

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL CABINET MEMBER UPDATE

From: Councillor Derek Davis Cabinet Member for Communities	Report Number: CMU11
To: Council	Date of meeting: 21 January 2020

TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES

1. Overview of Portfolio:

The Communities Portfolio includes:

- 1.1 Safe Communities (including community safety, anti-social behaviour, safeguarding and the Community Safety Partnership).
- 1.2 Strong Communities (including grants, external funding, community development and community rights).
- 1.3 Healthy Communities and Policy (including health and wellbeing, Health and Wellbeing Board, health interventions and preventative activity).

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Council notes the report.

3. Key Activities/Issues Over the Past Six Months

- 3.1 The grants team has conducted site visits to discuss potential community projects and sources of funding including the following: Bures Play Area - to fence off the children's play area and upgrade play equipment; East Bergholt Sports Ground - to improve facilities within the pavilion; East Bergholt Constable Hall - to upgrade kitchen facilities and internal building work to connect kitchen to meeting room; and Acton Village Hall - to upgrade and enhance kitchen facilities.
- 3.2 Capital funding and Section 106 money has been allocated to support improvement of the Assington playground.
- 3.3 Where appropriate joint site visits have been conducted with officers from the Public Realm team for play and open space projects to provide potential applicants with advice and guidance on types of equipment and British Safety Standards. The team is also working with the Environmental Management Officer, to provide energy efficiency assessments for village halls and sports pavilions.
- 3.4 The Strategic Leisure Advisor has been working with the grants team and the Football Association to develop a Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) for BDC and MSDC areas, to identify priority projects for investment by The Football Foundation (£72M available nationally). Mainly in response to affiliated football needs (3G pitches, improved grass pitches, pavilions etc) but also access to Multi-Use Games Areas and local football participation initiative.

- 3.5 The External Funding Officer has supported the Shotley Kidzone with a CIL application. Other work has included support for a project focused on the River Stour Festival linked to a Defra Tourism Infrastructure Fund bid and a bid by Gainsborough's House to the National Lottery Heritage Lottery Fund to support future Silk Festivals.
- 3.6 The Community Grants review has commenced, with a Member Task and Finish Group established to guide the work. The first phase will review the capital grants scheme, informed by looking at the recommendations arising from the recent CIL review as both are relevant to the funding of community infrastructure.
- 3.7 The Communities team are supporting the development and delivery of the Armed Forces Covenant Event 2020. Two events will take place in the last week of June at Hadleigh, hosted by Babergh.
- 3.8 Sudbury Silk Festival: Following the success of the first ever Silk Festival on 07 September with 5,000 attending, the Festival group met to discuss next steps and to study the feedback report from participants. It has been agreed that future festivals will occur biennially, with a smaller event in the intervening years to maintain interest. Local skilled Volunteers have come forward to start organising the 2021 Festival which will include work on the 2020 summer event, focusing on textile makers and crafters. This will help with the sustainability of silk-related activity by engaging local people as organisers. A bid is being made to the Arts Council this month for further work with local schools after April 2020. Gainsborough's House has agreed to help the Festival Group with submitting a bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund in early 2020 for three years of funding – thus covering the 2021 and 2023 Festivals. The 2021 Festival will take place over three days and involve eight community venues near the town centre of Sudbury, all within walking distance, and will include a number of talks, walks, films and exhibitions. The events are planned to provide a significant visitor experience, and potentially an economic boost for Sudbury.
- 3.9 Arts and Dementia Training in Hadleigh: Following the success of the All Together Now pilot project, dementia training for arts practitioners is being delivered in Hadleigh in partnership with Hadleigh Dementia Action Alliance. The training will provide an introduction to dementia, explore effective ways in reducing challenges faced by professional and carers and how to best involve people in creative activities.
- 3.10 Dementia Action: A Communities Health and Wellbeing Officer has been supporting the development of a Dementia Action Awareness Group in Sudbury from October 2019. The social prescribing group with Sudbury G.P. surgery at Hardwick House have signed up to the Haverhill Link scheme with Primary Care Network funding,
- 3.11 Health Walks: continue to be offered in the Babergh area every two weeks, with 6 new walks included in the One life brochure plus an extra 3 walks delivered by the Shotley open spaces team.
- 3.12 Active Wellbeing service: has now completed its first 3 months of year 2 of delivery. The Project Officers (Health & Wellbeing) have been working collaboratively with the surgeries and the community via an asset-based community development approach and applying the learning from the first year to help achieve maximum output from the 12 months in this location. The partnership between the Active Wellbeing Service and Health professionals has been successful in identifying patients who can benefit from the service.

Since the last report, we have recruited a new Project Officer (Health & Wellbeing) for the Babergh locations in year 2 & 3. So far the project has seen 40 clients with an average of 61 years and positive links have been developed with the Patients Participation Group (PPG). 58% of clients report feeling closer to other people and less lonely than they were before the intervention commenced. The Steering group continues to meet every 2 months with a new Fit Villages yoga project being delivered shortly.

- 3.13 The Active Schools project: Launched in July 2019, this three-year programme is designed to reduce childhood obesity/excess weight amongst primary school age children by providing bespoke support to 20 primary schools across both districts, helping them to better utilise their DfE Pupil Premium Funding for physical activity. Sample Interventions offered as part of the programme include active travel plans, healthy food awareness, extra-curricular clubs, Teacher Continuous Professional Development, Active classrooms and whole school activities such as the Daily Mile.
- 3.14 On 26th November 60 people attended a conference in Bildeston to hear presentations from members of the Communities team and other colleagues on the 'Effect of Loneliness and Social Isolation within rural communities. The event was well received and is an indication of the new networks which have been created for people in the Bildeston area.
- 3.15 The team have initiated a new approach by applying the Healthy Towns Programme which is an NHS England initiative which sets out the 10 Principles for Healthy Place making. Working in partnership with Public Health Suffolk we have set up a series of lunchtime seminars with BMSDC Planning colleagues to review the evidence from ten demonstrator sites and look at are working on a range of other activities and rather than seeking to cover it all within this report an All Member briefing on all aspects of Health and wellbeing related work to highlight significant contribution the Councils' are making to this agenda.
- 3.16 Officers are also working closely to support Social Prescribing across both District areas. Schemes are now active across the Ipswich and East Suffolk CCG area and being developed across the areas covered by the West Suffolk CCG.

4. Key Activities Planned for the next 3 months

- 4.1 The external funding officer will be supporting funding surgeries in our communities in collaboration with Suffolk County Council. Dates and locations have not yet been finalised but will be communicated to Councillors in due course.
- 4.2 There will be a period of refocusing of the grants service as two new postholders take up post and are tasked with reviewing the current arrangements in the light of the Council's priorities, the Communities Strategy and need to maximise the efficiency and effectiveness of the service. The Grants Review Member Working Group will continue to meet.
- 4.3 Reports were brought to Babergh Cabinet meeting in January and agreed rolling 3 year funding arrangements for Citizens Advice.

- 4.4 Working with Suffolk Artlink, Rural Coffee Caravan and Dance East, officers will continue to deliver a project reaching rurally isolated older people to make a positive impact on their lives. The work will focus on delivering a high-quality arts outreach programme, led by artists. It will be co-produced with older people, to ensure that the individual needs of each community are reflected in the work. What we are calling the 'The Make, Do and Friends' project has involved £100k of Arts Council 'Celebrating Age' Funding.
- 4.5 We will continue to work in partnership to contribute to enabling community-level health and wellbeing outcomes, particularly in relation to the development of leisure, physical activity, the arts, sports and natural environment for their health benefits. Highlights have included development of GP exercise on referral schemes, high profile walking, running and cycling initiatives and a range of healthy lifestyle and later life programmes. Other activities have included those linked to the Dementia Action Alliances, as well as providing local support for national events and campaigns that address the related issues of loneliness, social isolation and mental health.
- 4.6 Working in partnership with Suffolk Public Health and local organisations there are two forthcoming projects to reduce obesity for both adults and children. The first will be based in Shotley and look at Cookery Lessons and healthy eating. We will be presenting the potential pilot scheme to the Shotley & Erwarton Women's Institute in mid-January with a desire to work in partnership to deliver activity. The second project will be based in Sudbury linking with local partners in the area looking at cookery classes for older people who are bereaved, food waste and community fridges.
- 4.7 Work also continues to address anti-social behaviour and other community safety issues and support the work of the Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership.
- 4.8 We welcome Vicky Moseley to the team and the organisation as the new Corporate Manager - Communities.