

## BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL CABINET MEMBER UPDATE

<b>From: Councillor Margaret Maybury Cabinet Member for Communities</b>	<b>Report Number: CMU2</b>
<b>To: Council</b>	<b>Date of meeting: 24 April 2018</b>

### TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES

#### 1. Overview of Portfolio

- 1.1 The Communities Portfolio includes three themed service areas: Safe Communities (including community safety, antisocial behaviour, safeguarding and the Community Safety Partnership), Strong Communities (including grants, external funding, community development, community rights, arts) and Healthy Communities and Policy (including health and wellbeing, Health and Wellbeing Board, health interventions and preventative activity).

#### 2. Recommendation

- 2.1 This report is for information.

#### 3. Key Activities/Issues Over the Past Three Months

##### Strong Communities:

- 3.1 **Arthur Ransome Review Event** - Supporting the Shotley Peninsula Tourism Action Group on 11<sup>th</sup> January the Arthur Ransome review event was held at the Suffolk Food Hall in Wherstead and celebrated a year of Community events and activity to mark the writing of 'We Didn't Mean to Go to Sea' by Arthur Ransome which was based in part at Pin Mill and along the River Orwell.
- 3.2 **Shotley Pier** –In late February The Shotley Pier Group completed the purchase of the Shotley Pier. BDC has supported this group with advice and some funding support to enable this first key step in the future renovation of this significant local landmark.
- 3.3 **Tastes of Sudbury** – during February Tastes of Sudbury announced National Lottery Funding success with a £10,000 grant to help extend its programme of activity to include 'Fringe Events' during the festival held annually in June.
- 3.4 **Funding and Volunteering.** On Tuesday 13 February the Babergh & Mid Suffolk Communities Team facilitated a further Funding & Volunteering Event at the Cedars Park Community Centre in Stowmarket. The Event was attended by over 60 representatives from a range of voluntary and community sector organisations across both our districts. These included parish councils, newly emerging community groups, established charities working in our localities and village hall members.

- 3.5 Attendees had opportunities to hear from The Meadlands Men's Shed Project, the National Citizen Service and the Suffolk Community Foundation and were provided with a wide ranging level of information on starting up new groups, encouraging and enabling volunteering and accessing funding programmes.

### **Safe Communities:**

- 3.6 **Safeguarding Training delivered to BMSDC staff and Members Feb and March 2018**

The delivery of safeguarding training to staff and councillors has progressed well with the following delivery:

Adult Safeguarding	44 people trained through 4 sessions
Children Safeguarding	39 people trained through 4 sessions
Adult and Children combined training	3 Members trained through 1 session
Adult and Children combined training	9 Members booked for April session.

Safeguarding awareness is critical for all staff and Members please can I encourage all councillors to sign up to these sessions which are very informative and help us to ensure that we meet our safeguarding commitments

### **Healthy Communities**

- 3.7 **Walking programmes** – As part of the 2018 Suffolk Walking Festival which runs from 12<sup>th</sup> May to 3<sup>rd</sup> June there will be 27 walks in the Babergh area. In addition to supporting the festival, the team continue to work with One Life Suffolk to enable the Health Walks programme (known as *Stepping Out in Suffolk*).
- 3.8 **Great Run Local** – Following on from the success of the Great Run Local at Needham Lake (the best attended event of its type in the country) we have worked with our Most Active County partners to establish a new GRL events in our district:
- **Holbrook.** This will be based at the Peninsula Sports Centre. Events will start on 18<sup>th</sup> March with an official launch on 22<sup>nd</sup> April.
- 3.9 **Dementia** – Through the local Dementia Action Alliances (DAA) we are supporting a range of new opportunities for those living with dementia and their carers. The DAA in Hadleigh is now well established.
- 3.10 We are currently working with partners and communities to establish a new Dementia Action Alliance in Lavenham. Partnership working with the Parish Council in Lavenham has involved support to establish a steering group and the planning of a launch event with the local community. The launch event will be held at the Village Hall on 21<sup>st</sup> March; the Rural Coffee Caravan and a range of partner organisations will offer taster sessions, information and advice. We are continuing to work with local partners to establish DAAs in Sudbury (with Ipswich Building Society).
- 3.11 As part of our commitment to the DAAs, we are supporting Hadleigh to develop a week-long programme of activities to coincide with National Dementia Awareness Week which is 19-27<sup>th</sup> May. Activities will include tea parties and dementia friends sessions. As a long-standing partner of the Quay Theatre Sudbury, we have also worked with them to develop a monthly programme of dementia friendly film screenings

3.12 After the success of last years' Dementia Memory Walk in Stowmarket (part of the town's mini-walking festival), we are now working with Hadleigh DAA to enable a similar event on 7 October.

3.13 **Social isolation and loneliness** - Working in partnership with SCC's Local Area Coordinator for the Sudbury area and *Go Start* we are currently scoping a new programme of community transport days out on Sundays to support those who feel lonely or are isolated in their communities. The initial delivery area from April onwards will include pick-ups in Glemsford, Long Melford and Great Cornard as well as Sudbury.

#### 4. Key Activities Planned for the next 3 months

##### **Strong Communities**

4.1 Scoping and work on the Community Strategy will commence in this period.

4.2 Parish Liaison – listening to feedback from our Parish Council colleagues these will now be scheduled 12 months in advance and the frequency will increase to four per year.

4.3 **Community Live events.** 'Inn Crowd' - working with Creative Arts East on an initiative to bring live events into community pubs to help reinforce how central pubs are in creating thriving communities. We will work closely with The Cross Keys in Redgrave to organise a promoter day in April/May, where we'll be inviting publicans/landlords from across both districts to learn more about the scheme and sample performances.

4.4 **Arts.** 'Village Stage' – we are working with Creative Arts East to bring professional arts into community settings using the village hall networks. Recruiting 5-6 village halls to take performance over the next 12 months. This project is funded through Arts Council.

4.5 **Cultural activity promotion.** Supporting the establishment of Heart of East Anglia Cultural Educational Partnership covering West Suffolk (Sudbury area) to enable every child and young person to have access to and participate in cultural activity

4.6 **Tourism.** Beginning work on Wools Towns Festival in Autumn 2018 in partnership with two tourism providers.

4.7 **Volunteering.** Working with our HR department to develop an Employee Supported Volunteering offer for BMSDC staff.

4.8 **Funding.** Supporting Tastes of Sudbury and the River Stour Festival, with the aim of building up the food and community elements as two themes.

##### **Safe Communities**

5. Safeguarding Training for staff and Members continues.

## Healthy Communities

6. ***Babergh and Mid Suffolk Active Wellbeing Programme*** – this is an exciting new 3-year commissioned programme which will engage older people who need to increase physical activity to support their health and wellbeing. The project which will be delivered by Suffolk Sport will provide an education package to GP Practice staff and Patient Participation Groups to increase their confidence in advocating physical activity.
- 6.1 A social prescription approach will be used enabling health professionals to direct individuals to physical activity opportunities in their local area. Where gaps in provision are identified Suffolk Sport will develop age-appropriate local programmes including their successful “Fit Villages” model. The programme will commence in May 2018 and the localities for the first year are Long Melford and Fressingfield.
- 6.2 ***Mental Health and Wellbeing*** – We have been working with elected members, services and partners to develop a clear set of priorities to guide the Councils’ work in this area for the next 2 years. At their February meeting, Communities Portfolio Holders reviewed a range of information and evidence and agreed the following joint priorities:
  - i. **Priority 1** – Improve mental health in the early years through support for young families.
  - ii. **Priority 2** – Improve workplace mental health and emotional wellbeing.
  - iii. **Priority 3** – Continued support for local action on Dementia.