

Committee: Council

Date:

Title: Report of the Portfolio Holder for Communities and Partnerships

Tuesday, 4
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Summary

1. This report summarises key activity in the Communities and Partnerships portfolio.

Recommendations

2. None, this report is to note only.

Financial Implications

3. None

Background Papers

4. None

Situation

Health and Wellbeing

5. The Health and Wellbeing Team continues to support a range of programmes in the district.
6. A weight management programme (supported by Anglian Community Enterprise) offers weekly weigh-ins in various community settings across the district, including the council offices. The programme is currently supported by the Health and Wellbeing Officer and volunteers. The aim is to build a strong volunteer base to support the programme going forward.
7. A number of activities have been funded by the Active Uttlesford Network to commence soon, including a festival for women and girls in February 2019 offering taster classes in activities including netball, yoga, Pilates, karate, bowls and badminton. The Network is funding other projects, including a CVSU gardening project for people with slight to moderate special needs, a

women's tennis coaching course in Thaxted, an equipment 'library' at Radwinter recreation ground, an active musical theatre workshop for women and girls, netball training courses and a walking activity for people with sensory loss and their carers.

8. Uttlesford Dementia Action Alliance launched Dunmow dementia café in May this year. It is going well and there are plans to launch another one in the near future in Saffron Walden. The Alliance is also supporting Volunteer Uttlesford with a bid to the Health and Wellbeing Board of the Local Strategic Partnership for support with an intergenerational art project involving people with dementia and their carers.
9. Winter warmth work this year focuses on a more targeted approach. Uttlesford CAB is working with partners to offer support to households that may be at risk of fuel poverty and cold homes to discuss the current offers and grants available from the council's Environmental Health department.
10. The council signed up to the Time to Change campaign in October. One session of mental health first aid training for managers has already been delivered and a second is being planned. In addition, a 2-hour 'mental health at work' session will be offered to all staff.

Community Safety

11. The Community Safety Hub, which provides a drop-in point in the council offices for partner agencies including the police and Essex social care, continues to be well-used. Agencies are using the hub regularly as a base whilst in the district which enhances partnership working. Hub meetings are well attended where a multi-agency approach is given to low level crime and ASB issues.
12. The Communities Team supported the High Sheriff of Essex in a door knocking exercise in Saffron Walden called #safewellsecure. He was complementary of the partnership working in the district and was keen to be able to pass on to the PFCC how well agencies worked together in the district and that the partnership was much wider than just the fire/police collaboration.
13. Safer Streets projects are underway throughout the district assisted by partners internally and externally. The latest project took place on 23 November in Stansted Mountfitchet, focusing on speeding enforcement, issuing community protection warning, licensing visits and talking to local businesses regarding child sexual exploitation and human trafficking.

14. The council-funded PCSOs are working across the district resolving low level crime and anti-social behaviour. They are also conducting high visibility patrols to help alleviate the fear of crime. The PCSOs are involved in partnership operations alongside the council's Community Safety Officer and Safeguarding Officer around human trafficking and child sexual exploitation, particularly with regard to hotels and food outlets around Stansted Airport.
15. Working in partnership with town and parish councils, the district council is match funding two new PCSOs. One PCSO will be working in the parishes of Stansted, Henham and Elsenham and the other will be working across the Saffron Walden town wards. The PCSOs will be based at the Lodge in Saffron Walden for start and finish of duty, but will otherwise be patrolling out in their areas.

Engagement

16. The Youth Council is currently recruiting in schools and across the locality. Recruitment is also taking place in the new Stansted Harlow College and it is planned to contact nearby out-of-locality schools and colleges whose catchment areas include parts of Uttlesford. Young people from the Youth Council gave a brief report to the October Full Council meeting and attended a visit to the garden community in Eddington. Further work is scheduled with the council's Planning department to better include young people in the planning process.
17. As part of that programme, the Youth Council was hosting a Housing Seminar on 1 December including presentations from senior council Planning officers.

Partnerships

18. The Local Strategic Partnership Annual Assembly took place on 1 November. It provided an opportunity for delegates from more than 25 organisations to come together to contribute to the cross-cutting theme "21st Century Living". After hearing from four key note speakers those in attendance were asked to consider their own and/or agency's views and aspirations for the next 25 years on the development of four topics; Housing, Health & Wellbeing, Digital Technology and Infrastructure.
19. Partners' views were captured and general themes which emerged included:
 - Ensuring cohesion/alignment between existing communities with those being developed, with particular consideration around housing for older people, ideally in the centre of a location

- The importance of a community hub; this could be purpose-built in a central location with a new development, or utilise existing buildings within communities eg schools/churches with safe secure WIFI access
- There was some suggestion that co-housing could be a solution, especially around the introduction of intergenerational living. This would need to be fit for purpose and future proofed housing for young and old
- The importance of connectivity was seen as vital. Good affordable WIFI availability to ensure people were not isolated and could work from home, but this was not to be seen as a replacement for physical interaction
- It was agreed access to health services needed to accommodate those who worked by either extending the hours services were open or use alternative virtual GP appointments via Skype or Facetime
- Emotional and physical wellbeing was a common theme and was seen as equally important for a healthy community. This included the protection of green open spaces

Saffron Walden Museum

20. The museum service is awaiting news from the Arts Council England about the timetable for its mid-term Accreditation review. With the return to a full team of staff in the Autumn, the Curator will be moving forward with discussions with the Heritage Lottery Fund about grant applications for future museum development.
21. The museum now ranks number 2 out of 19 things to do in Saffron Walden on Trip Advisor.
22. The current exhibition Collections: Re-Crafted launched in October and features 40 textile art works by 30 artists, inspired by Saffron Walden and museum's outstanding collections.
23. Work is continuing to promote full learning and outreach service to local schools. Since the Learning and Outreach Officer post was re-established the museum has seen a steady increase in school engagement and officers are focusing their efforts on taking the museum's varied collections out to schools as well as continuing to welcome schools to the museum itself.
24. The museum formally launched its new display of the Piano Hoard on 30 November. In 2017, some 913 gold sovereign and half-sovereign coins were discovered in Shropshire, hidden inside a piano. The piano was originally supplied by Beaven & Mothersole Piano Tuners, who were based in West Road, Saffron Walden. Receipts show the company had purchased the piano direct from the London manufacturers, Broadwood & Sons Ltd in 1906.
25. It was only when the piano was professionally tuned that the coins were finally discovered, nestled between the keys and the keyboard.
26. In 1983, the piano was bought by the Hemmings family, residents of Saffron Walden. They owned the piano for 33 years before moving to Shropshire and

gifting it to their local college, The Community College, Bishop's Castle, completely unaware of what was hidden inside.

27. Research shows that the coins found date to between 1847 and 1915 – so they originate from the reigns of Queen Victoria, King Edward VII and King George V.

28. Now the piano and a representative sample of 12 of the gold coins are permanently on display at the museum.



Looking Forward

29. A course will be held in January to enable further staff to become trained to be able to handle queries of hate crime and to be able to signpost victims for help. This will then reinforce the Hate Incident Reporting Centre (HIRC) status of the district.

30. The council's Health and Wellbeing Strategy is being refreshed along with the LSP's Sustainable Communities Strategy.