

MID SUFFOLK COUNCIL CABINET MEMBER UPDATE

From: Councillor Julie Flatman Cabinet Member for Communities	Report Number: CMU9
To: Council	Date of meeting: 26 April 2018

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 **Assets Community Value (ACV)** – The Cross Keys pub in Redgrave was placed up for sale in early 2017. The Redgrave Community Society took an interest and the pub nominated and subsequently registered as an Asset of Community Value (ACV) with Mid Suffolk District Council. Redgrave Community Society attended a BMSDC event called ‘Your Asset of Community Value – the Pub is the Hub’ and following this, a speaker from the event visited Redgrave to talk to the Society about owning their own community pub.
- 3.2 BMSDC provided continued support to enable the community to buy the pub: offering advice and support in raising the necessary funding to purchase the property. 66 people became shareholders £85,000 was raised and the remainder was secured through loans. The pub was purchased by the community and opened its doors on Saturday 3 March 2018.
- 3.3 Cllr Julie Flatman, Mid Suffolk District Council’s Cabinet Member for Communities, said: “In any locality, a specific place or business can put the heart into the community, and that is doubly true in rural areas. We at Mid Suffolk have been working hard to spread the news of community’s rights under the Localism Act, and it is heart-warming to see the results that can be achieved: Redgrave have been a real example for us all, as the community pulled together and this Saturday they will see the result of that work, sitting down for a drink in their very own pub at the Cross Keys. I hope many more communities follow their example.”

- 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 **Connect** – *As reported last quarter the Suffolk-wide Connect programme continues to integrate local delivery of health, social care and community services in Stowmarket, Eye & Northwest Suffolk, Bury Rural, South Rural and Sudbury.*
- 3.8 **Cycling events** – Working with Suffolk County Council we have secured Stage 1 of the Women's Tour of Britain. The event, which is to be held on 13th June 2018 will run from Framlingham to Southwold, passing through large parts of Mid Suffolk. We are currently working with local partners to plan 2 community cycling events – in Needham Market and Stradbroke, a school's competition and a film night screening at Stradbroke. These events will form part of a wider programme to ensure that Mid Suffolk maximises the opportunity presented by hosting this prestigious event. We are also supporting a Women on Wheels event at Debenham Leisure Centre.
- 3.9 **Walking programmes** – As part of the 2018 Suffolk Walking Festival which runs from 12th May to 3rd June there will be 12 in Mid Suffolk. 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*).

As a legacy of last year's mini walking festival in Stowmarket, we have worked with our Most Active County partners, Dance East and the John Peel centre to enable a 12-week funded programme – the Stow Elders project which runs until the end of March 2018.

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 in Eye based at Hertismere High School.

3.10 **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 DAAs in Stowmarket is now well established.

- We are currently working with partners and communities to establish a new Dementia Action Alliance in Needham Market and Eye.

As part of our commitment to the DAAs, we are supporting Stowmarket to develop a week-long programme of activities to coincide with National Dementia Awareness Week which is 19-27th May. Activities will include tea parties and dementia friends sessions.

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 to learn more about the scheme and sample performances.
- 4.4 The Duke of Marlborough in Somersham has already expressed an interest in hosting live events. This project is being funded through Applause and Creative Arts East. We anticipate 5-6 events per year.
- 4.5 **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.
- 4.6 **Volunteering.** Work with our HR department to develop an Employee Supported Volunteering offer for BMSDC staff.

Safe Communities

- 4.7 Safeguarding Training for staff and Members continues.

Health and Wellbeing

- 4.8 ***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.
- 4.9 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.
- 4.10 ***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:
- 4.11 **Priority 1** – Improve mental health in the early years through support for young families.
- 4.12 **Priority 2** – Improve workplace mental health and emotional wellbeing.
- 4.13 **Priority 3** – Continued support for local action on Dementia.