

Committee(s): Community and Health Committee	Date: 10 March 2020
Subject: Chairs update	Wards Affected: All
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Summary

This report sets out the updates from officers as set out below.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

That Members note the updates from officers below

1. Community Hub

To increase our community hub offer, we have engaged a number of local organisations to provide drop-in services in the Town hall reception on a weekly, bi-weekly or monthly basis. This will enable visitors to get a wider support offer and for those present already in the building to work in partnership to refer customers to appropriate and easy to access services. The plan is to provide an audio absorbing booth to offer a degree of confidentiality and a welcoming space for those needing support. There is a soft launch due on the 1st April, with services engaged so far including Thurrock and Brentwood MIND, Brentwood Community Tree, Provide, Peabody, Lighthouse Furniture Project, Brentwood CVS, Community Safety organisations including the Police, Neighbourhood Watch and the Enforcement team, Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service, Carers First and substance misuse services.

2. Dance and Dine

Due to the success of these sessions at our sheltered housing schemes and ongoing support from the Rotary Club of Brentwood, we are looking to continue work with the Dance Network Association when our initial programme finishes in May. We hope to provide another 8 sessions across the year.

3. Chat benches

Support from Bakers Labels and Axis means we can extend this scheme to a further 10 benches across the Borough. Members have been asked to put forward suggestions for suitable locations for future 'Chat Benches'. Some great ideas have been put forward and we hope to carry these out subject to relevant permissions from bench owners.

4. Essex 2020

Essex 2020 is a countywide, year-long celebration of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths) in order to mark the British Science festival taking place at Anglia Ruskin University this year. There is an array of STEAM -based activity happening all over the County. We have been working with a number of Summer event providers to bring together our local event offer under one umbrella and theme to suit the programme. Local events under the umbrella will happen from May to August, with lots of exciting activities planned. Visit www.essex2020.com for further information.

5. Dunton Hills Garden Village Community Forum

We held the second Dunton Hills Garden Village Community Forum in February, where attendees were introduced to HTA. HTA will be leading a codesign process in a number of community workshops, groups and other methods, in order to write the Supplementary Planning Document which will outline the detailed design guide for the Village. Work on this will start in March and continue through to October.

6. Great British Spring Clean

The Community Services team have engaged with a number of scouts, cubs and guides groups, schools and voluntary sector organisations to promote and support the Great British Spring Clean initiative across the Borough. The initiative runs from the 20 March – 13 April 2020.

7. Mental Health

A number of staff were successfully trained as Mental Health First Aiders (MHFAs) in December, with more to follow over the next few months. The Council now have 12 MHFAs who worked together to ensure that the Council joined in with the national Time to Talk Day campaign on February 5th. This enabled us to offer activities, information and support to the general public in reception as well as staff at the Town Hall and the Depot. Free fruit was kindly donated by the Co-op in Shenfield, which many visitors were grateful to receive.

8. Play Area Strategy

Works are progressing at River Road and the toddler area at King George's Playing Fields and are due to be completed in Spring 2020. Consultation will commence end of May/June 2020 with key stakeholders around the concept design for the Hutton Recreation play area.

9. King George's Playing Fields development

The Planning application was approved at 30 January 2020 Planning Committee for the new proposals for the King George's Playing Fields facilities. The planning decision was referred to the Secretary of State which has responded to say that

there are no objections. Members also agreed at the Policy, Resources and Economic Development Committee to go into contract with Alliance Leisure Services for the construction of the facilities and mobilisation works are due to commence in March.

10. Curtis Mill Deer Survey

Further to the 17 September 2019 Community and Health Committee, a preliminary report has been received and is being considered by officers. The report sets out some initial concerns that without local surrounding landowner cooperation there will be no effective control measures to bring to the Council land. Deer numbers are high with resultant severe impact on the wooded areas of the location. It will be important that the Council as the responsible authority take the lead.

11. Community Trailer

A calendar of events for the trailer to attend has now been established for the next few months, with the first event scheduled for the 13th March outside the town hall which is to be led by the Community Safety Partnership followed by a community event on the 24th March in Ingatestone in conjunction with the CVS. The design and name are in the final stages of decision allowing the trailer to create a real presence and following within the community.

12. Health and Wellbeing Board

As part of the additional work of the board work has continued to create and establish the Brentwood Dementia Action Alliance, a group who come together to help improve the quality of lives of those living with dementia. In January the second DDA meeting was held at the town hall and saw 22 people from the local community, businesses and services come together to discuss how the group moves forward to creating a dementia friendly Brentwood. In addition those living with dementia were in attendance to share their experiences of using the local area, the next meeting is scheduled for early April.

13. Active Brentwood

As part of the continued collaborative active network hub, Active Brentwood worked together with Active Basildon and Active Thurrock to produce a very successful network event at Orsett Hall in February, the theme of the event "Physical activity and its role in reducing social isolation" attended by over 80 people the event had keynotes from Brentwood and Basildon CCG and Local deliverer of services United in Kind.