

Committee(s): Ordinary Council	Date: 16 th September 2020
Subject: Chairs report for Community and Health Committee	Wards Affected: All
Committee Chair: Cllr Cliff Poppy	
Report of: Kim Anderson, Partnership, Leisure and Funding Manager	Public
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Play Area Strategy and Work

In line with Government Guidance play areas in the Borough re-opened at the beginning of July, this included the refurbished sites at River Road and the new toddler area at King George's Playing Fields. Both these sites have been received extremely well by the public and have seen extensive use during the summer period. Further enhancements are planned at the River Road site including tree planting which is scheduled to take place this winter and the addition of bike racks which will occur imminently. Officers are now moving onto the next phase of the play area strategy which will see the play area at Hutton Recreation Ground fully refurbished and expanded and also the second phase of King George's Playing Fields site refurbished

A public consultation has already commenced on the Hutton site to ascertain parents and children's preferences on the type and style of equipment that will be installed along with details around how the site is used by people and how often they visit. This information has now been gathered via a survey and this is being feed into initial designs by HAG's designers. The design for King George's Playing Fields has already been mocked up on visual renders and is having some final amendments made to it before being confirmed by Officers. It is intended that both sites will be refurbished during the Autumn/Winter period when usage of sites is at its lowest point and in order to be ready for a spring/Easter opening.

Summer Community Event Programme

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the Community Services team have had to deliver the Summer event programme virtually, rather than face to face. Strawberry Fair saw a variety of Strawberry themed activities such as recipes and drinks and crafting activities as well as some physical activities for all the family to enjoy. Residents were also encouraged to post their strawberry themed photos. The Family Fun Days also took place throughout the six-week Summer Holidays with different themed activities each week

Holiday Support Programme

Organised by Essex County Council to support working parents the Holiday Support Programme has supported up to 60 children each day throughout the six weeks Summer Holiday. Utilising Bishops Hall Community Centre and Hutton Community Centre the programme has provided a physical activity programme for 5-13year olds. In addition, Manna Meals provided a food bag for the young people to take home. Physical activity kits have also been distributed to the young people.

Operation Shield

Whilst people are coming out of shielding Brentwood is providing some continued support through the Community Support Network for those that feel anxious that COVID-19 has not gone away. This will be monitored through the next few months in case there is a local lockdown requirement as the numbers locally have increased.

Discretionary Funding

The Mental Small Grants Scheme was launched on 4 September and is due to close at the end of October. Applicants can apply for up to £2,500 for initiatives that support Mental Health and Wellbeing.

The Brentwood Community Fund is currently open to applications and will close at the end of September. Applicants can apply for up to £4,000 for projects with support the Council's priorities. Agreement on the allocation of funding will come to December Community & Health Committee.

King George's Playing Fields development

The contracts for the works in King George's Playing Fields were reviewed when the Country went into lockdown and a number of additional clauses have been included to minimise the risk to the Council and ensure that they are COVID-19 compliant. These contracts are currently being finalised and then a start date will be agreed.

Football Hub

The Council is looking at a wider masterplan for the Brentwood Centre site which will encompass the Football Hub development as well as the Brentwood Centre building. The Council is working closely with Brentwood Development Partnership (Joint Venture) to agree scoping document for this work to be undertaken. A report will come back to Community and Health Committee with recommendations for the next steps.

Covid 19 Test and Trace operations

Officers from Brentwood are working in close cooperation with counterparts from Public Health and Essex to deliver the Test and Trace programme designed to fight potential coronavirus outbreaks locally.

A number of cases of covid 19 that have been detected in Brentwood via the test programme operated by Public Health England have been attributed to foreign travel. The government nationally is continually updating its travel advice to counter this threat.

Staff in Environmental Health and Licensing are continuing their work advising local businesses on measures to prevent community transmission of covid and responding to requests from Public Health to address any specific issues that arise.