

Committee: COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

Agenda Item

Date: November 1, 2007

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Title: LEAD OFFICER'S REPORT

Author: Diane Burridge, Director of Operations,
01799 510580

Item for noting

Summary

1. This report updates Members on matters arising from the minutes that are not otherwise on this Agenda and information items arising since the last meeting of this Committee.

Recommendations

2. That the report is noted.

Background Papers

3. The following papers were referred to by the author in the preparation of this report.
 - Minutes of Community Committee meeting of 6 September 2007

Situation/Update

4. There are three update items from the 6 September meeting followed by three information items.

Flood Fair

5. The Emergency Planning Department held a Flood Fair on 2 October 2007, this was run simultaneously with a Business Continuity Fair and attracted approximately 86 visitors. 14 agencies provided information and advice on flood prevention. This event contributes to our responsibilities under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 to 'warn and inform'. A detailed report on the event is available electronically from the Emergency Planning Officer.

Thaxted Day Centre

6. Members requested that officers investigate the possibility of grant funding for the facility, all avenues have been explored, including voluntary sector partnership but there are no grants available for new build. Officers are continuing to work with the lowest tenderers to design to budget without compromising the functionality.

Transfer of land to Saffron Walden Town Council

7. Members agreed that land be transferred in connection with the Saffron Walden Skate Park at the last meeting, this is progressing with a transfer date of 30 November 2007.

Audit of Housing

8. The Audit Commission will be on site in January to undertake an inspection of Housing, their Key Lines of Enquiry (KLOES) will be concentrating on the areas of Strategy and enabling, Allocations and lettings, Homelessness and housing needs with a light touch on private sector housing in addition to the generic areas of their work that apply to all inspections namely Access to services, Diversity, Value for money.

Post Office Closures

9. Four Post Offices have been proposed for closure in Uttlesford– Mole Hill Green, Quendon, Little Hallingbury, and Rowntree Way, Saffron Walden. The local public consultation closure date is 19 November 2007. Members may wish to express their views and contribute to the consultation.

Views and comments should be sent to:

Sheila McCann Network Development Manager
C/o National Consultation Team
FREEPOST CONSULTATION TEAM
Email: consultation@postoffice.co.uk
Customer Helpline: 08457 22 33 44

Winter advice event for older persons

10. Older people and their families or carers, can gain good advice on heat savings and grants for improvements (Warm Front), they will be able to learn about fire safety in the home from Essex Fire and Rescue Service, advice on home security and how to fit it from Home Improvement Agency, Nutritional advice for the cold weather from the community dietician and Waitrose supermarkets, advice on housing benefits from one of our benefits officers, how to access Lifeline through our team at UDC, there will also hopefully be representation from the museum giving information about an up and coming exhibition about memories and times gone by and also information about our Age Equality Scheme. Also we hope to be joined by Support 4 Sight (formally Saffron Sight)

United Reform Church, Abbey Lane, Saffron Walden on Tuesday 20th November 2007 at 9.am – 1pm