

Community Development Report

North Area Panel

Committee: North Area Panel

Agenda Item

Date: 30 May 2006

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Title: Community Development Report

Author: Leisure & Community Development
Manager

Item for
decision

Summary

- 1 To advise the Panel of related community development activities and schemes with which officers have been involved since the previous Panel meeting.
- 2 To bring to the Panel's attention important community based activities that will be taking place during the next few months.

Recomendations

- 3 That the Panel endorses the actions taken by officers to promote greater community capacity and well-being for the community.

Background Papers

None.

Situation

Area Panels Support

- 4 Uttlesford District Council has now appointed officers to support the management of the Area Panels. The Lead Officer overseeing the support for Area Panels is now Gaynor Bradley, Leisure & Community Development Manager, who can be contacted on the following telephone numbers 01799 510348 or 07976 071761, email gbradley@uttlesford.gov.uk. Each Panel has been assigned an Area Champion who will be the point of contact for issues relating to each area and for the North area the Champion will be the newly recruited Community Development Officer (Youth & Arts). The new appointee is John Starr but he has not yet commenced working for the Council, The Panel will be advised on the Champion's contact details when he takes up this post. In the meantime, Gaynor Bradley will be covering both roles.
- 5 The Area Champions will be spending half a day per week working in accessible places in the community. The North Area Champion will of course be based in the Saffron Walden Council offices but when he takes up his position this matter will be reviewed in terms of working in and around the North area.

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Lord Butler Fitness & Leisure Centre

- 6 The Leisure Centre will be holding another Open Activities' Day on Saturday 24 June 2006 and all are welcome to attend to find out what is on offer at the Centre. The Staff at the Centre will be contacting local groups again to see if they wish to participate by having a small display at the Centre on that day.

HELP – Healthy Eating and Lifestyle Programme

- 7 This project being run in the Uttlesford leisure centres is becoming very successful with one Stansted resident having lost a stone in weight and reducing her blood pressure to a normal level after completing the 10 week course. Steve Prosser, the HELP Co-ordinator is working closely with participants to develop activity programmes designed specifically for them. The course is a mixture of individual activities, group sessions and support and very positive comments have been received from those involved in the programme.

Saffron Walden Skate Park

- 8 The Saffron Walden Skate Park is progressing according to plan. Funding has now been raised and work is due to start on site on the 1st July 2006. It is anticipated that the maximum construction period will be 16 weeks.

Staffing Update

- 9 At the previous meeting it was reported that the recruitment process was underway for three posts. Two of the posts have been filled, John Starr has been appointed as Community Development Officer (Youth & Arts) and Jennifer Schilling has been appointed as Community Development Officer (Drugs & Alcohol). Both officers have not yet commenced working for the Council but the Panel will be advised when this happens. With regard to the Diversity Officer temporary appointment the closing date for applications is 24 May 2006.