

Committee(s): Ordinary Council	Date: 13 th October 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

The Community & Health Committee met on the 13th September with the updates set out below:

Discover Summer

Discover Summer provided families with a number of activities over the summer to encourage footfall back to our high streets.

Events included:

- 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
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The Brentwood Art Trail was able to introduce some art to our high streets by bringing artists, businesses and communities together.

- 64 artists
- 34 venues
- 10 events
- 3 high streets
- 600 school children on a Zoom art class
- 340 pandemic photographs
- 1 gold tiger

It is estimated that over 800 families attended each family fun day over the six weeks.

There have been several hundred entries for the Safari Trail and winners will receive Colchester Zoo tickers and Click It local vouchers. The Trail has proved to be a real success and has received positive feedback from residents and businesses.

The Crown Street Festival on 31 July was a great event which caught everyone's imagination from storytelling, music and crafts, food and drink that was enjoyed by people attending the festival.

The Get into Arts was a partnership project between Chicken and Frog Book Shop & Brentwood Theatre. All events were popular and included summer crafting, knit & natter, yoga and storytelling, music and sing-along, rhyme time, teddy bears picnic, street singing & street performances and a musical adaptation of the twelfth night. All events took place in Crown Street and the Brentwood Theatre on 7-14 August.

The new Pop-Up Market arrives in Brentwood on Saturday 4 September 11-6pm in Chatham Way Car Park which will see new micro businesses and entrepreneurs bringing wide ranging new ideas and concepts, goods, and services to the borough.

The vegan market will take place on Sunday 5 September in Brentwood High Street from 10:30am-4pm featuring a huge variety of vegan street food, artisan bakers, craft brewers, ethical jewellers, and lots more!

The Council distributed 200 arts packs in July to support older people who may have been socially isolated, anxious, or just finding it difficult to find purpose and get back out as we recover from the pandemic.

King George's Playing Fields

Works on the new pavilion building remain on target for completion in February 2022. Unfortunately, the Splash Pad and the Outdoor Adventure Play could not be opened for the Summer Holidays due to issues with the water commissioning.

The fit out for the kiosk and, toilets and changing places facility have been completed. The pavilion is expected to be completed in February 2022 and that the splash pad will be open at Easter 2022 subject to weather conditions.

The Junior Play Area in King George's has been completed and officially opened by the Mayor, Councillor Oliva Sanders to the public on 28 June 2021.

Works to the senior play area will commence in October due for completion in January 2022.

Hutton Recreation Play Area

Works are in progress for the Hutton Recreation Play area and is likely to be completed at the end of September.

Community Support Network

The Community Support Network is still providing support to residents during the Covid pandemic. Meetings are currently being held monthly. The next meeting will also look at how the network can support any Afghan refugees if required

Community Connect Trailer

The Community Connect Trailer supported the Community Services team at the Family Fun Days through the Summer Holidays. The schedule for autumn and winter is as follows:

Weds 15 Sept - Hutton - Woodlands Avenue shops 11am – 2.30pm

Thurs 23 Sept – Doddinghurst shops 11am – 2.30

Fri 1 Oct – at the Brentwood Centre – networking event

Tues 5 Oct – Blackmore (CVS coffee morning) at the Church 10 - 1pm

Thurs 7 Oct- Shenfield High Street– 11 – 2.30
Tues 12 Oct – Ingatestone Community Centre car park– 11 – 2.30
Tues 26 Oct (half term) - Brentwood High Street 10.30-2.30pm
Weds 10 Nov – 10.30 - 2pm Pilgrims Hatch (near shops)
Thurs 18 Nov – 10.30 - 2pm - West Horndon shops
Sat 18 Dec – Brentwood High Street – all day

Brentwood Community Fund

The Brentwood 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 for agreement on the allocation of the funding.

Brentwood Centre

The Council have invested in the new gym facilities at the Brentwood Centre which opened to the public on Friday 27 August. Upgraded equipment provides 63 stations offering free weights, cardio machines and resistance machines.

The Council is also in the process of appointing a 3rd party leisure operator to manage the Brentwood Centre from the beginning of October subject to all legal requirements.

Football Hub

The Football Hub development is in progress and surveys are being undertaken to inform the planning submission. A business plan is being worked up which will include the expected income and expenditure together with facility mix (e.g. number of changing rooms, size of community/educational space), preferred operating model and estimated build costs.

Brentwood Covid Position

The latest statistics available relate to the end of August 2021 and show that there were 208 new cases per 100,000 in Brentwood.

This compares favourably with neighbouring authorities whose figures range from 174 to 373 per 100,000.

The overall picture is an improving one with the case down from a peak of 1496 per 100,000 a drop of 86% since the peak

The cases at this stage are showing a week-on-week reduction but we must all remain vigilant and continue to apply common sense precautions. This is particularly important for vulnerable individuals or in high-risk situations for example where people congregate indoors.

The onset of the autumn/winter period increases the risks to health from both accidents and respiratory conditions and this is likely to lead to increased pressure on health services. The Government is currently considering the roll out of booster vaccines and vaccinations for school age children.

Residents should be encouraged to take up appropriate vaccinations and boosters for Covid and Seasonal Flu where these are offered.

Brentwood Council is continuing to work with colleagues in Essex, particularly the public health team to ensure appropriate steps are taken to identify and contain any outbreaks in the area. County colleagues identify contacts of cases, and these are followed up by our officers where initial attempts at contact from the Essex Centre fail. Our officers are also providing advice to businesses and third-party organisations in Brentwood to help them remain Covid Safe. We have also established pop up lateral flow test kick collection points twice a week in Brentwood High Street, with plans to expand this offering across the Borough in high footfall areas, where space allows. To date we have delivered over 2000 test kits to members of the public in the last few weeks.