, Artist in War and Peace; Stephen Warner, One Man's Journey through War and Broxbourne: We Will Remember Them across both museums. The projects have been made possible by grants totalling £124,540 from the HLF.

Transformation Award: On 16 November Lowewood Museum won the Transformation Award from Hertfordshire Association of Museums at their inaugural awards event. The award was given for the shop and café area at the Museum which was recently refurbished as part of our Arts Council England funded No Borders development project.

Epping Forest 'Tea' Hut paintings on display: The District Museum is exhibiting two paintings by local artist Martin Barrall, which show the famous tea hut near Fairmead Road in Epping Forest. One of the paintings was recently on display at The Royal Academy as part of their 250th summer exhibition, curated by artist Grayson Perry.

Private Sector Housing

Essex County Council in partnership with Epping Forest, Harlow and Uttlesford District Councils has proposed a pilot scheme to employ a Senior Occupational Therapist (OT) in Housing. The post will be jointly funded from the Integration and Better Care Fund and managed by Adult Operations (Hub of Independent Practitioners) at ECC. The post will initially be for a 1 year pilot and subject to full review thereafter.

This pilot scheme will enable a Senior OT to work exclusively in housing across the 3 Districts in partnership with housing officers, to facilitate the safe and early discharge of residents from hospital, residential or nursing home placements, hospices and assist the smooth progress of the Disabled Facilities Grant recommendations. This includes working with adults and children with life-limiting conditions and life-altering injuries, in which their home environment does not suit their needs, in order to prevent formal care placements and ensure they can remain

independent in the community. The Senior OT would also monitor the progress of the project and liaise with health, housing and hospital staff to ensure the appropriate adults and children are referred thereby improving services and ensuring a smooth and efficient discharge. This will ensure there is a consistent link between all services to progress cases and provide the most cost-effective solutions. Any training or support by health colleagues would be provided by the Senior OT.

Community Safety Team Policing Hub Activity.

Our Safety Hub continues to go from strength to strength in reducing crime and disorder in the district. Apart from the recent high profile and very successful operation which saw the arrest of 25 people involved in drug dealing across the district, our police officers have also been able to support a range of council teams when officers have been faced with threats, intimidation and aggression. The team supported our Planning Enforcement Officers who needed to serve enforcement notices on a domesticated Traveller site where officers had been previously subjected to very aggressive threats and intimidation preventing them carrying out their duty. The police team liaised with the council legal services and planning department and developed a plan to allow notices to be served safely. Operation Xerses phase one was successfully completed without incident.

The team have completed or are in the process of actioning 25 tasking requests. They have been active in every ward in the district. A selection of the work they have undertaken is as follows;-

- High power motor vehicle involved in Organised Criminal Gang activity located Limes Farm and seized.
- Work with Parkguard in weapons sweep at Limes Farm recovering a zombie knife.
- Arrest of two suspects in stolen van at Ongar believed linked to OCG criminality. One of the suspects was subject to international arrest warrant.
- Responding to tasking at Buckhurst Hill arrested two suspects from Kent for going equipped, drugs and offensive weapon.
- Acting on information from EFDC Environmental officers stopped a van suspected of serial fly-tipping and seizing it as uninsured.
- Working with Community Safety to support female who came to Civic Offices as Homeless, who it was found had been trafficked into the UK and raped on multiple occasions. NRM completed and female safeguarded.
- Working with IOM to locate and arrest prolific offender responsible for series of shoplifting offences Epping. Successfully obtaining Criminal Behaviour Order on the same subject.
- Supporting Operation Rose on multiple search warrants and arrests relating to serious gang violence by Hainault/HQ gang active around Limes Farm.
- Currently tasked to work on Operation Rose using established cross border links between Community Safety and Metropolitan Police Hainault, Safer Neighbourhoods Team to draft fifteen Criminal Behaviour Orders to further disrupt local gang activity

Safeguarding: We continue to receive a high number of cases related to poor Mental Health and are actively working with Essex Police to deal with the more serious cases that involve aggression and violent behaviour. As part of the re-structure of the Council we will also be looking to improve our own ability to deal with cases very early on, by transferring some Housing officer time to Community Safety in order to deal with people as soon as any concerns are flagged up.

Our Safeguarding Officers are also in the process of rolling out a new, bespoke training package for all Council staff, which has been tailored specifically to meet the needs of the Council in dealing with the range of cases that are being identified. A revised member training programme has also been produced and I urge all Members to take the opportunity of booking on this training when it is promoted.

Environment & Neighbourhoods

Fly-tipping: In order to reduce the amount of waste being handed to potential fly-tippers, the Environment & Neighbourhoods (EN) team continue to promote the message that it is a “Crime not to Care” if residents and businesses hand waste over to a rogue trader, if they have failed to carry out some simple checks, consider the potential implications and record who took their waste away. The message is simple:

Before handing your waste to somebody else, always check, consider and record to protect yourself and reduce fly-tipping by rogue traders.

Please pass on this message to friends, family and any business associates. With extra waste often produced over Xmas, it is more important than ever that we all recycle and care about what we do with our waste. Click here for more information [Crime Not to Care](#). A series of short films produced by the Cleaner Essex Group (CEG), a campaign group made up from representatives from local authorities across Essex, are also available to view on this web page.

In a related case, evidence gathered by the Council’s EN team led to a prosecution in Chelmsford Magistrates Court on 22nd October 2018. Mr Akinrinade of Willingale Close Loughton was arrested after failing to attend court and was ordered to pay a fine of £1153. He was also ordered to pay the Council’s prosecution costs of £627.82 together with a victim surcharge £115 after he pleaded guilty to failing to comply with his duty of care, by transferring household waste to an unauthorised person, which was then dumped in a commercial waste bin belonging to a shop in the Broadway Loughton without the consent of the owner.

To help promote compliance with waste duty of care, the Government now has firm plans to introduce a new fixed penalty notice (FPN) to deal with household waste offences as an alternative to prosecution. The new FPN should be available in 2019, with a default level of £200. Further information available at:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/household-waste-duty-of-care-fixed-penalty-notice-guidance

Careful fly-tipping: “Careful” fly-tipping in somebody else’s bin, or in and around an existing bin store is not a victimless crime. Commercial premises have to pay for their waste disposal and if their bin is full of other people’s waste they incur additional cost and may have problems storing their own waste. This can attract more fly-tipping and result in failed waste collections, leading to waste accumulating and escaping. The Council often has to arrange and pay for additional waste collections when residents fail to store and dispose of their waste correctly. The issue of “careful” fly-tipping has recently been highlighted in an article in the Council Housing News.

New warning posters: Poor waste management by residents in and around bin stores is an ongoing problem contributing to local fly-tipping. Housing Management are in the process of installing additional education/warning signs in the bin stores they manage for residents, to make it very clear that dumping waste in and around bin stores is fly-tipping and may result in a

fixed penalty or prosecution. The Council provides a special collection service for bulky waste items. Collections can be booked online.

www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/index.php/residents/your-environment/recycling-and-waste/special-collections

“Wanted” poster: CCTV images of an unidentified individual dumping a mattress near to a bin store in Springfields, Waltham Abbey, recently prompted officers to develop a “wanted” poster, to encourage other residents to provide the details of the alleged fly-tipper and to act as a warning to other potential “careful” fly-tippers in the area. The alleged fly-tipper recognised his own image and contacted the officer investigating the case. The alleged offender is due to be interviewed under caution. The team have a number of images of other alleged offenders that they intend to use in the same manner.