



COMMITTEE TITLE: Housing, Health and Community Committee

DATE: 18th September 2023

REPORT TITLE:	Chair's update
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REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides an update to Members in relation to the areas covered under the Terms of Reference of the Housing, Health and Community Committee.

Housing

Estate Pilot Sites

In May 2023 the Estates team launched a pilot for grounds maintenance and caretaking across two areas, one in Pilgrims Hatch and the other in Hutton North. On site visits were arranged with ward members, housing, repairs, grounds and caretaking officers.

Extensive lists of improvements for the areas were noted down and over the following 8 weeks officers worked to bring the estates up to a safer, more aesthetically pleasing place to live.

Not all works were completed however, these works are planned for future programmes.

The work completed has set a standard for all estates and officers across all areas will work to bring all estates up to that standard and maintain it at that level.

A further visit will be arranged for October/November time to ensure the final jobs have been completed and that the standards are maintained.

Lifts in social housing stock

Officers are aware that the reliability of lifts in our social housing stock across the borough is of concern to members and residents. The reliability issues are due to the lifts reaching the end of their operational lifecycle and replacement parts becoming more difficult to source due to changes by manufacturers not holding sufficient stock. Condition surveys have already been obtained and we are currently developing a planned maintenance programme to modernise the lifts. We expect this project to commence in the new financial year (2024/25). Our service provider, Axis will continue to attend any lift breakdowns until the modernisation programme is completed.

Health

Brentwood Health and Wellbeing Board

A separate information report is before Members tonight providing an update of the Health and Wellbeing Board

Brentwood and Basildon Alliance

It is proposed to do an all-member briefing on the Brentwood and Basildon Alliance. Date tbc.

Find Your Active Brentwood (formerly Active Brentwood)

Two funding pots launched in August to support residents in clubs, groups and organisations to lead active lives through the cost-of-living crisis.

- Funding for clubs and groups - the grants of up to £1,500 are for clubs or organisations who would like extra support starting a new project or class or need more support with a current project with the overall aim to improve activity levels in the borough.
- Funding for individuals - the grant of up to £150 is for individuals' children and adults alike, who need extra support to get into sport or activity and encourage them to lead a more active life. The grant is flexible and can fund a broad range of costs associated with getting people active. We understand that inflation is affecting the cost of equipment, resources and training.

Individuals need to live in Brentwood and are currently physically inactive but would like to start an activity or sport. PLEASE NOTE: This funding is referral only from a partner organisation listed below.

Foodbank, Lighthouse, Manna meals, Daily Bread, Brentwood and Thurrock MIND, Brentwood Community Tree Organisations, Social Prescribers/GPs, Active Essex, Brentwood Council, Citizens Advice, Healthwatch, CVS, Mutual Aid, DWP, Peabody, Community Agents, United in Kind, Alliance, Police/Fire, Community Safety Partnership,

Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)

Modelling is ongoing for Brentwood cycle lanes and walking routes in and around town centres. Together with ECC and consultants, we now have a draft walking map with desired upgrade routes (tertiary and secondary) and the same for cycling. Those maps went out for stakeholders' consultation which took place on 1st February. This is now open for public consultation to add comments to which is open until 27th September 2023.

Try a Tri event

Brentwood's first taster triathlon took place at the Brentwood Centre on Sunday 2 July. 42 juniors, 71 adults took part in the triathlon and 4 people took part in the duathlon. The event was a huge success and raised £5000 for SNAP Charity.

Dementia Concert

There will be a free Dementia concert at 2pm on 28 October at St Thomas Church. This is free to those living with dementia and their carer's, and anyone socially isolated. Contact jo.cory@brentwood.gov.uk for more information. provide more information.

Community

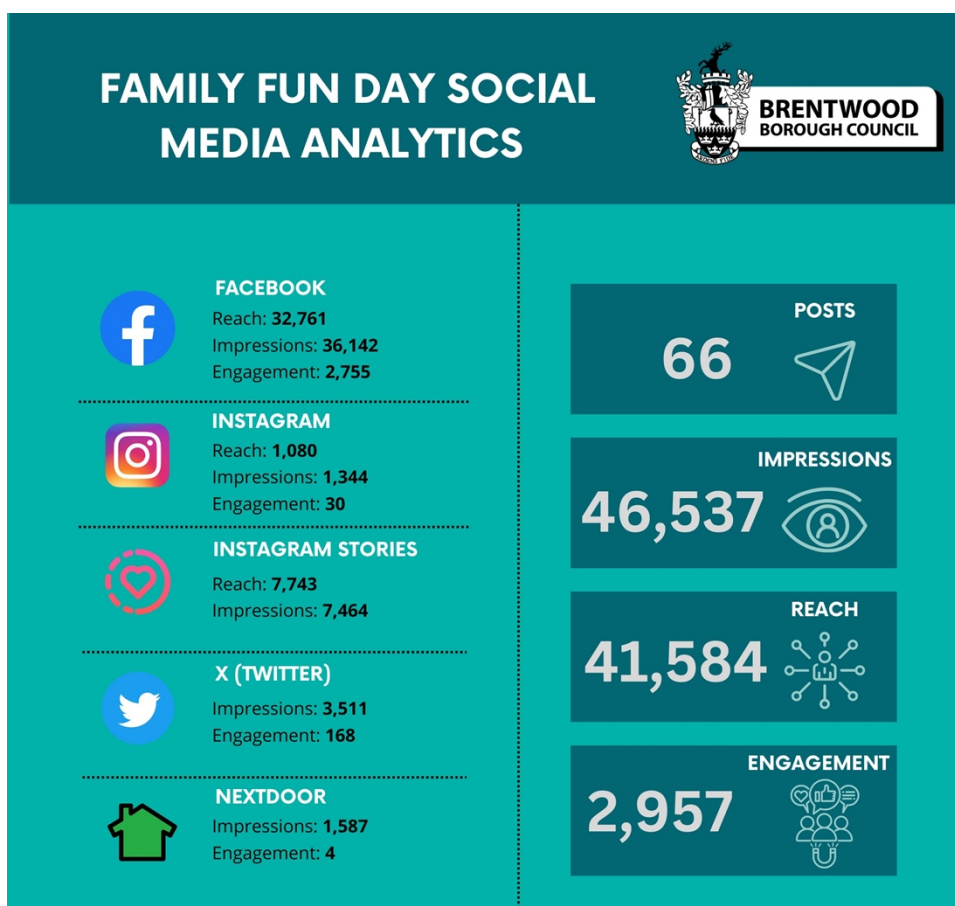
Cost of Living

A full update report will come to the December Housing, Health and Community Committee

Family Fun Days

- The Council successfully delivered four Family Fun Days throughout August providing low-cost summer activities for the whole Family. Working with over 40 partners including local sports clubs, Find Your Active, Brentwood Police, local charities and small businesses
- Friday 4 August – Warley Playing Fields
- Friday 11 August – Kelvedon Hatch Village Hall
- Friday 18 August - Brentwood Centre
- Friday 25 August – Hutton Recreation Ground

It is estimated that between 800 -1,000 people attended each event with Hutton being the most popular, which was positive considering the weather that was predicted for three of the four events. Discount wristbands were also given to Find Your Active to support the Holiday Activate and Food (HAF) programme for those children in receipt of free school meals.



Social media performed well, with reach and impressions nearing 50,000 with no paid posts. The Family Fun Days have been supported through external sponsorship and with the wristband income making the events pretty much cost neutral to the Council.

Partners have provided really positive feedback to the Council about the value of these events that widens the awareness of their organisations that support our families.

Doddinghurst Parish Council have already expressed an interest to have a Family Fun Day next year.

Community Connect Trailer Dates

The Community Connect Trailer will be at the following locations on dates set out below. The trailer is normally there between the hours of 10am – 1.30pm.

- Wednesday 27 September – Brentwood Community Hospital
- Wednesday 11 October – Brentwood High Street
- Tuesday 24 October - The Brambles Surgery, Brentwood
- Wednesday 8 November – Brentwood High Street
- Thursday 16 November – St Peter’s Church, Hutton

Football Hub Development

The Council is due to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with a Football Club and Essex County FA at the end of September as part of the football hub development at the Brentwood Centre site. More information will be circulated to all members at that time.

Hutton Poplars Bowls Club

A report on Hutton Poplars Lodge and Hutton Poplars Bowls Club went to the Finance, Assets, Investment and Recovery Committee on 13 September. It recommended that the Council does not renew the lease on Hutton Poplars Lodge with Hutton Poplars Bowling Club. The Council gives Hutton poplars Bowls Club three months to explore and secure the funding for Option 2. (modular building with kitchen and toilet & connections to utilities), and that the Council looks to market Hutton poplars Lodge for commercial vendors.

Brentwood Centre & Hartswood Pavilion

There is separate presentation by Everyone Active before Members tonight.

Good Company

With £75,000 of funding secured so far, the Council is working collaboratively to develop a creative dementia hub at Brentwood Theatre by leading the Good Company project, a creative support programme for people living with dementia and their family carers in Brentwood.

The programme will offer activity and care at a weekly, creative group at Brentwood Theatre, where participants can be immersed in an array of stimulating arts activities by renowned organisations, from reminiscence theatre to dance, film and orchestral music, creating work inspired by lived experience, exploring wellbeing, identities and relationships between family carers and those they care for. Good Company is a prevention programme designed to prolong independent living whilst discovering the joys of the creative experience, blending social contact and interaction in a safe space, whilst offering pastoral care and support for wellbeing of participants, including carers. This will be coupled with a vibrant mix of creative activity to support cognitive reablement, confidence and positivity, self-expression, self-identity and connectivity to others. Physical health will also be supported with participation in dance, helping to prevent falls, reducing BMI and blood pressure, increasing cardiac fitness, strength and flexibility to aid recovery and prevent escalating medical intervention/ hospital admission within an informal setting. The impact of participating in the programme will be evaluated by the University of Essex.

The Council is currently engaging participants to the project, which is due to start in the Autumn.

Axis - Community Investment programme

Community Services continues to work closely with Axis to deliver Brentwood's community investment programme. Recent activity includes Axis staff supporting pupils at Shenfield High School with a mock interview day, recruiting local apprentices and supporting a garden clearance for a vulnerable resident in Kelvedon Hatch with the corporate volunteering scheme. Representatives from Axis and the Council also attended the launch of a churchyard project in Ingatestone. The initiative was funded through the Community Fund (of which Axis is a generous contributor) and supported the Parish Council to create a more accessible, safe space (particularly for women and girls), for people to enjoy. The project involved collaborating with schools for bird box designs and creation of a planter through the Youth Offending Service.

Town Hall lit green for suicide prevention awareness campaign

The Town Hall was lit up green from 4th to 8th September in support of raising awareness of suicide prevention and to encourage residents, organisations and businesses, to take free training available.

A joint initiative from Mid and South Essex and Hertfordshire and West Essex ICS and Thurrock and Brentwood Mind, the 'Creating hope through light' week saw organisations, people and communities lighting up key buildings and landmarks in green. The annual campaign aims to reduce stigma around talking about suicide, promotes the free training and highlights the other mental health resources available in the counties.

Pride

On September 2nd, a team from Brentwood and Rochford Councils attended the Basildon Pride event in Gloucester Park. Officers from Community Services, Community Safety and Communications, attended to show our support for the LGBTQ+ communities, having useful conversations and offering a free craft activity. The event was well attended, and officers will continue to work with Basildon Pride to understand how the Councils can better support their LGBTQ+ communities.

Dunton Hills Garden Village - arts commission

The Council is inviting applications from artists for its third arts commission, in partnership with Essex Cultural Diversity Project. The project follows 2 previously successful commissions which have engaged local communities in the garden village through creative placemaking. This commission is a collaboration with neighbouring authorities, Basildon District and Thurrock Councils, and will see an artist working with schools surrounding the development, focussing on the environmental aspects of the 3 neighbourhoods planned at Dunton Hills (Dunton Woods, Dunton Waters, Dunton Fanns).