

Report to the Council

Subject: Community Wellbeing

Date: 30 October 2007

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Ms S-A Stavrou

Item: 5

Recommending:

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

Daniel Bond – Safer Communities Assistant

Daniel has now joined the team he is the main liaison point for all graffiti queries.

Graffiti

Members will be aware that the Cabinet agreed the new graffiti removal policy in May this year. I am pleased to be able to report that following my discussions with the Housing Portfolio Holder, the Housing Revenue Account will be contributing around £15,000 to the graffiti removal budget. This is in recognition of the fact that the service is also provided on the Council's housing estates. This will increase the budget to approximately £45,000 per annum. I would remind Members that, in accordance with the agreed policy, the District Council will not undertake graffiti removal to privately owned premises or property. I am very grateful to Councillor Stellan for his support in this matter.

Budget Update

We have spent £15,426.25 as at end of September in the removal of graffiti across the District. We can now direct any requests for removal of graffiti from non-EFDC property to the relevant contact immediately and a copy of the contacts list will be provided in the Members' Bulletin. What we are now hoping to provide next is a guidance sheet listing products, websites and information about the removal of graffiti for residents.

We have recently been using a new contractor who is proving to be very effective and professional.

Graffiti posters were distributed to all Parish and Town Councils reminding the public graffiti is an offence and advising there have been 15 arrests in the first 6 months of the year

Firework Test Purchasing

Epping Forest Crime and Disorder Reduction Panel (CDRP) is undertaking a test purchasing campaign of fireworks retailers in the District involving -

- Inspection of 90% of all retailers

- 15 test purchasing visits
- 25 storage tests visits

Aims: Prevent sales to children

Reduce Anti-Social behaviour

Running from 22 October – 4 November

Community Payback – Footpaths leading to Loughton Station

We are working in conjunction with Essex Probation using the Community Payback Scheme to improve the appearance of broken fences, graffiti etc in this area. Currently awaiting a meeting with the Unpaid Work Supervisor for the area.

Mobile CCTV Camera – The Spinney, Loughton

The new temporary CCTV system is currently being tested at The Spinney, Loughton. This is a sheltered housing site, which has been experiencing anti social behaviour problems. The camera has been installed for a period of three months.

Nominated Neighbour Scheme

A new scheme for the District currently is being launched next week in Waltham Abbey to prevent artifice crime. Elderly or vulnerable residents can nominate a neighbour to check any visitors to their premises. Cards have been produced which are displayed at the entrance to the property directing all callers to the neighbour.

Halloween – Fireworks

An article is going in the Safer Communities column in the Guardian promoting our Trick and Treat posters available in Information Offices and local Police stations and the extra high visibility patrols by uniformed officers and PCSO's during the period of Halloween and Fireworks night.

With Operation Lotus it is intended to have all NPT officers across the District to working 1500 hours-midnight between 31 October and 5 November. This will give the police the resilience to deal with any incidents that occur in a safe and controlled manner.

The aim of this operation is to ensure that there is a visible police presence in the District in order to provide public reassurance to local residents, shop owners, and the local community. They also intend to deter any offences from being committed by showing force in numbers and having a zero tolerance approach.

We are also working alongside Community Development and Ongar Town Council to provide a live music event for young period on Friday 26 October.

Trading Standards Calendars

We are distributing to all Council sheltered housing residents and Handyvan referrals approx 2200 calendars, which remind residents on a daily basis about bogus callers etc.

Handyvan Scheme

The scheme's contract has been reviewed we are planning a Christmas PR drive promoting the service focusing on carbon monoxide detectors. We are also working alongside Help the Aged discussing what other services we can provide to Council residents.

Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR)

Epping Forest CDRP has funded the installation of two ANPR systems for Ongar High Street and Epping

Epping Town Link

The installation has been finalised and Essex Police are currently in discussions with shops in the High Street with regard to equipment rental.

Domestic Violence

Epping Forest and Harlow are in the process of forming a joint Domestic Violence Group; one of the first initiatives is to update the DV info pack. By joining the two groups we hope to make them more effective, pool resources and work together more effectively.

Epping Forest Sanctuary Scheme

Led by the Council's Housing Needs this is now ready and capable to assist a victim at short notice. Two schemes have already been set up within the District, and one of our greatest strengths is that all the surveys etc are done on a partnership basis between the Council, Essex Police and Essex Fire and Rescue. Funding for further schemes have been identified from the CDRP and Council Housing.

Brook Parade Chigwell

We are currently investigating the possibility of a Designated Public Place Order in the vicinity of Brook Parade. We are evidencing the level of nuisance caused by alcohol in the area.

Ongar Leisure Centre

The centre has been experiencing increased levels of anti-social behaviour and youth nuisance problems. In partnership with Essex Police we have surveyed the site and identified areas for improvement, including lighting, planting and the potential use of CCTV.

Limes Farm Football in the Community

Lead by Essex Police and Community Development we have been working together to provide sport and leisure activities to young people in the area. Children are experiencing a unique opportunity to train and play alongside Tottenham Hotspur football coaches and officers from Essex police youth team.

The scheme was originally planned to run from July until the end of August. It was extended till the end of October, and the partners are now approaching CDRP to

fund coaches until April next year. Community Development and Tottenham Football are currently working on a funding bid to the Football Foundation to widen the project in the District. The event has already proved very popular and in order to ensure all children and young people who live in the area could take part they have had to include extra mini football sessions for the younger members of the community. Classes have also been during the summer for Hip Hop dance, which have been attended by both sexes.

Loughton Youth Project

Epping Forest CDRP has agreed to fund Loughton the sum of £3,000.

Hate Crime

The Hate Crime Strategic Group is in the process of developing an introduction to understanding and managing aspects of Hate Crime with reference to Council policies and procedures. This will include the following objectives:

- Developing knowledge and awareness of the background, legal context and good practice guidelines;
- Understanding the distinction between a Hate Incident and a Hate Crime;
- Appreciating the effects and impact of Hate Crime on individuals, groups and communities;
- Implementing the Council's process and procedures;
- Identifying practical methods and approaches for working more effectively with colleagues, partner agencies and stakeholders;
- Focusing on development opportunities.
-

It is planned to run these courses for front line staff in January and February 2008.

Concessionary Travel – Financial Implications of the New National Scheme

There are currently uncertainties about both the income the Government will provide to the Council and the level of costs that will be incurred.

Income

The Government is consulting on the allocation system for the distribution of special grant funding to Travel Concession Authorities (Districts and London authorities). Some £212M will be distributed to meet the costs of the new national bus concession in England, commencing on 1 April 2008. The Government has made it clear that they want the income allocated to be in line with the additional costs incurred and they feel the £212M should cover all additional costs. In the first year of the new scheme it will be difficult to predict the exact impact of the scheme on all Travel Concession Authorities, although it remains unclear if any allocations may be amended either part way through the year or retrospectively to correct for any over or under funding arising from imperfections in the model. The consultation period ends on 23 November.

Costs

The basis of the costs to be met changes under the new scheme. Currently the amount each district has to pay is linked to the amount of travel that the holders of passes issued by that district undertake. Under the new scheme each district pays

for all concessionary journeys that take place in the district regardless of where the pass originates. Clearly this system will place the biggest additional burden on tourist destinations. It is extremely difficult to predict whether the additional travel occurring in the Epping Forest District by pass holders from other districts (the new additional cost) will be greater than the travel currently undertaken by Epping Forest District pass holders outside the District (the cost that the Council will no longer have to meet). The Council will receive estimated costs for 2008/09 at the Essex Scheme AGM on 19 November 2007, although for the reasons stated above caution will need to be exercised in considering these estimates.

Grant Aid Scheme 2007/08

Statement of Expenditure as at 30 September 2007

1. Total Budget for Long Term, One-off and Village Halls £94,756

	£	£
Long Term		
Alzheimer's Society	1,211	
Crossroads	4,311	
Epping Forest District Swimming Club	3,582	
Loughton Voluntary Care Association	2,371	
Home-Start Epping Forest	2,895	
North Weald Airfield Museum	2,156	
Ongar Voluntary Care	1,211	
Rural Community Council for Essex	1,211	
Samaritans	2,156	
Theatre Resource	4,311	
Victim Support	3,790	
Waltham Abbey Youth 2000	4,311	33,516

One-off Major Grants		
Epping Bowls Club	1,000	
Epping Foresters Cricket Club	3,500	
High Beach Village Hall Management	3,700	
Old Person's Advisory Group (OPAG)	5,000	
Royal British Legion – Loughton Branch	1,000	
Roydon Tennis Club	5,000	
Sheering Village Hall	800	
Volunteer Bureau	5,000	25,000
Total Expenditure		58,516

2. Service Level Agreements

Details of the current situation with regard to the signing of the various Service Level Agreements for groups in receipt of long term funding are set out in the attached sheet.

APPENDIX

GA 3 year funding revision of SLA's

Alzheimer's Society: Signed
Crossroads: SLA awaiting Redbridge's Crossroads office approval (Epping is now under direction of Redbridge office)
Epping Forest District Swimming Club: Signed by Portfolio Holder; requires signatures from EFD Swimming Club and from EFDC Sports Development Section at Hemnal Street.
Loughton Voluntary Care Association: Signed
Home-Start: Signed
North Weald Airfield Museum: Awaiting signed copy (Initially the Museum had no comments; after a Trustees meeting comments were sent to EFDC – these have since been dealt with and we await the return of the signed SLA)
Ongar Voluntary Care: Signed
Rural Community Council for Essex: Signed
Samaritans: Signed
Theatre Resource: Signed
Victim Support: Modification to rear page – to be signed by Group and Portfolio Holder
WAYPIC: Visit planned by Cllr Stavrou and Chris Overend prior to completion of SLA. (WAYPIC have recently relinquished premises in Sun Street due to rent increase and service will continue in other locations in Waltham Abbey ensuring best use is made of funds available.)
WAY 2000: Final comments received on 1/10/07 owing to illness of Director. CO to approve modifications to SLA prior to signing by Group and Portfolio Holder.
CAB's: Modification to rear page – to be signed by CABx and Portfolio Holder
VAEF: Signed