

Committee(s): Community, Environment and Enforcement Committee	Date: 20 June 2022
Subject: Chairs update	Wards Affected: All
Report of: Kim Anderson Corporate Manager Communities Leisure and Health	Public
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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

Community Events

Brentwood Art Trail

Brentwood Art Trail is currently underway, and the following activities are taking place.

TUESDAY 21 JUNE - 11am

Mini Paint Party with Express Yourself Paint Parties at Chicken & Frog Bookshop (plus free drink from The Larder Brentwood)

WEDNESDAY 22 JUNE - 12.30pm

Recreate An Iconic Album Cover with Sue Mills at Hey Joe Music

THURSDAY 23 JUNE - 10am

Guided Tour of Shenfield venues

FRIDAY 24 JUNE - 10am

Walk, Talk & Create at Warley Place Nature Reserve with artist Lucia Hardy

SATURDAY 25 JUNE - 11.30am

Create A Pet Portrait with Michael Young (Family Scribbles) at Wylie Wellness Centre Brentwood

SATURDAY 25 JUNE - 3.15pm

Create A Family Portrait with Michael Young (Family Scribbles) at Chicken & Frog Bookshop.

All activities can be booked via www.brentwoodarttrail.co.uk

Strawberry Fair

Saturday 18 June on Shenfield Common free entry event with free entertainment and activities for families along with gift, craft, food & drink stalls. There will also be bouncy castles and inflatables for children.

Family Fun Days

Dates and locations for this year's Family Fun Days

29 July 2022 Warley Playing Fields

5 August 2022 Seymour Field, Ingatestone

12 August 2022 Brentwood Centre

19 August 2022 Doddinghurst Playing Fields

26 August 2022 Hutton Recreation Area

All Family Fun Days are from 10.30-3.30pm and wristbands are £4 each which includes all rides and bouncy castles. The Council also works with other support agencies to attend the event that provide support for local families. The Community Connect Trailer will also attend all of the events which provides information on what's going on in the community plus advice and support from partner agencies such as Neighbourhood Watch, VitaMinds, United in Kind, Council for Voluntary Services, Mind, Fire Service and Community Agents

Community Hubs

The focus for the Community hubs at the moment is the response to the Ukrainian refugee support. To date the Council has supported X sponsors and X Ukrainian refugees. The Council has worked with a number of partners such as Revenues and Benefits, DWP, CAB and local churches and community organisations to provide coordinated support. There has been an admirable response from the community in offering support for Ukrainian guests, with local support networks, education, and employment opportunities available. Work to support guests and hosts is ongoing. The Council has been publicly thanked for such swift support.

Tea Dances at the Nightingale Centre

There will be a monthly tea dance, and these have been organised with Chat 1st and the Council.

Community Halls update

There is a separate report before members which provides an update on the Community Halls.

King George's Playing Fields new development

The first phase of the King George's Playing Fields development has been completed and was open to the public in March. The second phase which includes the demolition of the old pavilion and landscaping of the area is due to be completed at the end of June.

Hutton Recreation Play Area

CCTV was installed at Hutton Recreation Play area to protect the newly installed equipment and reduce ASB.

Football Hub development

The Council is continuing to work with the Football Foundation, Essex FA and local teams to develop the plans and business plan for the Football Hub Development. A soft market test exercise is in progress to obtain views on the site and floor plan from a leisure operator's perspective. Once the responses have been received and evaluated, together with the relevant surveys then a planning application will be submitted. There is a statutory 12-week consultation period on the plans, and it is due to go to a summer Planning Committee. There has been ongoing consultation with the local football clubs to ascertain the programme of use and the protected slots for partner clubs. The Business Case will be presented to Members for approval at a future committee.

Brentwood Centre

Everyone Active (SLM) the new operators of the Brentwood Centre have produced a quarterly update report for Members on the Brentwood Centre contract, which is being presented tonight by Shaun Beagle, Area Contract Manager.

Dunton Hills Garden Village

In partnership with Essex Cultural Diversity Project, the Council has commissioned artist Becky Vincer to collaborate with nearby communities to create a 'gift' for future residents the garden village.

The commission is part of the community engagement and education programme and follows a successful first commission in 2021 with artist, Laura Malacart, who worked with local communities to create a collectively-owned, street name database that could be used by developers. The A-Z Guide to Dunton Hills Garden Village was compiled over a 6-month period, where the artist explored cultures, histories, ecology, folklore and personal stories to draw out words and phrases inspired by 'people and place' and connecting communities to the new garden village.

The current 6-month commission is an opportunity to generate and capture a spirit of generosity and welcome from existing communities, helping to create a sense of identity and belonging and articulating a shared vision for the future residents of Dunton Hills. The artist proposes the design of a picnic blanket that will be codesigned with local schools, youth and community groups. The picnic blanket will encourage new residents to make the most of the outside green spaces in the village and connect with their neighbours.

The commission will finish by 31 March 2023.

Reminiscence theatre project in Kelvedon Hatch

The Council is working with nationally renowned arts organisation, Age Exchange, to deliver a project to support older people. The project is a 10 week, fully-funded programme, where 12 residents from Kelvedon Hatch are attending weekly, in-person sessions with Age Exchange, exploring memories, social history and oral history artefacts, family and working life. Participants are sharing stories and creating a book, marking the Jubilee. The project is part of ongoing work to support community assets within the community hub network, tackling isolation and helping people to reconnect to their communities, as well as supporting those with dementia.

An Indian Princess in Doddinghurst

The culmination of a project funded by the Community Fund took place in mid May. The Essex Cultural Diversity Project worked with residents in Doddinghurst to explore the heritage, history and life of an Indian Princess, Helen Runder Singh Ahluwalia who lived in Brentwood and is buried in All Saints Church. The final exhibition event took place at All Saints church, where 80 attendees listened to historian, Peter Bance, and local researcher Caroline Seville, describe the princess' life. The talks were followed by a curry in Doddinghurst Village Hall. The event was very popular and residents are keen to further explore the village's Sikh connections.

Further information and an interview with Peter on BBC Essex is available on the Essex Cultural Diversity website.

Social value programme - Axis

Delivery of the social value programme with Axis continues. Along with their annual generous contribution to the Community Fund, Axis is supporting skills development across the Borough. After delivering a successful career readiness and life-soft skills to the whole of year 7 at Shenfield High School earlier this year, the team delivered a well-received residents' training workshop at the end of April. Using a void property in Pilgrim's Hatch, participants gained useful DIY skills, such as filling, bleeding radiators and changing locks.

Axis is also recruiting an additional multi-trade apprentice for Brentwood, prioritising Brentwood applications.

Additionally, a new electric cooker was installed by Axis recently in St George's Court sheltered housing scheme and the site team provided the Fish and Chips for residents on that afternoon.

Axis is keen to support the Council's sustainability priorities and is helping to promote Green Day across schools.

Brentwood Community Fund

Following agreement at the March committee, the Community Fund is open for 2 rounds this year. The first opened on 1 April and will close on 31 July. The second will open on 3 October and close on 31 January. Alongside support from Axis, the Council was successful in securing an additional contribution of £20,000 from SAIL. This has enabled maximum grant allocation to increase to £5000, providing more sustainable delivery of community initiatives. Funding for Round 1 will be awarded in September.

Murals at the Skate Park

The Council utilised some of its Welcome Back funding allocation to commission artist Dave Darko to create a series of murals on the wall of the Skate Park at King George's Playing Fields. Darko's first mural was completed in March and the other 2 will be completed by the end of the Summer.

An additional mural at the skate park, by local artist, Minus Cloud Nine, was created as part of Mental Health Awareness Week and features silhouettes of skaters,

scooters and BMXers with the phrase 'You Got This' to raise awareness of positive thinking and good mental health.

Both murals have been popular with skate park users.

Environment Strategy

The Environment Strategy is due to go out for consultation on Monday 13th June, and will last a minimum of 6 weeks. The consultation includes 3 questionnaires- a general questionnaire for all people who live and work in the Borough, one for local businesses, and one for young people. All questionnaires will be made available from our website however, the business questionnaire will be promoted through mailing lists including BEBA. The young people questionnaire will be sent to schools and colleges, and for anyone too young to participate, teachers will be asked to respond on their behalf. There will also be an online q&a session for anyone who wishes to discuss the strategy further. Alongside the questionnaires and online q&a session, supporting information such as FAQs and a glossary will be provided on the Council website. Communications are supporting us to promote the consultation over social media and will ensure there is consistent engagement.

The results of the consultation should be available by September, with any requiring alterations being made to the strategy before our October committee meeting.

Brentwood Environmental Business Alliance (BEBA)

The BEBA (Brentwood Environmental Business Alliance) website was relaunched on 30th May, making it much easier for businesses to sign up. There are also dates in the diary for a free webinar series on carbon reduction, which will run from the end of June through to August. This is currently on our website and will be promoted on social media when the links to book become available next week.

Carbon Literacy Training

As mentioned in the Environment Strategy, all our Senior Leadership Team will be certified Carbon Literate by the end of this year. This training is expected to take place in September and can accommodate up to 20 people. By having our SLT and Leader trained in Carbon Literacy, we should a Bronze Award Carbon Literate Organisation. Carbon Literacy provide training for a range of roles, including Elected Members and Parish Councils

Electric Vehicle Charger Installation in Council Car Parks

Following the decision at the Policy, Resources and Economic Development Committee 16/12/20 it was resolved to undertake a procurement exercise to identify a company to install EV Chargers across a number of Council Car Parks in 2021/2022. Since this decision a protracted procurement exercise was undertaken which involved a Crown Commercial Dynamic Purchasing System. Two companies submitted bids, but neither proposal met the Council's specification. After taking legal advice, the decision was made in April this year to abandon the exercise. From the lessons learnt we are now back out to tender and submissions are due the first week in July 2022.

The new exercise will tackle a few car parks at a time, the first two are Chatham Way and King Georges Park car parks. Once this procurement exercise has completed, we will move on to the next two car parks and so on.

Community Safety

The Baker Partnership Hub

The Baker Partnership HUB in memory of Police Officer Tris Baker who sadly died last year and was the Children & Young Persons Officer for Brentwood was officially launched on the 16th March. Funding for the HUB was received from the Community Safety Partnership and Police Fire & Crime which will mean that Essex Police will now be working alongside Council's community safety team and wider community safety partners such as Essex County Fire & Rescue Service, Essex Probation, NHW, Crime Stoppers, SEPP, and Youth Services as well as many more.

The HUB has already seen improvements around communication, collaboration and intelligence sharing for the benefit of the borough's residents, businesses, and visitors.

Community Safety- Engagement/Campaigns/Projects

Engagement

As part of the team's responsibilities, they also undertake a programme of engagement events throughout the year. Pre pandemic this was around 70+ engagement events per annum. However, with the restrictions imposed upon us drastically reduced the events we were able to deliver. So far since April we have delivered 8 engagement days.



Campaigns

- Another area of focus for the team is linking in with local, regional, and national campaigns including:
- Ending Violence Against Women
- National Road Safety Week
- Project Edward – European Day without a road death



Projects

The team work closely with local schools and facilitate and Chair the Schools Liaison Meeting every month. This includes representatives from all local secondary schools as well as Essex Police, ECC (Essex County Council) Youth Service, and other community agencies. Through this group excellent relationships have been formed and go from strength to strength improving communication and collaboration. Through this group we discuss individual issues as well as support community safety project delivering. Examples of projects we commission and deliver are:

- Mentoring Sessions for young people to help with communication, personal development and to work on behaviours, vulnerabilities, consequences and self esteem
- Outreach work in hotspot areas to engage with young people
- N-Act Theatre performances for all schools. 'Friend' is a play about gangs, county lines, knife crime and consequences
- 'Unacceptable' performance on peer-on-peer behaviour and awareness around sexism, sexual harassment and sexual violence isn't acceptable
- Crime awareness sessions delivered in schools around drugs, gangs and knife crime
- Boxing project established in the Brentwood Centre for young people

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

ASB

Reports of Anti-Social Behaviour have continued at a high level despite the easing of COVID-19 restrictions. Since the beginning of the pandemic, residents' tolerance levels for one another have dramatically decreased and we are seeing a lot more neighbour disputes.

Objectives

- Introduce a new Case Management System to improve reporting and response for residents.
- ASB Officer to undertake qualification.
- Work with partners to reduce overall ASB in Brentwood through the HUB and connections with local schools.
- Continue out of hours patrols of the ASB Hotspot areas.

Environmental/Patrols

Daily patrols undertaken across the borough dealing with fly tipping, littering, abandoned vehicles, early presentation of waste and supporting the wider team where possible. This includes other teams across the Council such as Environmental Health, Planning Enforcement and Licensing.

Objectives

- To maintain a visible presence with Corporate Enforcement, NES, SEPP and Essex Police (including OOHs)
- To proactively use CCTV footage to continue to tackle ASB, nuisance and littering in the Town Centre
- Maintain the patrol schedule and feedback to relevant agencies
- Continue to develop promotional material to bring back better engagement with residents and visitors (ASB & Fly tipping)
- Identify further hotspots

CCTV

The CCTV control room continues to provide 24/7 monitoring, incident identification and assistance with criminal investigation. The control room continues to offer the evening and weekend emergency telephone reporting service.

Achievements

- Installation now completed to reintroduce public area surveillance within Ingatestone parish, this will shortly be live in the control room.
- New CCTV camera installed in Bishops Hall Community Centre to help deter ASB and criminal activity.
- New CCTV ANPR for Navestock being processed.

- CCTV at King Georges development to be live shortly.
- Increased proactive surveillance of areas affected by ASB. Targeting misuse of WHW car park, Crown St and High St. All reported for action to Essex Police or enforcement for the issue of FPN / warning letter.

Objectives

- Maintain increased vigilance of areas of high ASB
- Work with Essex Police and enforcement team to proactively reduce hotspots
- Continue to deliver and expand surveillance solutions to new and previously unmonitored areas affected by crime / ASB
- Undertaking a full review of the service, including policies, procedures, and reporting.