



**COMMITTEE TITLE: Clean & Green Committee**

**DATE: 26 February 2024**

<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	Chairs Update
----------------------	---------------

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

**Pigeon/Railway updates**

Previously, the Route Engineer for Network Rail prepared a remit for repair works to the existing proofing over the footways, to mitigate the present issues with pigeon ingress within the proofing. Separately from this, Network Rail also issued an estimate to Essex County Council for Network Rail to proof over the carriageway at ECC's expense. Since both sets of works would involve a possession of the railway line (i.e. closure to rail traffic) and a road closure which Network Rail would seek to undertake simultaneously. The value of the estimate sent to Essex County Council for extending proofing over the carriageway areas at Hutton Road is £178,692.44.

This quote was sent to the previous Cabinet Member of Highways - Essex County Council, Cllr Lee Scott, however, a response was never received. A meeting with the current Cabinet Member, Cllr Cunningham, was arranged by the Leader to discuss a number of highways issues, including the matter of pigeon ingress. Further to the meeting, as requested by Cllr Cunningham, the email was forwarded by Network Rail to Cllr Cunningham outlining the costs. A further reminder has now been sent by the Council Officers. At the time of writing, a holding reply has been received from Cllr Cunningham.

A deep clean and removal of the detritus under the bridge has been undertaken by the street cleaning services and has now increased to a weekly scheduled clean, with close monitoring undertaken using before and after photos. It is the view of officers that this regime is maintaining a far better standard of cleanliness, with detritus levels remaining minimal to moderate, allowing cleansing to grade 'A' to be achieved at each visit. If required, this can be increased to twice a week within existing resources and scheduling, monitoring of the cleanliness will continue.

**Waste Recycling Centres**

Communication has been sent by the Leader of the Council, to the appropriate Cabinet Member of Essex County Council, Cllr Schwier, regarding the booking trial that is being undertaken at the Recycling Centres across Essex. The communication

outlined the concerns of this council, its impact upon residents, and asked for the Cabinet Member to consider the reversal of the decision before the pilot scheme is finalised. Further, a request to the Cabinet Member to meet and discuss with the Leader was made. At the time of writing, a holding reply has been received from Cllr Schwier.

### **Hole Farm Visit**

On the morning of Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> January, members of Brentwood's Clean and Green Committee were shown around the Hole Farm Community Woodland project.

The 100-hectare site is being developed as part of the Lower Thames Crossing project and will become home to around 150,000 new trees, and provide facilities for visitors, including a network of surfaced paths, a café and community room.

The plans for the green space were designed and developed with the needs of local people in mind and work is expected to start on the new facilities in 2024, and open to the public in Summer 2025.

### **Trees**

At the Audit & Scrutiny on the 26<sup>th</sup> September 2023, the internal audit report presented the tree management audit, and highlighted concerns raised regarding the design and effectiveness of the existing controls and measures that are in place to manage and mitigate any potential risks.

With the anticipated additional funding being agreed to support a two-year tree-officer post, it is proposed that a Working Group is set up to ensure that the action plan, to address the limitations, as outlined in the audit report, is kept on track.

### **Community Safety Update**

#### **Operation Dial**

The first-year trial of Op Dial has nearly finished and has proven to be a huge success. The chosen ASB hot spot for the trial was Railway Square and the surrounding locale. It was agreed that the Community Safety team would patrol the area twice a week out of hours and hold a monthly day of action.

These out of hours patrols have continued since July 2023 with Community Safety and regular late night police patrols. This has proven very effective and has shown a reduction in anti-social behaviour in the area.

This pilot is looking at being extended for another year, giving Brentwood the opportunity to choose a new area affected by antisocial behaviour for the team to concentrate on.

**Project Minerva** CCTV for Shenfield and Coptfold Road Car Park was installed and is monitored 24/7 by Brentwood's Control Room.

The following projects for **Safer Streets** have begun or are beginning in 2024:

- Extra solar powered CCTV masts and cameras for fly tipping enforcement in Navestock and Warley – to be completed by May.
- 20 Temporary deployable cameras for quick time deployment to hot spot areas for ASB, crime and environmental offences – ready to be deployed.
- £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 they have been delivered.

### **The Baker Partnership Hub Update**

The HUB continues to thrive and be a productive and innovative environment for the Council's Community Safety Team to work alongside Essex Police and partners such as Essex County Fire & Rescue Service, Essex Probation, NHW, Crime Stoppers, SEPP, and Youth Services as well as many more.

Phoenix Futures have also joined the HUB since January this year and have begun providing outreach for drug and alcohol abuse.

The HUB continues 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 HUB and the benefit partnership working is having for our community.