

<b>Committee(s):</b> Ordinary Council	<b>Date:</b> 27 <sup>th</sup> July 2022
<b>Subject:</b> Community, Environment & Enforcement Chairs Update	<b>Wards Affected:</b> All
<b>Committee Chair:</b> Cllr Will Russell	
<b>Report of:</b> Kim Anderson, Corporate Manager – Communities, Leisure & Health	<b>For Information</b>

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

### **Main Report**

#### **Brentwood Art Trail**

The Brentwood Art Trail which ran from 4-26 June 2022, celebrates the works of local artists in pop-up galleries in Brentwood, Shenfield and Ingatestone. The Brentwood Art Trail had a record number of venues in 2022, welcoming brand-new artists and groups to the event. There were a number of creative activities taking place throughout the trail in a wide variety of indoor and outdoor spaces, including Guided Tours, Walk Talk and Create sessions, and artist workshops for children and adults.

#### **Strawberry Fair**

Strawberry Fair took place on 18 June on Shenfield Common after a two-year break due to COVID 19. The event was a great success and provided an opportunity for local businesses, charities and residents to come together. Live music kept everyone entertained through the day.

#### **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 54 Brentwood Households have signed up to sponsor to host a Ukrainian guest on the Homes for Ukraine scheme and 61 payments of £200 have

been paid to 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 1<sup>st</sup> and the Council.

### **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 July.

### **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 produced a quarterly update report on the Brentwood Centre contract, which was presented to the Community Environment and Enforcement Committee 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 are 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.

### **Hartwood Access Route and Trail**

Members of the Community, Environment and Enforcement Committee agreed to update the signage and wayfinding to improve the Hartwood Access Trail in King George's Playing Fields. It was proposed that the Council involve local schools and the Countryside volunteers to implement the works and will be utilising local wood for the posts.

### **Free Tree Walk and Talk**

There will be a free Tree Walk and Talk at Warley Country Park on Wednesday 27 July from 6-7.30pm. No need to book.

### **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 went 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 are 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 will be submitted on the 12<sup>th</sup> 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.