

Committee:	South West Area Panel	Agenda Item
Date:	7 September 2006	9
Title:	Community Development Report	
Author:	Sue Hayden - Community Development Officer (Cultural Services)	Item for decision

Summary

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

Recommendations

- 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 Panel Support

- 4 The Chairman of the South West Area Panel and the Area Champion have held residents drop-in sessions around the district every Friday since 6 June 2006 from 10 am – 12 noon. Locally elected District Councillors have also been invited to attend meetings in their parish. Members of the public were invited to these sessions to ask questions/raise concerns relating services the Council provides.
- 5 The drop-in sessions have taken place in the following areas: - Mead Court and Norman Court - Stansted, The Close - Hatfield Heath, Community Centre – Takeley and Barkers Mead – Little Hallingbury. By using the Uttlesford District Council sheltered accommodation sites it has given the elderly residents an opportunity to have their questions answered and their comments listened to, this has been very popular with the elderly residents.

- 6 Due to the success of the drop-in sessions, it has been decided to continue them. From the end of September, the sessions will be held for two weeks in a location, commencing with Stansted, then moving round the South West of the District. The first week's session will be held during the day with the following week in the evening, thus giving residents not available during the day an opportunity to attend these sessions.
- 7 Contact has also been made with the Mountfitchet High School asking permission for a drop-in session to be held at their premises therefore giving the young people an opportunity to discuss ideas or ask questions of the Council.

Website Development

- 8 The South West Area Panel's website is now up and running with a calendar of events, general information – input from the community welcome, elected member information, details of Area Panel meeting, agenda, minutes, along with an on-line questions form. The area panel link is on the Council's home page of www.uttlesford.gov.uk and information on the South West of the district is accessed by clicking the map. If parishes wish to have their meetings/events listed on the calendar of events please e-mail any information to the Area Champion at shayden@uttlesford.gov.uk.

The Green Recreation Area, Stansted

- 9 Consultation has now taken place with residents a full report will be delivered to the next meeting.

Community Achievement Awards

- 10 Nominations for the 2006/2007 Community Achievement Awards is now underway with a closing date of 13 October 2006. Residents with more than five years voluntary working within the district can be nominated to receive an award in the following categories: Service to Children and Young People; Service to the Elderly; Service to people with disabilities; Service to the local community and environment and Youth initiatives (people between the ages of 15 – 18). Two nominations can be made from each village, with four eligible from Stansted Parish Council. Nominations must be proposed by either the Parish Council, Council for Voluntary Services or the Volunteer Bureau. For further information or to receive a nomination form please contact Sue Hayden on 01799 510563.

Essex Youth Games

- 11 Uttlesford took part alongside the Braintree district in competing in the Essex Youth Games held on Saturday 17 June 2006. This saw 97 young people aged between 10 to 15 years old representing the district, 69 from Uttlesford with 27 from the South West area. After a closely fought competition Uttlesford and Braintree were pipped to the title by Southend. The young people who took part competed extremely well and the highlight of the day was their victory in the Athletics. Overall 11 teams competed in one of the following sports:- Athletics, Disability Athletics, Girls Football, Pan Disability Football, Tennis, Mixed Hockey, Girls Cricket, Badminton and Tag Rugby.

Final Placings for 2006

Position	Team
1	Southend
2	Braintree & Uttlesford
3	Basildon & Brentwood
4	Thurrock
5	Chelmsford & Maldon
6	Colchester & Tendring
7	Epping Forest & Harlow
8	Castle Point & Rochford

Staffing Update

- 12 At the previous meeting it was reported that two new posts within Strategy & Performance had been filled. Jennifer Schilling has now commenced her role of Community Development Officer (Drugs & Alcohol). Jennifer can be contacted on 01799 510449 or jennifersc@uttlesford.gov.uk. John Starr has also started his position as Community Development Officer (Youth & Arts). John can be contacted on 01799 51384 or jstarr@uttlesford.gov.uk.