

Councillor Maggie Sutton, Portfolio holder for Communities, Health, Youth, Public Safety, Emergency Planning and liaison with the Police, Fire and Rescue Service

Council, 21 February 2023

Community Development Report

Establishing new Youth Groups – update

I am currently working with partners, Essex Association of Boys and Girls Clubs and Essex County Youth Service, to establish sustainable volunteer led youth projects in Takeley. We have established a group of volunteers and are currently looking to work with a community football organisation to deliver some youth work sessions to years 6,7 and 8. We hope to hold an event soon aimed at years 9 and above to showcase the newly installed Audio Visual system.

Hatfield Heath / Broad Oak, - 2 meetings with potential community volunteers have taken place in Hatfield Heath including the usual partners [ECYS and EABGC] as well the local church and members of the parish council. We are hoping to hold further meetings soon.

Carver Barracks – We are hoping to support a joint initiative with young people from the villages of Debden and Wimbish to establish a new youth provision based at the barracks.

Initial enquiries have also been made regarding the establishment of new youth provisions in Newport, Swards End, Barnston and Ashdon.

Hate Crime Awareness Campaign

Leaflets and posters have been distributed through the police and community engagement events, agreements are in place for Hate Crime Ambassador training, which has been delivered in Stansted Airport College and SWCHS and community events were held in Great Dunmow at the Library and Acurro.

Youth Council

Work continues to re-establish the youth council, I have started recruitment campaigns with Stansted Airport College, Forest Hall and Saffron Walden County High School and new contacts have been made at HRS Dunmow and Joyce Frankland Academy Newport.

80 students from SWCHS visited the council and heard from several cllrs in the chamber with a question and answer session followed by informal small group discussions. This was a great success and subsequent meetings have led to ongoing work with their student voice group and recruitment of members to the youth council. I am also extending an open invitation to young people to attend the next full council meeting to get a flavour of how things work.

We have also started a series of visits to local primary schools with the intention of creating working links with their student representative groups. At Thaxted primary school, the first visit, cllrs Tayler and Foley spoke in assembly about their roles and responsibilities as elected members and took questions from the students. This was followed by a meeting with the school parliament where we discussed the subject of democracy and their ideas for projects that they could develop to

improve their school and the environment.

Further such visits are planned with Great Easton, Felsted, RA Butler, Roseacres Takeley and others.

Youth Initiatives Working Group

Due to the real concern for the emerging post-covid problems young people are facing, we are focussing the last of the Youth initiatives funding this year on projects that aim to help with mental and physical well-being. We are in contact with local schools and youth organisations in order to establish the most effective use of resources to ameliorate the problems. In the first instance, working with the Health & Well-being board and Mind in West Essex, we are trying to provide better access to counselling for those most in need.

Ukrainian update

There are currently 66 hosts and approx. 200 Ukrainians living throughout the district. We continue to support both hosts and guests the best we can. The major challenge is re-matching guests with hosts once their current arrangement ends as new hosts have been hard to recruit.

For those guests in a position to move into private rented accommodation there will be additional support available from UDC.

Information sharing Takeley Old School House 19/1/23

We had 19 Ukrainian guests and host attend the event on the 19th January. The event gave the opportunity for guests to meet and socialise each other and to ask Council officers from Housing and the Communities' team any questions re moving forward.

More events will be planned for the coming months.

Falls prevention / strength & balance service

The communities team is commissioned by Essex County Council to deliver and manage the districts falls prevention service called 'Social Active Strong'

The 12 week programme is delivers 7 weekly sessions throughout the district. Between 40-60 residents participate each week.

Current venues:-

- Monday Stansted Day Centre
- Monday Saffron Walden
- Thursday Newport
- Thursday Thaxted
- Thursday Great Dunmow

We also deliver a series of transitions sessions for those residents that have completed the 12 week course and have also started delivery in 2 of the districts sheltered housing schemes in **Hatfield Heath and Four Acres in Saffron Walden**

Ride London Essex

Ride London will once again be visiting the district in May.

Saffron Walden will be hosting the start of the 'Classique' Elite Women's race on Friday 26th May and the Sunday will see the mass participation ride pass through villages and Towns in the south of the District.

Great Dunmow Skate Jam and wheeled event – Leading up to the Ride London event Active Essex UDC and partners are funding an event in Great Dunmow during the Easter holidays. The event will be for children and young people and will provide the opportunity to try a number of new activities such as BMX and Skateboarding

We hope that there will be a number of community events and opportunities leading up to the event and on the day.

Community Safety Report-February 2023

During the first week of June 2022 the CSP supported a Street Week event focussing on Community Safety.

Our licensed premises were checked for compliancy, numerous road safety stop checks were carried out, and car washes were visited to ensure the welfare of workers and their employment rights, were also being met.

All premises were reported to be in order.

In response to the 'Exploited into Essex' conference, held in July by the OPFCC, Modern Day Slavery Awareness training, has been implemented amongst UDC staff and two sessions have been held, reaching more than 108 staff members. The input was delivered by Bob Fortt (Prevent and Protect Officer at Essex Police) and discussed how officers and staff can report any concerns and offer support to any potential victims of modern-day slavery.

The Reaching Our Rural Communities project finally came to an end after 18months of visiting land and farm owners across the district

- 10 partner agencies were involved in the delivery of the project
- Over 600 premises were originally listed as potential farms/landowners and visits were carried out to these
- 221 were established to be current working farms
- 37 of these working farms reported issues with hare coursing on their land
- 142 face to face engagements took place where agencies were able to hold conversations with the land/farm owners and discuss their issues
- ECFRS completed 99 engagements and provided smoke alarms to those without them
- 32 new members were recruited to Essex Farm Watch
- 46 properties have received tool marking to their machinery and other power tools

A new subgroup entitled 'Farm And Rural Meeting' (FARM) has been developed where key individuals from the farming community will be working more closely with the CSP and focussing on rural crime. Two initial meetings have been held, and a 'Reconnecting With Our Rural Communities' event was held on Wednesday 11th January 2023 at Takeley Community Hub.

The Rural Engagement Team presented and were on hand to answer questions from the audience - consisting of farm and landowners. Various

stalls were present including Crimestoppers, What3Words, FCN as well as others. The event aim was to provide a networking opportunity for farmers to reconnect with new generations of farm owners, and gain support and advice on how to prevent and report crime. Over 25 attended from the farming community

Uttlesford Community Safety Partnership were approached by Essex Police Citizens In Policing Team to pilot their brand new Essex Horse Rider Volunteer Scheme, following the success of the RORC.

Over the last few months, Essex Police have been working with Uttlesford District Council on this new concept. As a result, the Essex Horse Rider Volunteers Scheme (EHRV) is now ready to launch as a trial, initially in Uttlesford, with a view to opening it up further within Essex in 2023.

The idea is simple- horse riders regularly use bridleways, footpaths and narrow country lanes that are not easily accessible by vehicles. They are in a unique position to spot signs of suspicious activity related to illegal activity such as hare coursing, stolen agricultural vehicles, unlawful metal detecting or theft of lead from protected heritage buildings.

Rural crime such as those affecting farms, livestock or wildlife specifically target individuals and businesses connected to rural communities and can have a unique and significant impact. Putting right the damage caused to heritage and faith assets is expensive, and the cost to communities can be enormous. In addition, the loss of historical artefacts can lead to the loss of our heritage forever. Horse Rider Volunteers can be the eyes and ears in the rural areas and will be encouraged to report any suspicious activity or behaviour they see. [Essex Horse Rider Volunteer Scheme | Essex Police](#)

Training is to be provided both in person at London Road and virtually with the first session taking place on Tuesday 13th December 2022 at 10am-12pm

The CSP is supporting the SETDAB #reflect campaign, launched in August, which focuses on perpetrators of domestic abuse. Working with The Change Project SETDAB have produced campaign literature which will see businesses and premises across Uttlesford displaying the campaign, asking for perpetrators to

Reflect on their behaviour and seek support to change.

The CSP is also supporting Clean Sheet, an organisation who assist in working with offender's source employment. This is being promoted through foodbanks, frontline and CA. <https://cleansheet.org.uk/>

A 'Cllr Drop In Clinic' began in October, and has been supported by numerous Cllrs, dropping in to discuss their concerns over community safety issues and safeguarding. These issues are then problem solved and Cllrs are updated with the outcomes to report back to residents in their areas. This drop in aims to reduce Cllrs heading straight to the District Commander with their complaints and hopes to resolve them at a local level.

The most recent one this month invited Sarah Tomlin from Essex Highways which proved popular and hopefully useful. We are looking to invite Uttlesford District Commander CH/Insp Martin Richards to a drop in clinic in the near future.

The CSP supported Business Crime Week during October, visiting business in Gt Dunmow and offering a visible presence to workers, educating them on up-to-date ways of reporting crime as well as keeping safe in their working environment.

The StreetSafe initiative was mentioned during this week, which allows residents and visitors to scan a QR code and anonymously report areas of the district where they feel unsafe.

This information is collated, and any areas reported, will be investigated with a partnership approach. This could mean that areas may need extra lighting or CCTV, or foliage being maintained, so that people feel safe when out and about in our district. We are hoping that the information collected will assist us in applying for any future funding for keeping our streets safe.

Another initiative we worked on with our Uttlesford Business Team is #shopkind. In the lead up to Christmas the partnership visited shops across Dunmow, Stansted and Saffron Walden, as well as small hatches and village shops. The message is to remind customers to be kind to shopworkers. A short video was sent to staff and managers detailing how to deal with awkward/aggressive customers, and again how to report aggressive behaviours and crimes. This was backed up with an article in Business News, a leaflet distributed via our Business Team.

Finally, the new PREVENT training package was sent to all UDC staff and Cllrs to completed by 20th December 2022. The 30-40min course allows participants to describe what Prevent is, how it applies to all roles and identify the difference between radicalisation, extremism, and terrorism, enabling us to comply with our statutory duty. Over 25% of staff have completed the training so far.

As a member of Essex Police and Crime Panel

One of the Panels statutory duties is to review the proposed precept each year and make a report to the Commissioner.

Report 2023/24 Fire and Rescue Precept

The beginning of February this year the Panel reviewed and accepted the proposed recommendation to increase the precept to £4.95 (6.57%) for 2023/24 financial year for a property in Band D. The precept payable for a Band D Council. The Tax property will increase from £75.33 to £80.28.

Report 20/23 Police Fire and Crime Panel Precept

The beginning of February this year the Panel Reviewed and accepted the proposed recommendation to increase the precept to £14.94 (6.8 %) for 2023/4 financial year for a Band D Council. The Tax property will increase £218.52 to £233.46.

Other info - recent Visits

I recently attended a visit to the Force Control Room and Resolution Centre in Chelmsford and was given the opportunity to understand the incident management work and how it fits with Essex Police's Command and Control of Incidence Policy. It was a great experience to see how calls were triaged and prioritised and how incidents were responded to and followed up and we were very much welcomed to ask questions.

Recent Report to Panel

A report was brought to Panel last December on Essex Police's Policy and Performance. This gave information on policy and performance setting out the challenges facing Essex Police going forward. This also gave the Panel the opportunity of questioning the report with the Commissioner on some of the queries raised from that report. Members concluded they were satisfied with information provided and have better understanding of the incident process.