

<b>Committee(s):</b> Ordinary Council	<b>Date:</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2020
<b>Subject:</b> Chairs report for Community and Health Committee	<b>Wards Affected:</b> All
<b>Committee Chair:</b> Cllr Cliff Poppy	
<b>Report of:</b> Kim Anderson, Partnership, Leisure and Funding Manager	<b>Public</b>
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### **Christmas events**

Due to the government guidance the Council's Christmas event programme will be delivered virtually. The Community Services team are looking at pre-recording some content to be broadcast on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, together with a virtual countdown of the switching on the Christmas lights. There is Nutcracker trail in Brentwood, Shenfield and Ingatestone for families to follow with a chance to win a Nintendo Switch. All the Nutcrackers have been sponsored by local businesses and the hope is that it will encourage footfall to the three High Streets.

### **Community Support Network**

Weekly meetings are taking place with the Community Support Network. The requests for support are generally reducing, as have the number of volunteers with people returning to work. A couple of the Community Help hubs are looking at longer term support. Doddinghurst are looking at joining up with Deal Tree Health Centre and the local schools to provide a wellbeing focus. There is still a need for telephone befriending services especially for the elderly. Lighthouse Furniture project has seen a very high demand in the last three weeks both in donation and sales of furniture. There is a watching brief with the group on any rise in referrals with expectation that demand for support is likely to increase in the run up to Christmas. A festive Can in the van initiative is planned for 4 December to support the local foodbank, Daily Bread Café and Manna Meals.

### **Health and Wellbeing Strategy**

Members noted the revised Health and Wellbeing Board Strategy and that the Council will look at implementing a Health in all Policies on 20 October Community and Health Committee.

The Community Trailer has been branded and a programme of community engagement is being developed.

### **Brentwood Leisure Trust and Brentwood Centre re-opening**

As Members will be aware the Brentwood Centre has gone into liquidation and the insolvency practitioner was formally appointed on 6 November.

The Council is looking to open the Centre on 5 December which will be part of phased re-opening of the Centre. It is proposed that Phase 1 will see the Swimming Pool and the International Hall open. The Gym will be temporarily moved into the International Hall together with some dedicated space for group exercise sessions.

The International Hall is also being used as a mass vaccination venue for approximately 12-13 weeks. It is expected that the facility will be able to deal with up to 40 people per hour.

### **Play Area Strategy**

The Junior phase of King George's Playing Fields play area design has been agreed and the works are due to start this winter. The second phase of the Hutton Recreation consultation has been completed with over 180 responses. These will inform the final design and once agreed these will be shared with members. Works on this play area are due to start this winter and be completed by Spring 2021.

### **Grow Your Own**

There are 100 people participating in the Grow Your Own initiative across Brentwood. The project has been commissioned by the Council to support the health and wellbeing of our most vulnerable residents. Participants have received free home growing packs and are supporting one another through peer groups, with the opportunity of gaining some qualifications to support re-employment. Those taking part have mental health illnesses, are carers, have physical or learning disabilities and are in receipt of income benefits. A legacy project has developed with the sea cadets who will be taking part in a seed swap project. A local school is taking part with vulnerable pupils and one of our sheltered housing schemes is joining as a small group. We are looking to see how we can continue to develop the appetite for the project. Thanks to local voluntary groups who have supported the delivery and storage of the packs.

### **Let's Create Art Packs**

The Council has received a grant of £1000 from the Royal Opera House Bridge which has been match funded by Countryside and Usborne books to create 200 free arts resource packs for children and young people to increase access to creative learning opportunities. The packs will be stuffed with fantastic arts and crafts materials for children to make their own decorations or cards for Christmas and older recipients will benefit from high quality art pencils, pens, sketch books and paints. Thanks to Usborne, each child will receive an arts activity or history book. Let's Create is the Arts Council England's current strategy to provide equal access to high quality creative learning opportunities for all. Children and young people receiving the packs will be referred by local community hubs and children's services, and will be either a young carer, from a low-income or single-parent family, or have a long term health condition. Packs will be distributed in December, in time for Christmas.