

CABINET MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL – 26TH OCTOBER 2009

Agenda Item 9 (i)

CABINET MEMBER: Cllr Mrs Wendy Schmitt

CABINET PORTFOLIO: Communities

Portfolio covers:-

- Community Development
- External Funding
- Voluntary Sector
- Equality and Diversity
- Community Safety
- Children and Young People
- Community Transport
- Concessionary Fares
- Community Facilities (halls, toilets, etc)

REPORT COVERS ACTIVITY DURING PERIOD COMMENCING 8th September AND ENDING 12th October 2009

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Community Well Being Days were held on 28th and 30th September and 2nd October, around the District. These were all very well received and the Community Questionnaire was piloted. An on line survey is being developed to obtain information on community views.
2. Sites have been identified for Community Payback e.g. work had been done on Glebe Wood in clearing the site. If Councillors have projects in their wards that could benefit from this please contact the department. Discussions are being held with YOS, Youth Offending Service for projects for younger people e.g. filling envelopes for Neighbourhood Watch.
3. On the 9th of October along with Cllr Lady Newton and Cllr Jo Beavis I had the great pleasure of spending time with a delegation of visitors from the Aomori Municipal Development Corporation in Japan. They were looking for new ways of Community Engagement and based on information on the BDC web site thought that we were the council to visit. Amongst the presentations they received were one on the Community Payback Scheme and our Community Development Programme. They had many questions to ask, this reflects very highly on the quality of work done by the council

VOLUNTARY SECTOR

A Procurement Event was held jointly with the BDVSA on September 14th. This was to inform volunteer groups about procurement and opportunities to do it with the council. There was excellent feedback and an Action Plan is being developed to support/encourage voluntary groups to engage with it.

EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY

Service Equality Impact Assessment trials have been completed and a workshop held to identify gaps/improvements and to produce a new process.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

1. The Dispersal Order at Freeport has been in place for two months and is still having a positive effect. There has been minimal displacement to non residential areas.
2. A special Crucial Crew was done for Southview School who had been unable to attend the main event due to the flu outbreak, it was very well received.
3. A joint Police and Community market stall has been arranged for 7th Oct, 4th Nov and 2nd and 16th Dec. This is for public engagement and consultation to obtain wider views, factual and perceived on problems associated with the Town Centre.
4. On Saturday 26th September along with the Chairman of the Council I attended the dedication of the second group of Street pastors. These 13 additional volunteers will allow them to work longer into the night to continue their excellent work. They are now looking for further volunteers to enable them to go out on Saturday nights as well

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

With the demise of CYPSP and the advent of the new Children's Trust various meetings and events are being held for stakeholders to establish membership and confirm responsibilities of the new trust arrangements. This trust is co-terminus with the Mid Essex Health Trust, i.e. covering Braintree, Chelmsford and Maldon. It would appear that attendance will be required by the Cabinet Member and Chief Officer where as before it was Deputy and Officer.

COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

1. Numbers were down in August, in the main due to lack of use by Scout and Guide Groups, probably due to the economic situation and the fact that it took 8 weeks for the CRB check on the new driver.
- 2 .A new minibus has been delivered

COMMUNITY HALLS

Further meetings were held re. The Halstead Feasibility Study

FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE CONTENTS OF THIS REPORT CAN BE OBTAINED BY CONTACTING:

[Insert Contact Details – Cabinet Member details, Deputy Cabinet Member details if appropriate]

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