

Committee: COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

Agenda Item

Date: November 20, 2008

5

Title: LEAD OFFICER'S REPORT

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Item for information

Summary

1. This report updates Members on matters arising from the minutes that are not otherwise on this Agenda and provides information items.

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 18 September 2008.

Situation/Update

There are updates from the September 2008 meeting followed by items for information.

4. Community and Housing Committee

Council has agreed that this committee, from the date of the next Council meeting will be renamed Community and Housing Committee. The next meeting will therefore be the first under its new title.

5. Dunmow Public Toilets

Arrangements are in hand to transfer responsibility for the White Street toilets to Great Dunmow Town Council in conjunction with a small piece of land adjoining them to allow the area to be upgraded to become a Town Square for Dunmow. The transfer of asset will be undertaken by Finance and Administration Committee but it is drawn to the attention of this committee as the budget resides here. The will be tapering financial support over four years from the existing budget.

6. Thaxted Day Centre

The construction of the replacement day centre is nearing completion, the building will be handed over from the builders to Uttlesford on 1 December. The staff will then undergo training and prepare the centre for use by mid December, and ready for the Christmas Dinner two days later. An official opening of the Day Centre will be arranged for January.

7. Holloway Close/Crescent

Since the Committee meeting in September officers along with Trevor Burns from Swan Housing have had a number of discussions with the residents currently living in the bungalows in Holloway Crescent. As a result of this detailed consultation the five new bungalows into which they will move, if the scheme goes ahead, are in the process of being redesigned.

Officers and Trevor Burns have also recently met with the majority of the residents living in Holloway Close. As a result of these detailed consultations Swan's architect is currently redesigning the remainder of the Holloway Crescent site. An initial feasibility study regarding Holloway Close will also be undertaken.

It is Swan's intention to attend a standard pre-planning application meeting with the Uttlesford District Council planning and housing departments in the next couple of weeks. At this meeting the access, parking and local amenity issues will be explored in some detail.

Once the views of the planning officers have been incorporated into the proposed design, officers intend to hold another public consultation open day in the Leaden Roding Community Hall. A provisional date has been set for the 3rd December 2008, subject to the production of appropriate consultation plans and associated information.

The situation regarding the financial downturn and housing slow down is being monitored closely, and Swan will only seek to develop a scheme that is sustainable both from a community and an economic perspective. Consequently, long term sustainability is seen as an essential part of the plans currently being developed.

8. Food Safety Plan 2008/9

The Food Standards Agency requires Local Authorities to publish a copy of their Food Safety Service Plan setting out their proposals to achieve a planned programme of food safety inspections, investigation of food complaints and outbreaks of food poisoning, health promotion activities, sampling programmes and in our case, the inspection of imported foods and animal products arriving at Stansted Airport. The plan identifies the programme of work both planned and reactive and the resources allocated. There is also a summary of the outcome of the previous years activities. Members are invited to view and comment on the Food Safety Plan found on our website under www.Uttlesford.gov.uk/health/foodsafety a hard copy has been placed in the Members room.

9. Operation Highbrow update

Members of the Committee have asked that the Emergency Planning Officers continues to press for comparative data from other Councils involved in the humanitarian response. The Emergency Planning Officer confirms that 4 county, district and borough councils have been contacted:

- Leicestershire County Council
- Crawley Borough Council
- North West Leicestershire District Council
- Manchester City Council

She is seeking both financial and operational information and is pursuing it as quickly as resources allow at all of the Councils involved. This work is additional to the Scrutiny Review that was undertaken previously. It is confirmed that the letter requested by this Committee has been sent to John Healy, Minister for Communities and Local Government by the Leader of the Council, Cllr Ketteridge and a response is awaited.