

BABERGH COUNCIL CABINET MEMBER UPDATE

From: Councillor Margaret Maybury, Cabinet Member for Communities	Report Number: CMU11
To: Council	Date of meeting: 24 July 2018

TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES

1. Overview of Portfolio

- 1.1 The Communities Portfolio includes: Safe Communities (including community safety, anti-social behaviour, safeguarding and the Community Safety Partnership), Strong Communities (including grants, external funding, community development, and community rights), Healthy Communities and Policy (including health and wellbeing, health interventions and preventative activity) and Public Realm (including grounds maintenance, street cleansing, arboriculture and public conveniences)

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Council notes the report.

3. Key Activities/Issues Over the Past Three Months

- 3.1 **Local Dementia Action Alliances** - As part of the National Dementia Awareness week, the Councils' Health and Wellbeing Team supported the Hadleigh Dementia Action Alliances to run a number of events in the town to raise awareness. These included a business breakfast at the East of England Co-op, a market stall event, a coffee morning at Magdalen House and a quiz night. Dementia Friends' sessions led to 15 new friends pledging their support to the campaign. Hadleigh Bowls club have also been enabled to set up a new dementia-friendly bowling initiative.
- 3.2 **Safeguarding Section 11 Audit** - Local Safeguarding Children's Boards have a statutory duty to assess whether agencies in their area are fulfilling their statutory obligations to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The Communities Team recently completed a full Section 11 Audit, which concluded that Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils could provide strong evidence that they were compliant with the required standards. The audit was validated by a panel of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board, which officers were required to attend in person to discuss the evidence in detail.
- 3.3 **Anti-Social Behaviour** - The Babergh multi-agency Anti-Social Behaviour Partnership is co-ordinated by the Councils' Communities Officers. It meets monthly and works in partnership with Police, Social Care, Housing Associations and others to seek to resolve anti-social behaviour complaints collaboratively with other key agencies. The group continues to address a wide range of complaints including neighbour disputes, noise nuisance and inconsiderate parking.

3.4 **Assets of Community Value** - The Community Post Office and Shop at Monks Eleigh have been successfully listed as assets of community value. The aim of the right is to give community groups time to make realistic bids to buy ACV listed land or buildings that are of importance to the local community when they come up for sale. The moratorium period was triggered on both of these assets on 17th April 2018 to give a community group time to assemble a bid.

3.5 **Eden's Project** - With the help and support of the External Funding Officer, a crowd-funding webpage has been created to raise £180,000 by January 2019, which is the deadline to buy the premises the Eden Project currently rents. The funds will buy the buildings, pay costs and complete much needed repairs and renovations.

Other Council support to the Eden's Project includes annual revenue funding support for youth work staff salaries. This service provides a safe venue and activities for young people from Sudbury and surrounding areas, supporting health and wellbeing and assisting in the prevention and reduction of anti-social behaviour.

3.6 **Mental Health Awareness** - As part of the national Mental Health Awareness week 14th-20th May, the Council's Health and Well-Being Team within this portfolio worked in partnership with the Human Resources Service and Suffolk County Council to support a range of events and activities to raise awareness of mental health in the workplace. These included workshops on reducing stress and anxiety, yoga, mindfulness, choir singing, a seed swap, origami and art therapy. These were all selected as evidence suggests these activities help to improve wellbeing. There was also an opportunity to hear the stories of guest speakers who contributed to a "human library"; that is individuals who have lived experience of a mental health condition and agreed to share their experiences of living with that condition and their recovery process.

Managers across the organisation have attended a 1 Day training course on Positive Mental Health, designed to assist them to manage mental health and well-being with their staff. In addition, the first cohort of 11 staff volunteers from across the Council have completed the Mental Health First Aider course. A further cohort will follow in August.

3.7 **Community Engagement** - The Council held an exhibition event in April 2018 for the ex-headquarters site in Hadleigh, supported by Purcell and LLP (Lawson Planning Partnership). The exhibition provided an opportunity for the general public to receive an update on how the proposed development was progressing, and to feedback their views, prior to the submission of a planning application at the end of August. The Council, supported by its development partners, Icen and Ingleton Wood, also held a consultation event on 11th July to engage with the general public about the proposed development of Angel Court in Hadleigh.

These events were promoted via social media, the local press and a local distribution of flyers to households within the town. Signage is currently being designed and developed, and will soon be erected at these sites, to improve communication throughout the town to ensure the general public and community are aware and kept informed of any developments in a timely and clear way.

3.8 **Public Realm Transformation** - In March 2018, both Babergh and Mid Suffolk Cabinets agreed to establish a joint, cross party Member Advisory Task and Finish Group to support this programme. The following tasks have been progressed over recent months and are on-going:

- A new policy and action plan for the future management of public conveniences across both Councils;
- Performance standards for both grounds maintenance and street cleaning including the development of Key Performance Indicators;
- A new policy and procedure for the adoption and transfer of Council owned open spaces and other public realm assets; and
- A new policy and procedure for Council owned trees and woodlands.

A new policy on public conveniences was agreed by Cabinet on 12th July 2018.

4. Key Activities Planned for the next 3 months

- 4.1 **Active Wellbeing Programme** - Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are set to launch a new three-year joint project with Suffolk Sport. Active Wellbeing will be officially launched in Babergh with a welcome event at the Long Melford library on the 16th July between 10:00 – 11:30.

Active Wellbeing is a bespoke approach to help those who are physically inactive into more active lifestyles. Active Wellbeing will initially work with the Long Melford and Lavenham GP surgeries in Babergh, celebrating and linking to the great work already taking place within those communities. The programme will also support the development of new activities, where they are needed, to help older people to become and stay active. Working alongside health professionals and the community, Physical Activity Advisors will identify and work with those people most in need of support by delivering clinics in the community.

The Physical Activity Advisors have a wealth of experience in supporting people who have genuine concerns or barriers to becoming more active, such as, cost, transport, management of chronic pain, no one to go with, etc. They will use this knowledge to guide people into suitable activity. There will be a range of options available from free lifestyle activities such as walking and gardening to group classes such as Tai Chi and Pilates.

- 4.2 **New Dementia Action Alliance** – This will be launched in Lavenham on 18th July 2018 at the Guildhall. The Councils' Health and Wellbeing Team has been working with their newly formed committee to ensure that they all receive the Alzheimer's Society's recommended dementia friends training. The team has also been working with local businesses to get them to sign up to the Dementia Friends Alliance and train their staff. The launch event will build upon the Golden Age Fair event held earlier in the year and is being supported by the Parish Council and the local Co-Op.
- 4.3 **Community Strategy** – This strategy will be developed in liaison with statutory and community partners and Members over the next six months.
- 4.4 **Community Engagement regarding the Council's development sites** – This will be on-going.
- 4.5 **The Babergh multi-agency Anti-Social Behaviour Partnership's work to resolve complex cases of anti-social behaviour** – This will continue.
- 4.6 **Town and Parish Liaison meetings** - A recent meeting was held on 10th July in Capel St Mary. The next meeting will take place on Thursday 11 October 2018.

- 4.7 **Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) and New Skate/BMX Park** - Plans are well underway for a new Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) and new Skate/BMX park at Belle Vue Park, Sudbury. A contract for the construction of the MUGA is being awarded in July 2018 with construction beginning in October. Following completion of the MUGA, work will begin on the Skate/BMX park which will be finished in December.
- 4.8 **ActivLives** - elsewhere in Belle Vue Park, ActivLives have been working hard with local volunteers and the Sudbury in Bloom Group to get the park ready to be judged for Anglia in Bloom. This has included artwork produced by a local artist to soften the impact of the heras fencing around Belle Vue House, producing a pleasant back drop to the work completed by the volunteers on the horticultural displays in front of the house.
- 4.9 **Public Realm Transformation** - the work of the Task & Finish Group will continue and policies on trees and open space adoption will be reported to Cabinet in October 2018.