

<b>Committee:</b> Community, Environment & Enforcement Committee	<b>Date:</b> 13 March 2023
<b>Subject:</b> Chairs Update	<b>Wards Affected:</b> All
	<b>For Information</b>

## **Community Services**

### Dementia Concert

At St Thomas' Church on Friday 28 April in the afternoon. Further details to be confirmed.

### Dementia Awareness Week

Runs from 15-21 May which will have a number of events and initiatives during that period to promote awareness of Dementia and the support that is available.

### Active Brentwood and Active Basildon Networking Event

The Networking event took place on 3 March. Nesta who have been commissioned by Brentwood and Basildon Alliance to undertake an Asset Mapping exercise across Brentwood and Basildon provided an introduction to the work that they will be undertaking over the next through months.

### Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)

A stakeholder event run by WSP consultants for comments on preferred active travel routes to be upgraded. This includes both cycling and walking routes took place in January 2023 for the Public consultation following pre-election period (May/June time).

### Andy's Man Club

This is a new internal initiative for male staff to support with their Mental Health and Wellbeing, posters ae displayed around the Town Hall and the Depot.

### Tea Dances at the Nightingale Centre

The popular Tea Dances ae held once a month at the Nightgale centre, Thursdays 11am - 1pm run by Chat 1st. £5 includes a cuppa and a cake as well as 2 hours of music/dancing. Well attended with various care homes bringing residents.

23rd March

20th April

25th May

22nd June

20th July

### UKSPF

#### Coronation Arts Commission

An artist is due to be appointed to undertake a creative commission to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III during 2023. The aim of the project is to work in close collaboration with communities to create a piece of artwork as a local legacy from the coronation.

The commission is an opportunity to generate and capture the local spirit and celebration of the coronation of the new King, reflecting diverse voices within our

communities, considering local heritage, history, and bringing together the past present and future.

The Council is also supporting Brentwood Museum to bring a coronation-themed exhibition to the High Street.

### Grant Programme

The Council has opened a new grant programme for UKSPF interventions E6 and E10 (arts, culture, heritage and sports). Organisations and registered sole traders can apply for between £5,000 and £10,000 for projects taking place between June 2023 and March 2024.

There is a small amount of funding per intervention this year, so the Council is likely to be able to support between 5 and 10 organisations. Mandatory draft applications are due by 20 March with final submissions by 10 April. All information is at [www.brentwood.gov.uk/funding](http://www.brentwood.gov.uk/funding).

### Cultural and Creative Vision for Brentwood - 2023-2027

The Council has undertaken a series of workshops with stakeholders to understand what our local priorities are for creativity and culture over the next 5 years. This piece of work aligns with several workstreams across the county, including with ASELA, which aim to support the development of culture to drive forward lasting social and economic benefits. Over 60 stakeholders have attended workshops over the last month and further work continues with additional parties to gather contributions. Ascertaining a local vision from a wide range of stakeholders will ensure that any cultural and creative workstreams, including the spend of UKSPF, will be appropriate, informed, sustainable and positively contributes to the growth and wellbeing of the Borough. The draft vision is expected to come to committee in June.

### A 'Gift' for Dunton Hills

Throughout the Autumn of 2022, Brentwood Borough Council, in partnership with the Essex Cultural Diversity Project worked with artist, Becky Vincer, to respond to the developing garden village at Dunton Hills as part of the community engagement and education programme.

Becky was invited to collaborate with nearby communities to create a 'gift' that could be presented to future residents of the Dunton Hills. The commission was 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.

Throughout the Autumn, Becky undertook workshops with West Horndon Primary School, the Forget Me Not Activity Club, the Daily Bread Café, the Tots Aloud group at Doddinghurst Road Church and the Endeavour Youth Club. The groups worked with Becky to create art and share stories about making, sharing and enjoying food with other people. Their ideas and artworks have been brought together to create a design for a picnic blanket that will be shared with developers as a suggested welcome gift for the future residents of Dunton Hills Garden Village. The artworks and final picnic blanket design were exhibited at Brentwood library throughout February.

### Chat benches

Brentwood Council have launched more chatty benches across the borough to help bring local people together, reduce social isolation, combat loneliness and raise awareness of mental health services in the Borough.

- Baytree Centre (Rear)
- Bishops Hall Park
- Brentwood Rail Station
- Brentwood Town Hall
- Brentwood High Street, Chapel Ruins
- Hutton Community Centre
- Ingatestone - Community Garden
- Ingatestone - Fairfield
- Ingatestone - Seymour Field
- Ingrave - Village Playing Fields
- London Road Cemetery
- Mountnessing Postmill
- River Road Play Space
- South Weald (Opposite St. Peters Church)
- The Hermit - Essex Youth Service
- Tipps Cross Remembrance Hall
- Warley Hill (Outside shops)
- West Horndon Village Hall
- Westbury Road Car Park

### Cost of Living Collaboration Event

A Cost-of-Living Collaboration event is planned for the 19 April at the Nightingale Centre from 10am – 4pm. This event builds on the work of the Cost of Living working group to further support our residents, businesses and staff through the Cost-of-Living crisis. The morning session will involve mapping with partner agencies, what is working well with our partner agencies, identifying the challenges and identifying the opportunities for further collaboration. The afternoon session will be open to the public to get information and support from those agencies that are attending.

### Coronation event

A Coronation Festival community event is planned for Monday 8 May to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III. The event will take place in King George's Playing Fields 12noon to 5pm. Part of the event is to celebrate the Voluntary Sector and the benefit that they bring to our communities. There is live music featuring the Imperial Youth Band, Brentwood School Big Band and the Mass Choir of St Thomas' Church. In addition, there will be food and drink stalls, a children's activity area.

### Community Connect Trailer

The Community Connect trailer will be at the following locations between 10am to 1.30pm

Thursday 23 March - St Peters Church, Daily Bread

Wednesday 5 April - Brentwood High Street  
Thursday 20 April - Hutton Community Centre  
Thursday 18 May - Woodlands Cafe, Hutton  
Wednesday 31 May - Brentwood High Street  
Wednesday 14 June - Doddinghurst (outside shops)  
Friday 23 June - The Brentwood Centre

### Hospital Discharge support

The new Hospital Discharge support service across the Mid and South Essex (MSE) Integrated Care Board (ICB) which Brentwood CVS is supporting. It has had a few self-referrals for some additional support. The scheme is funded until the end of March by the MSE, who are looking to extend it beyond that date.

### Family Fun Days

There are four planned Family Fun Days booked in for this year in August from 10.30am 3.30pm at the following locations:

4 August Warley Playing Fields  
11 August Kelvedon Hatch  
18 August Brentwood Centre, Pilgrim's Hatch  
25 August Hutton Recreation

### Environmental Health

Current cases for Environmental Health include:

Nags Head Lane – fly nuisance visits/notice being prepared  
56 Ongar Road, possible harassment of tenant/illegal eviction, emergency remedial action taken and emergency prohibition notice served  
Information for Planning appeal case Lidl store Ongar Road  
District officers working with Social Services and private contractor to help with hoarding/filthy & verminous case  
Planning consultations on major developments including Dunton Hills, Nags Head Lane housing development, Officers Meadow Shenfield and other large developments in Chelmsford Road and Mountnessing

### Food Safety

The Food Team undertake a range of duties to make food manufactured, stored, transported, and sold in Brentwood as safe as possible. We produce export health certificates to enable local businesses to export their goods outside the UK, deal with infectious disease control functions and have been key in supporting food businesses throughout the pandemic and onwards through the recovery phase. Our key highlights include;

Local Authority Recovery Plan – Across the UK, during the pandemic most environmental health officers were moved to deal with covid controls, whether it be advice and enforcement or as a support for the wider test and trace system. Consequently, the Food Standards Agency (FSA) recognised that routine food inspections would be significantly impacted and introduced a risk-based framework for restarting the inspection system in line with the Food Law Code of Practice. It details expectations for inspection of new and high risk/non-compliant establishments to ensure that consumers are protected. This plan has key inspection targets to be

achieved over several years, to get the inspection programme back on track. We prioritised our existing and new inspections and have provided a wide range of advice to businesses and to date, we have met the targets set by the FSA. We are also expected to meet our next milestone in the plan at the end of December 2022 which is a significant achievement.

Food sampling – we have restarted our food sampling programme and concentrated on known high-risk foods, local manufacturers, together with taking part in regional and national surveys relevant to Brentwood. This has proved to be an efficient and effective method to identify food safety risks in food prior to complaints or notifications of illness. The businesses are advised on the probable cause and re-sampling is undertaken to confirm that action taken has been sufficient to remedy the problem. Enforcement is undertaken if necessary.

Infectious disease control – the food safety team must statutorily receive information on notifiable diseases. Investigation is carried out by environmental health officers with extensive experience in infection control in close liaison with the UK Health Security Agency. Investigations have ranged from campylobacter our most common notification, to other pathogens such as e.Coli O157. We investigate individual cases or outbreaks of food or water borne illness to find the cause and to stop it spreading. Numbers of these notifications have steadily increased since the pandemic.

Enforcement – While we take a graduated approach to enforcement, it has been necessary to undertake a range of enforcement to secure compliance and ensure the protection of public health. The team have needed to serve several Hygiene Improvement notices, have needed to intervene and dispose of unsafe food, together with the closure of two premises on public health grounds. These premises have been revisited to ensure they no longer pose a risk to public health and will be closely monitored to ensure standards are maintained.

New online food hygiene training courses – an exciting development to generate income is the development of several online food hygiene training courses. Demand for face-to-face courses has fallen due to the cost to business of releasing staff for the day. Our new online courses allow students to undertake modules at their convenience until the whole course is completed. We have worked with one of the leading suppliers of online courses to provide high quality content that businesses and residents of Brentwood will have access to, so they can meet all their food training needs. It is hoped that these new courses will be launched in the new year.

## **COMMUNITY SAFETY & ENFORCEMENT**

### **Community Safety- Engagement/Campaigns/Projects**

#### The Baker Partnership Hub

The HUB continues to thrive and be a productive and innovative environment for Essex Police to work 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.

We will soon be joined by Phoenix who will be providing outreach for drug and alcohol abuse.

This has greatly improved our already healthy partnership with daily communication between the agencies which has already resulted in quicker results such as closure orders and dealing with community safety issues immediately; we recently planned our joint operations with police to patrol Brentwood's half marathon and assisted in both police and Council obtaining legal orders to curb anti-social behaviour and manage repeat offenders. It also enables us to continue to have the following regular meetings between partners:

- Weekly Community Safety Intelligence and Tasking
- Daily Police Briefings
- Biweekly ASB and CCTV project meetings
- Monthly ASB partnership meetings
- Ad Hoc case review meetings
- Partnership engagement and ops planning

These partnership meetings have resulted in better/productive use of available resources, an improved intelligence product identifying hot spots, repeat offenders, times of offences and emerging community safety trends and issues, improved use of CCTV and camera positioning, improved regular community engagement, improved communications on individual cases between agencies, prompter and more accurate responses to victims and more accurate risk assessments.

We plan to hold some interactive workshops with members in our HUB in the next twelve months to further illustrate the success of the HUIB and the benefit partnership working is having for our community.

### Communications

We have progressed our recent comms campaign to increase Community Safety profile on social media and highlight to our community a lot of the work we do on a daily/ weekly basis. This has already incorporated Community Safety, Anti Social Behaviour, Community Engagement and Enforcement coordinating with Essex police comms team on this to showcase our partnership working including joint events and joint patrols in hot spot areas. We have now produced comms on social media with South Essex Parking Partnership (SEPP) to highlight our efforts to address unlawful parking and promote the work we are doing to address Community Safety Partnership priorities such as Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), White Ribbon and anti drink spiking. This campaign continues to meet with great success and we hope to produce more in details comms pieces such as 'a day in the life' of a Community Safety Officer and maps of our patrol routes in the next twelve months.

We are also working to produce a members newsletter which will be a regular newsletter highlighting and updating the work of Community Safety including partnership working with police, HUB activities, CCTV, ASB, Community Engagement and Enforcement.

## Community Engagement

The partnership has continued to deliver as many community engagement events across the borough and wider Essex where possible. Since April 2022, 41 events have been delivered. Another area of focus for the partnership is linking in with local, regional, and national campaigns including:

- Ending Violence Against Women
- Assisting Essex police with their 'Walk with Us' initiative at transport hubs during rush hour
- Anti-spiking events with police in and around our night-time economies
- White Ribbon Day- Engaging with men and boys to end violence against women
- National Road Safety Week
- Project Edward – European Day without a road death

## Projects

Through the CSP the Community Safety team remain committed to tackling key issues for Brentwood by focussing on specific projects such as working 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.

Projects being delivered include:

- Purchasing two electric bikes for police and community safety to conduct joint patrols across the borough
- 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
- Speedwatch has been revamped with a new dedicated website and email, greater focus on delivering services and improved communications across Essex. This will still be co-ordinated by the Community Safety team & volunteers. Whilst this scheme is primarily to target speeding drivers it is also a very visible presence in a locality which can only help to assist with discouraging burglars.

- The Essex Restorative and Mediation Service holds offenders to account and helps them take responsibility for the harm they have caused. Victims are given the chance to explain the impact the crime or conflict has had on them, ask questions of the perpetrator, and seek an apology.
- Seasonal Burglary Operation - The partnership has previously been involved in targeting and preventing the seasonal increase in burglaries that occurs across the whole county over the Winter months and will do so again this year.
- Operation Insight consists of a system of analysis and the deployment of resources into 'hot spots' likely to suffer burglaries, reducing the chance of them occurring. Intelligence is shared with partners and the Council's Community Safety team then disseminate to other departments within the Council to make sure staff are aware and can factor this information into their regular patrols, visits, and work schedule etc.

## **Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)**

### ASB

We continue to receive reports and cases of Anti-Social Behaviour, but these have reduced slightly in the last few months which could be a result of the ASB officer working from the Baker Partnership HUB with police CPT; greater sharing of intelligence, risk assessments and dedicated action plans between police and Community Safety have enabled us to improve our response to reports of anti-social behaviour. We have arranged a monthly partnership meeting in the Baker Partnership HUB to address our highest risk ASB cases with agreed dedicated action plans. We will be circulating our new ASB app, once we have completed the legal paperwork required, which will be sent to complainants of anti-social behaviour to improve our service to complainants, improve how we collect evidence, improve our communication with complainants and give complainants greater say in the resolving of anti-social behaviour cases.

We have also been using our intel product and weekly intel meetings to arrange and organise patrols and joint patrols with police in ASB hot spot areas. We have also been advertising these patrols and areas using comms via social media

### Objectives

- Introduce a new Case Management System to improve reporting and response for residents.
- 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. We recently successfully caught a fly



tipper and the fine of £400 was paid. We have also added littering and fly tipping hot spots to our intel pack to enable us to deploy our environmental resources to these areas.

#### Objectives

- To maintain a visible presence with Corporate Enforcement, NES, SEPP and Essex Police (including OOHs)
- Improve our surveillance of fly tipping and littering hot spots.
- Install CCTV solar powered mast in Navestock to address fly tipping
- Joint meetings to address environmental offences in Navestock including representatives from Havering and Epping Forest
- 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

Following the audit and review of the CCTV service including connectivity, cameras, camera positioning, software and protocols and policies we have already enlarged the current control room by removing the dividing wall, and also creating a monitoring suite to make us compliant with legislation. We have agreed with a local CCTV supplier and operator to lease half of the enlarged control room and a lease is being drawn up by Assets to this effect. This will still leave us with the extra capacity to offer other social landlords/ agencies to further invest in our control room. This agreement with a local CCTV supplier and operator, and hopefully other local companies/ organisations, increases Brentwood Council's offer of inclusive growth to the community of Brentwood. This service/ offer could also be rolled out to partners outside of the borough.

Working in partnership with the local CCTV supplier and contractor will allow us to invest in new technology to deliver 24/7 operations from a new and improved control room to cover our out of hours functions such as senior fire marshal, police radio, out of hours calls etc without having to look for extra funding. We will be investing in our equipment so that we have automated cameras with analytic capabilities (cameras capable of detecting arson, groups gathering, discarded items, other crimes and ASB etc with a pre-set protocol of required actions to be followed) and new command software. This does not mean any redundancies but will mean new Job Descriptions, a pay raise for existing staff to match the current job market, updating current and expected duties, a new working rota and full staff consultation.

#### Objectives

- Increased vigilance of areas of high ASB
- Refurbished control room
- New command software

- Analytical capable cameras
- Ability to take on monitoring and control room functions for other parties including other social landlords and private market to generate further revenue
- Offer investment opportunities to other organisations
- Become a cost neutral service to Brentwood and generate own revenue
- Increased use of CCTV for fly tipping and littering
- 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
- To upgrade all equipment including software, connectivity and cameras

### **Community Safety Key Performance Indicator's 2022/23**

<b>Month (for year 2022/23)</b>	<b>Joint Patrols (including with SEP and NES)</b>	<b>FPN's (Litter and Fly Tipping-NES)</b>	<b>PCN's (Parking - issued by or with Community Safety)</b>	<b>Incidents captured by CCTV</b>	<b>CPW/CPN's/Injunctions</b>	<b>ASB Cases</b>	<b>ASB Home Visits</b>	<b>Closure Orders / Notice Seeking Possession (for ASB)</b>	<b>Community Engagement Days</b>
April	12	118	69	30	1	13	13	0	4
May	8	124	98	35	0	12	22	0	5
June	11	126	48	21	1	14	8	1	4
July	9	146	74	21	3	15	28	2	7
August	4	106	49	41	2	18	9	1	3
Sept	7	79	93	30	1	8	10	0	4
Oct	6	43	41	32	1	6	15	0	6
Nov	13	69	85	39	1	12	13	0	7
December	6	103	37	33	2	9	8	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>914</b>	<b>594</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>41</b>