

MID SUFFOLK COUNCIL CABINET MEMBER UPDATE

From: Councillor Julie Flatman Cabinet Member for Communities	Report Number: CMU4
To: Council	Date of meeting: 21 December 2017

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 That Council notes the report.

3. Key Activities/Issues Over the Past Three Months

Strong Communities:

- 3.1 The grants and external funding programmes are a very effective way in which we maintain and develop community capacity. Below are examples of recent grants and events:
- Stonham Aspal Village Hall Refurbishment held their opening celebration 'Afternoon Tea' on Nov 25th, we supported them with a total of £25,000.00 funding.
 - Stowmarket Town Council Recreation Ground Play Area Improvements have now been officially opened, we supported them with £10,000.00 funding
- 3.2 The latest round of Parish Liaison meetings was held during November with a combined meeting at Westhorpe village hall. Attendance was good and the engagement effective.
- 3.3 A successful Community Volunteering and Funding event was organised at Henley on 25th of October with 5 partner organisations offering advice to over 40 people from 29 different organisations. The event will be repeated in February 2018 in partnership with Stowmarket Town Council.
- 3.4 Assets of Community Value - The Redgrave Community Society have purchased The Cross Keys, Redgrave. This was listed as an ACV two years ago. This is the second ACV to move into community ownership.

- 3.5 Lullaby Project – During October, 2 concerts took place at Stowmarket United Reformed Church attracting 303 people. Workshops for 90 people were delivered at Stowmarket Library and the John Peel Centre prior to the performances.

Safe Communities:

- 3.6 The district council leads the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) process on behalf of the local Community Safety Partnership when a domestic homicide meets the Home Office DHR criteria. We have completed one review earlier in the year. We are in the latter stages of a second review which will be submitted to the Home Office before the end of December.

National Domestic Violence Week (The White Ribbon Campaign) - Mid Suffolk organised a stand at the Stowmarket Leisure Centre manned by volunteers and officers from SCC and BMSDC. This offered white ribbons and information leaflets about domestic violence and domestic abuse and advice on how to access help.

Health and Wellbeing

- 3.7 *Connect programme* – The Connect programme continues to integrate delivery of health and social care services. Connect teams in Mid Suffolk are now working across: Stowmarket, Eye & Northwest Suffolk and Bury Rural. Our communities and housing teams are engaged with the Connect teams, where they provide local intelligence and information on district services.
- 3.8 *Cycling* - The Men's cycling Tour of Britain passed through Mid Suffolk Friday 8th September 2017. We supported community engagement events and spectator activities along the route. Turnout of spectators and visitors on the day was excellent.
- 3.9 *Later Life Activity programme* – We publish a regular Ageing Well activity programme for both districts. This promotes a wide variety of opportunities for older people to be active and social; encouraging older residents to try something new and to connect to their community by making new friends.
- 3.10 *Fit Villages* - 3 new Fit Villages (FV) projects have been established in Mid Suffolk since April. There are now 19 FV projects in Mid Suffolk. The number of active projects is currently at its highest level since the programme began; 85% of projects across the district are sustainable and continue beyond the 8 weeks of funding.
- 3.11 *Walking programmes* - 12 walks were held in Mid Suffolk as part of the tenth Suffolk Walking festival. This built on activity from the 'Let's Walk Stowmarket...' mini walking festival where participants included those living with a mental health condition and who are physically inactive. A total of 149 people attended the 15 walks.
- 3.12 *Great Run Local – Needham*. The number of runs completed at this weekly volunteer-led event continues to grow with a 50% increase in participations between quarter 2 this year and the equivalent period last year. The Needham Lake Great Run Local is now one of the most successful events of its type in the UK.
- 3.13 *Dementia* - Through the local Dementia Action Alliance (DAA) we have supported new opportunities for those living with dementia and their carers in Stowmarket dementia friendly events now run at the Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre and the Regal Cinema. A Memory Walk was also held in Stowmarket earlier this year as part of the Walking Festival with 30 attendees.

- 3.14 Mid Suffolk was recently identified as the 3rd happiest district in England! This was based on the Office for National Statistics headline estimates of personal well-being.

4. Future Key Activities

Strong Communities

- 4.1 *Place Based Social Action (PBSA) Fund.* This is a joint £4.5m Government and Big Lottery Fund to enable communities, local non-statutory organisations and the statutory sector to work collaboratively to create a shared vision for the future of their place and to tackle local priorities through social action. The fund works with established partnerships the community at Redgrave has a successful record of supporting community facilities and assets. With our support the Redgrave Community Partnership have submitted an expression of interest as a potential participant.

Safe Communities

- 4.2 Safeguarding requirements have been extended to include vulnerable adults as well as young people. Safeguarding training sessions (including Members sessions) will take place from January 2018 – dates, venues and times will be published shortly.

Health and Wellbeing

- 4.3 Babergh and Mid Suffolk Active Wellbeing Programme – We are working with Suffolk Sport and Public health to design and pilot (from April 2018) a new project to engage those who need to increase physical activity. The project aims to provide an education package to GP Practice staff to increase their confidence in advocating physical activity. A social prescription approach will be used enabling health professionals to direct individuals to physical activity in their local area.
- 4.4 Walking programmes - We are supporting Eye's bid for 'Walkers are Welcome' accreditation for the town. Working with One Life Suffolk we will also enable Health Walks (Stepping Out in Suffolk) in Mid Suffolk. 2018 There are already 10 walks planned within Mid Suffolk (January to March).
- 4.5 *Mental Health and Wellbeing* – We are working with services and partners to develop a mental health and wellbeing implementation plan for the two districts. Initial work is focused on workplace mental health and wellbeing and includes mental health first aid training for staff.
- 4.6 *Great Run Local* - Following on from the success of the Great Run Local at Needham Lake we are working with the community in Eye to help establish a GRL starting in 2018.
- 4.7 *Dementia* - We are currently working with partners and communities to establish DAAs in Needham Market and Eye.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 The level of current and planned activity across the Communities Portfolio remains high. The constant challenge is to decide which programmes and opportunities best support the Joint Strategic Priorities and have the greatest community benefit. To help with this we will develop Community Strategy for both councils.