

Committee:	South West Area Panel	Agenda Item
Date:	11 January 2007	11
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 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

Uttlesford Futures Assembly – Thursday 7 December 2006

- 4 Uttlesford Futures held its annual meeting on Thursday 7 December. Approximately 80 people attended. Presentations were given on the current status of Uttlesford Futures, a draft state of the district well-being report, the Local Development Framework and updates were provided on the work that has been undertaken by various sub-groups.
- 5 The afternoon sessions provided participants with an opportunity to influence the future work of Futures in the areas of Safer and Stronger Communities, Children and young People, Healthier Communities and Older People, Economic Development and the Environment.
- 6 The workshops resulted in two new sub-groups being established – Economic Development and The Environment. These groups will be tackling a range of issues from green travel plans, improving bus services to access to services and educational opportunities.

- 7 The annual meeting concluded with the new constitution being ratified by participants and a general networking session for those who attended.
- 8 Further information can be obtained from Alex Stewart – Strategic Partnerships Manager (astewart@uttlesford.gov.uk) or Jane Elsom – Funding and Strategic Partnerships Officer (jelsom@uttlesford.gov.uk).

Future Dates for your Diary

Innovations Conference – Thursday 8 February 2007

- 9 The District Council is hosting an Innovations Conference on Thursday 8 February 2007. Participants will be able to find out about a range of issues around good practice that is already happening in the District. For example, the morning sessions will concentrate examples of Community Safety Good Practice; working in the community – the MEND Project; the Essex Partnership – Human Resources and the Integrated Customer Management Centre.
- 10 The Customer Service Centre will be formally opened in the afternoon, followed by a talk from a motivational speaker (yet to be confirmed) and workshops providing an opportunity to share best practice and identify further areas where services to the community could be improved.
- 11 There will be no charge for attending this conference so early booking is essential. If you are interested in attending or would like further information, please contact Alex Stewart – Strategic Partnerships Manager (astewart@uttlesford.gov.uk) or Jane Elsom – Funding and Strategic Partnerships Officer (jelsom@uttlesford.gov.uk).

Mountfitchet Romeera Leisure Centre

- 12 Mountfitchet Romeera Leisure Centre in Stansted was presented recently with the Top Performer award for customer satisfaction by the National Benchmarking Service. Certificates were awarded at an Improvement Conference held at the K2 Leisure Centre at Pease Pottage, Crawley. Those receiving awards were then invited to host workshops for other service providers, sharing their recipes for success. The National Benchmarking Service undertakes surveys of local authority leisure centre users to assess how well the centres are performing and uses this information to encourage high standards across the leisure industry.

Next Meeting

- 13 The next meeting of the South West Area Panel will be held on 1 March 2007 at Hatfield Broad Oak Village Hall. The main items on the agenda will be tourism and energy efficiency