



COMMITTEE TITLE: Clean & Green Committee

DATE: 11 December 2023

REPORT TITLE:	Chairs Update
REPORT OF:	Marcus Hotten, Director of Environment Kim Anderson, Corporate Manager – Communities, Leisure & Health Jonathan Woodhams, Corporate Manager – Community Safety

This report provides an update to Members in relation to the areas covered under the Terms of Reference of the Clean & Green Committee.

Task & Finish Groups Updates

The Chair of Clean & Green Committee initiated task and finish groups consisting of:

- Community Parks Task & Finish Group
- Fly Tipping Task & Finish Group
- High Street clean up Task & Finish Group
- Footways, Cycle Routes and bridleways Task & Finish Group

Footways, Cycle Routes and bridleways Task & Finish Group

Mapping has also started on pedestrian cut throughs which are not currently on the Essex Highways Public Footpaths of Way (PROW).

Essex County Council invited to the next meeting to provide an update on the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan. A request has been made that there is a link up this group and with the Highways Panel.

A request has been made the Health Impact Assessment that are undertaken for large developments that they will also include access for pedestrians.

EV Chargers

As members will be aware two sites have been agreed to commence with the installation of electric vehicle charging points [EV], these are Chatham Way Car Park and King George's Playing Fields.

Officers have, over recent weeks been progressing the schemes which will see the following installed at each location:

- Chatham Way Car Park – 4 fast charging bays and 4 rapid charging bays. Works are due to commence on 11th December and be completed by the 15th December, the car park will remain open to public use for the duration of the works.
- King George's Playing Fields – 4 standard charge bays in car park adjacent to entrance from Ingrave Road and 6 rapid charging bays and 4 fast charging bays in the central car park. Works are due to commence on 13th December and be completed w.c. 18th December, the car parks will remain open for the duration of construction.

Both sites will then have a go live date in early January [exact date TBC], this is the earliest connection date on offer from the electricity provider for both locations.

Once installation is complete Officers will then begin to gather data around usage of these locations over a 6 month period to enable an informed decision to be made on the role out of EV charging bays in other locations around the Borough. Any decisions regarding this will be made with members involvement.

Allotments

Members agreed at the 11 September Clean and Green Committee to delegate authority to the Director of environment together with the leader of the Council and the Horticultural Societies to:

- a) Identify possible new allotment sites
- b) Undertake a review of existing allotment sites to determine the capacity and unmet demand.

The membership secretary from Brentwood Horticultural Society provided the following information. The current management (all volunteers) took over 8 sites across the Borough in 2016/17. The total number of applications from 2017 until today is 760. 330 new plot holders have been installed between the 8 sites. 300 applicants who for a variety of reasons did not finally take on a plot.

There has been a fairly constant waiting list of 100 people which tend to reduce at the end of the year (October to beginning of November) as people give up their plots and then there is a continuous drip feed of new enquiries throughout the year.

There are cost implications in regard new sites such as topsoil importation to get the site ready for planting and then there is also the management of a new site with the volunteer management.

There may also be opportunities for commercial arrangements in relation to allotments on the Council's Country parks.

High Street toilets

Work has commenced on the refurbishment of the high street toilets, replacing items damaged by the fire and vandalism. It is anticipated that the work will be completed December 4th.

A new staff member has been recruited specifically for the cleaning of the toilets, and will be based on-site. A cleaning and inspection regime has been drawn in readiness for the re-opening.

Recycling (waste strategy)

On the 26th June 2023 the Clean & Green Committee agreed to establish a working group to develop, with the assistance of a suitable consultant, a waste collection strategy for the Borough's residents.

The group met on the 6th December at which from consultants, Ricardo, presented different options for the waste collection service, seeking a steer on which options to take forward and model. These options, with estimated costs and recycling rates will be brought back to the Waste Strategy Working Group in the New Year.

Climate Emergency Working Group

Members attended a meeting of the group on Thursday, November 9th to specifically discuss the Carbon Reduction Plan presented by Officers, and provide commentary on its content, presentation, and to formulate recommendations to be brought to the Clean and Green Committee. Officers consequently made necessary changes to the document to provide the clarification being sought by Members.

The report is to be presented as an agenda item at this Committee.

High Street Parking

On Wednesday 27th September the Leader and officers met with representatives of the South Essex Parking Partnership (SEPP) who manage on street parking for the borough to further discuss the options for the parking issue in Brentwood High Street.

SEPP have since sent over camera specifications and requirements for the proposed red route in Brentwood high Street as well as the criteria detailed in the Traffic Management Act 2004.

Any camera enforcement solution must have a certificate issued by the Vehicles Certification Agency and the certification relates to the whole package of Camera.

SEPP are currently meeting with representatives from Transport for London, who issue large volumes of PCNs on red routes via camera enforcement and will be seeking further advice on companies who provide this service.

Brentwood CCTV service is also researching the cameras and viability of operating parking enforcement cameras.

The proposed red route would replace the existing yellow line restrictions with a red route which prevents anyone from stopping or loading and unloading on the red lines. There would need to be a period of consultation with the shops and businesses in the area to gauge their views before any final design of the scheme could be agreed by Brentwood.

Once a final scheme is agreed, the scheme can be presented to the Department of Transport for validation.

The red route could be installed in advance of any camera system and can be enforced by the Enforcements Officers in the first instance before a suitable camera system can be installed.

Community Safety Partnership

On November 23rd we held a Community Safety Partnership (CSP) steering group with updates on legislation, partnership respective actions and our budget for the year. We have approx. £6,000 left in our CSP budget and partners will be forwarding initiatives that can be commissioned to address Community Safety issues using this budget.

Our 3 priorities with the respective issues to address are:

Protecting the Community:

- Engagement, Education & Enforcement
- Perception
- Drugs
- VAWG
- ASB
- High Streets
- Road Safety
- Hate Crime
- Violent Crime/Knife Crime
- Domestic Violence

Protecting the Environment:

- Environmental Crime
- Education, Engagement & Enforcement
- Fire Safety
- Protecting green spaces

Protecting the Future:

- Engagement, Education & Enforcement
- Vaping/Drugs
- Knife Crime
- Road Safety

To accommodate and address these priorities we have altered the structure of our CSP to have two overarching strategic meetings a year, 4 sub operational group meetings to meet regularly to report to the joint steering group on updates on our action plan to address these priorities.

We have a CSP operational group meeting booked for 14th December to oversee implementation of action plan.

Operation Dial -

In Brentwood our ASB hot spot has been identified as Railway Square and the surrounding locale with an agreed action plan with PFCC for Community Safety to patrol the area twice a week out of hours and hold a monthly night of action.

This trial begun in Brentwood on 18th July with Community Safety conducting out of hours patrols twice a week and funding from PFCC agreed.

These out of hours patrols have continued with twice weekly patrols by Community Safety and regular late night police patrols. We have also been conducting community engagement via days of action at Railway Square. This has proven very effective and has shown a reduction in anti-social behaviour in the locale.

We have consulted with the Home Office and Police, Fire and Crime Commissioners Office detailing our feedback and results which has been well received as we continue to lead on this pilot.

Community Safety- Engagement/Campaigns/Projects

The partnership has continued to deliver as many Community Safety engagement events across the borough and wider Essex where possible. Since January 2023, over 40 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 and Girls (VAWG)
- Operation Dial, ASB hot spot patrols as detailed above
- 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

New Funding for Projects

We are really pleased to let you know that we have been successful in our bid applications for Brentwood for Project Minerva and Safer Streets funding.

We were successful in obtaining funding for everything that we bid for which will total in excess of £200,000.

Project Minerva:

- Extra CCTV in Shenfield and near Coptfold car park for Brentwood
- Best Bar None in our licensed venues.

Safer Streets:

- Extra solar powered CCTV masts and cameras for fly tipping enforcement in Navestock and Warley.
- 20 Temporary deployable cameras for quick time deployment to hot spot areas for ASB, crime and environmental offences.
- £20,000 towards a new community trailer for Brentwood
- 4 more public space cameras for Brentwood including in Kings Rd and Ingatestone.
- Border posts for Hawksmoor Green to prevent motor vehicle ASB
- Anti bleed kits in every licensed premises in Brentwood and 20 kits for Brentwood police response cars.
- Taxi Marshalls for Brentwood at peak times of the year
- Women's Safety Charter for Brentwood, engaging with businesses, educational institutions and licensed premises to raise awareness, produce women's safety pledge, accompanying marketing and promotion and a bespoke videos for Brentwood.
- Safer Together, Women's Safety Legacy for both Brentwood working with all secondary schools with theatre company conducting interactive outreach sessions with pupils about women's safety. Also engaging and working with nighttime economy on women's safety and attitudes including interactive quiz. Working with communities in Brentwood producing a gala evening and public show in Brentwood.

Further detailed reports to follow on the above projects once research has been conducted and monies received from Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's Office.

The Baker Partnership Hub Update

The HUB continues to thrive and be a productive and innovative environment for Essex Police Community Policing Team 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.