

Committee(s): Ordinary Council	Date: 28 th July 2021
Subject: Chairs report for Community & Health Committee	Wards Affected: All
Committee Chair: Cllr Cliff Poppy	
Report of: Kim Anderson - Partnership, Leisure and Funding Manager	For Information

Summary

The report provides an update for Members on the activities that are taking place under the remit of the Community and Health Committee

Main Report

Discover Summer

There will be a number of activities that will be badged under the Discover Summer branding for Brentwood this Summer. Discover Summer is an umbrella promotional campaign that includes a series of local events/ cultural activities by the Council and key partners. The campaign is designed to encourage footfall back to our high streets and for partners to benefit from mutual marketing. The campaign will also attract visitors to the new Discover Brentwood website, being created by the Economic Development team. Events included in the programme are:

- Brentwood Art Trail – 3-18 July
- Family Fun Days – every Friday from the 23 July to 27 August
- Safari Trail – 17 July – 3 September
- Baytree Brentwood Beach (giant sand pit at the Baytree Centre) - July - August
- Get into Arts – 7 – 14 August (dance, drama, crafts and arts in Chicken and Frog, Crown Street and Brentwood Theatre)
- Pop Up Market – 4 September
- Vegan Market – 5 September

Brentwood Art Trail

Supported by the Brentwood Business partnership and other sponsor, the trail will run from 3 – 18 July and encompasses work from over 70 local artists across many local venues. This year's trail sees seven artists paired with community hubs, where pieces will be created to recognise the work of the hubs over the past 22 months. There will also be a community art piece entitled 'Discover our Brentwood' which consists of hundreds of photos from moments and spaces across Brentwood Borough through the pandemic, captured by members of the public.

A series of creative events will also take place, with an emphasis of outdoor activities to enrich mental health. A series of 'Walk, Talk and Create' events will take place at Merrymeade Country Park, Warley Place and St Faith's Country Park,

There will also be a zoom portrait session with local artist Sue Mills. Aimed at primary schools, children and participate and display work in their windows for passers-by to view. Brentwood Theatre will also be showing a series of art films as part of its community cinema programme during the trail.

Family Fun Days

The dates have been set for this year's Family Fun Days as follows:

- Friday 23rd July 10.30-3.30pm - Doddinghurst
- Friday 30th July 10.30-3.30pm - Warley
- Friday 6th August 10.30-3.30pm - Ingatestone
- Friday 13th August 10.30-3.30pm - Brentwood Centre
- Friday 20th August 10.30-3.30pm - West Horndon
- Friday 27th August 10.30-3.30pm - Hutton - Joint opening of new park

Wrist bands cost £4 per child, adults/carers are free of charge. We are trialing new card payment system to create a cashless way of paying. Children can take part in a range of activities including, small fun fair rides, Punch & Judy Shows, a selection of sports including mix martial arts and football and bike riding. A local artist will be on hand to demonstrate how to draw safari animals along with other craft activities. There will also be some surprise visit from some well-loved characters for the children to meet and have a photo with, along with dress up areas. Brentwood Razzamatazz one of our sponsors will be offering dance sessions each week.

There will also be advice on hand from local services and community support networks, you may even spot our local police officer & enforcement officers.

These events have been supported by sponsors Baker Labels Ltd, Hallmark Care Homes, Brentwood Razzamatazz, Mullis & Peak Law and SCHMIDT designs.

There will also be some activities that are an additional cost such as animal handling from Exotic Explorers, Face Painting, pocket money stalls and food providers.

Safari Trail

10 Giant animals to be placed around Brentwood, Shenfield & Ingatestone for families to spot over 8 weeks from 17th July to 3rd September. There will be maps for children to follow and download from a QR code to find all the names of each animal, they then enter to win a prize which will be click it local vouchers.

Animals included on the trail are Giant Bear outside Chicken & Frog, Giraffe in Baytree Centre, Gorilla on Chapel Ruins, Crocodile at Brentwood Theatre, Lion outside Four Eighty in Shenfield, Hippo outside Lot, Parrot & Mandrill monkey place inside shop windows in Shenfield, Elephant outside Ingatestone church, Zebra on Ingatestone High Street along with a Parrot to go in a shop window.

All but 2 animals have been sponsored by local businesses including the BBP.

Additional events:

Drive in Cinema

The drive-in cinema took place on the Brentwood centre field over the May Bank Holiday showing 8 films, some of which were sing along and enjoyed by many families. There are plans to bring this back in August as a picnic style event where families can enjoy watching a film in an open-air environment.

Brentwood Centre

As Members will be aware Brentwood Leisure Trust went into administration on 6 November 2020 and the Brentwood Centre came back under direct control of Brentwood Borough Council.

It was agreed by the administration that the facility should re-open as soon as possible in line with the relaxation of the national lockdown restrictions at the beginning of December 2020.

The Council required some leisure expertise to reopen the Centre and Strategic Leisure Management were appointed to provide consultancy support.

Works were undertaken to the main reception area and for the replacement of internal and external signage. The Centre's gym was relocated in the International Hall to allow for social distancing and to maximise capacity for usage. Any essential compliance works were also undertaken which included Fire, Water and Alarm. Initially security staff were on site to cover any out of hours.

Recruitment for staff through an agency was undertaken which included general manager, and heads of department, together with duty managers and lifeguards.

As part of the phased re-opening the Centre initially opened on restricted hours to minimise staff requirements until membership and income enabled greater opening hours and the provision of more activities.

A new booking system was installed which enabled the public to join at home and book swim, gym sessions and 3G football pitch.

Due to continued restrictions in December swim and gym was available together with the 3G pitch.

Unfortunately, a third lockdown meant that the Brentwood Centre was forced to close after 3 weeks of being re-opened. As staff were appointed after October 2020 there was no option for the Council to furlough staff, so staff were employed continually and to work through areas of the centre that needed to be cleared.

The Brentwood Centre was also identified as a key site to start rolling out the vaccination programme in December and also providing a mobile testing site in the car park. The Vaccination Centre is likely to remain until August to continue the roll out of the vaccination programme. There is also discussion whether a booster programme

for over 50's continues at the Centre through September/October, but this is still to be confirmed.

The Council was able to apply to the National Leisure Recovery Fund for some financial support and to date the Council has received £117,552 to support the Brentwood Centre.

After the Government announcements and the road map for recovery, leisure centres were able to re-open on 12 April 2021, again this was for swim, gym and outdoor activities only. The Centre did provide some virtual classes for existing members and also moved some of the group exercise classes outside which proved to be very successful.

From the 17 May indoor group exercise was able to re-commence and the Centre has also increased its hours of operation. The recent government announcement means that the current restrictions remain in place until 21 July 2021.

Two events have also taken place at the Centre, an Antiques Fair and an outdoor Cinema and a future event programme is being developed

Plans and costings are being finalised to move the gym out of the International Hall back to its original location to allow greater usage of the hall for events and sports. These works should be completed in August.

Football Hub Development

An architect has been appointed to develop the plans for the Football Hub development at the Brentwood Centre. Meetings have been had with officers the architects, Essex FA and Football Foundation to look at the options and any specific requirements. A pre-app meeting is planned for 15 July to understand planning requirements and inform the final planning submission.

King George's Playing Fields

On 2 June Officers and Members attended an engagement day at King George's Playing Fields to update residents on the works currently in progress.

Pavilion – The majority of the concrete pouring has been completed. The steel frame is due to be delivered in June.

Splash Pad - all the tanks have been installed and concreting will commence ready for the splash equipment.

Changing Places – the fit out of the Changing Places facility will commence on 21 June

Outdoor Adventure Play - the equipment is currently being installed for the outdoor adventure play.

It is planned that the splash pad and outdoor adventure play will be open to the public in August while the pavilion is expected to be completed in February 2022.

Play area – the junior section of the play area is now completed, and Officers are working with the Mayor's Office to agree an official opening date. Works on the senior play area and final phase will commence in September this year.

Hutton Recreation Play Area

Works commenced on Hutton Recreation Play area on 21 June with a planned completion date of 27 August which will tie in with the Council's Family Fun Day and Hutton Community Centre's works completed on their new kitchen that will be able to serve the public at the rear of the building.

Community Support Network

The Community Support Network is still providing support to residents during the Covid pandemic. Meetings are currently being held every two weeks and the network is waiting on an update from Central Government in regard to any further relaxation of Covid restrictions. The Mayor of Brentwood Councillor Olivia Sanders attended the meeting on 7 June and say a massive thank you to all the work that the volunteers have done and shared a certificate of appreciation.

The Network also supports and promotes volunteering opportunities that. Development within the network has seen 'Who Let the Dad's' set up a new charity Foodbank Community which manages the supply of surplus food on behalf of Brentwood Foodbank, Hope Mums and Who Let The Dads Out as well as supporting key workers. The charity collecting surplus food from supermarkets and deliver to foodbanks and community organisations.

United in Kind is working on a pen pal scheme with Howard Lodge and Dudbrook Hall has had a really good response and it looks like we will have all 25 residents that want to take part paired up with a volunteer

Brentwood CVS is holding a Networking lunch on Wednesday 14 July at Hutton Community Centre for organisations to share ideas and network with one another.

Assets of Community Value

The Council has received two Assets of Community Value nominations. Due to the Localism Act regulations and the timelines to make a recommendation to list or not, Hopefield Animal Sanctuary nomination was circulated separately to Members for a decision. The outcome of which was to re-list the land as an Asset of Community Value.

There is a separate report on the La Plata Wood Asset of Community Value nomination.

Can in the Van

The next Can in the van will take place on Wednesday 23rd June in Brentwood High Street outside M&S from our Community Connect trailer. 12-3pm we are collecting on behalf of Brentwood Food bank, Daily Bread Café and Manna Meals.

Other key partners attending to give advice and support are Vitamins, Neighbourhood Watch and Axis. This will be 4th community can in the van raising awareness and collecting much needed donations.

Community Connect Trailer

The Trailer has already been out to Doddinghurst, Navestock and Hutton sharing a cup of tea with local residents and sharing advice, support and much needed interaction after the lockdown. Along with the dates below the trailer will also be at all Family Fun Days, with services such as Vita Minds, United in Kind, NHS Provide, Neighbourhood watch, Axis, CVS, Job Centre plus.

The trailer is targeting people who have been in isolation and helping them back to groups and clubs.

- 30th June (Weds) - West Horndon 12pm -3.30pm
- 9th July (Fri) - Blackmore 12- 3.30pm
- July 17th (Sat) - Ingatestone (trailer visiting the Horticultural show on Seymour Field : timings set up 11.30am; Event is on 12.30pm - 5.30pm).

Creative Packs for Older people

Following the success of the creative packs distributed to vulnerable children and young people before Christmas, and requests from partner organisations, an additional 200 creative packs are being put together for older people, with funding from the Health and Wellbeing Board. We are working in partnership with Equal Arts, a national organisation driving older people's creative participation, who is creating an activities book specific to the resources we are providing. The packs will also contain support information, such as resources from Neighbourhood Watch and a directory of key local services.

Dunton Hills Garden Village

The Community and Education programme for Dunton Hills Garden Village continues as residents have been urged to participate in a number of activities to respond to the consultation on the draft Supplementary Planning Document, which was created as a result of a community co-design process last year. Activities include surveys, map pins and drawing and imagining exercises for schools.

Artist Laura Malacart has just been commissioned for 6 months to respond to the Garden Village Development and continue the community engagement work. Laura will be working with a diverse range of people to create a Z-A Guide of key words and phrases derived from communities, heritage, and history, from which street and space names from Dunton Hills Garden Village can be selected. The commission is a partnership programme with the Essex Cultural Diversity Project and is the first of 2 projects.

Brentwood Youth Council

Essex Youth Services is working closely with the Community Services team and the corporate apprentices to develop a new Youth Council. The 4 apprentices will be leading the coordination of the Youth Council, including creating terms of reference, engaging young people and supporting the delivery of projects that address key priorities. The project forms part of the apprenticeship work programme and can be continued for subsequent cohorts. It is expected that Youth Council will be begin officially in September.

Mental Health Small Grants – see separate report.

Community Fund

The Community Fund is currently open for applications of up to £4,000 for not-for-profit organisations with a closing date of 30 September. A report will come to the December Community and Health Committee

Active Brentwood

Active Brentwood have been busy giving out funding to local clubs, now ready to get back up and running after Covid 19 restrictions lift.

Stones FC received £1550 for walking football group.

SOSA & Starletts dance received £2300 to deliver chair base dance & movement to isolated elderly people in sheltered homes and to young children.

Trailnet have been awarded £2400 to deliver cycling session and trials.

Hutton FC received £1500 to set up a sessions & teams designed for children with autism to play football.

Hutton Cricket club got £240 to run 8 x women's session to get more women into playing.

Chat 1st received £2500 to deliver online & face to face yoga & tai chi sessions targeting those suffering from poor mental health.

Active Brentwood has set out a new action plan to invest in and promote walking & cycling in Brentwood, promoting active families and increasing physical and mental wellbeing through sports and fitness

Tree planting programme

As part of the boroughwide tree planting programme 6,000 trees are planned to be planted in Hutton Country Park in 2021. The Council is also assisting in the woodland planting with Thames Chase at Hole Farm in Warley.

On 24 July the Council's arboriculturalist will be on Shenfield Common with the Community Connect trailer to talk about works on Shenfield Common.

A meeting in September is planned to provide an update on the development and planting of trees and woodland in the borough. More details will be circulated.

Battery Storage site

There will be an engagement day at Wash Road car park on 13 July on the proposed battery storage site in Hutton Country Park.