

Community Capacity Building and Engagement Portfolio Report**1. Babergh & Mid Suffolk Year Of Walking Update**

We produced a brochure of around 52 different types of walks that covered the first half of the year up to November 2016. The walks planned included a variety of walking initiatives such as Nordic walking, a children's story walk at Needham Lake etc. Take up for this was quite disappointing so this brochure will not be replicated for the second half of the year. Instead we will focus our support on the SCC 2017 Walking Festival which is held in May/June.

As part of this Mid Suffolk will look to set up a mini walks festival between late February and end of April in and around Stowmarket. The aims of the project would be to improve physical health and wellbeing (Prevention Agenda) and to develop people's confidence to explore and use their local countryside. We will bid to the Tesco bags fund to support the project

We are also looking to commission the delivery of this project by Bob Halls, an experienced walk leader and trainer based at Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre with the intention of working in partnership with the Leisure Centre to target those who are currently inactive to become active, those with mental health issues and those at risk of loneliness or isolation. We will also work with the local Dementia Action Alliance to make the event dementia friendly.

2. Proposed Removal of Payphones

In September 2016, BT posted a notice on each of the payphones proposed for removal advising of their proposals. Under Ofcom regulations, we now have responsibility for carrying out a consultation with the local community on these proposals.

We will be sending out further details to our Parish and Town Councils so they are aware of the plans and how they can make any comments. BT will require justification for any objection made to the removal of a payphone. For example, there may be no mobile coverage in a particular area; the payphone may be well used by residents or the passing public; or it may be located close to an accident blackspot.

We will gather together all the comments we receive once the consultation period comes to an end on 4 December 2016.

3. The Ageing Well Activity Programme for Babergh & Mid Suffolk

The new Ageing Well Activity Programme has now been circulated throughout the district and focuses on activities for the over 50's and some classes are suitable for those with reduced mobility, for example Otago/chair based exercise.

4. **Events:**

- The Lullaby Concerts Our local concert will be staged in the United Reformed Church in Stowmarket on the 26 October.
- The Disability Forum for Suffolk and Avenues East at Suffolk One on Tuesday 25 October.
- Funding Event 2016 – On Wednesday 19 October 2016 we are co-ordinating the Funding Event at Lavenham Village to understand further the impact of the Hidden Needs Report for 2016 on our districts and the funding programmes.

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