

CABINET MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

Agenda Item 10i

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 3rd FEBRUARY TO 30TH MARCH 2010**COMMUNITY DEVELOPEMENT**

Under the Creative Communities Project work is being undertaken in Great Yeldham to gauge the views of residents about issues affecting their area. The Community Development Team are meeting the pupils of St Andrews Primary School from 15-18th March in a campaign called 'Love Your Community Week'. This involved a series of exercises and activities designed to find out what the students like and do not like about living in their area and what types of community activities they would like to take part in. The team will also attend a parent's morning on 23rd March to promote the project and find out their views.

In conjunction with the Diversity Development Officer a joint Community Wellbeing Day/Multi-Cultural Awareness Days have been arranged for Thursday 3rd June at the Grove Centre Witham, Friday 4th June at the Solar Centre, Halstead and Saturday 5th June in Great Square, Braintree, I hope that members will attend.

A further meeting has been arranged for the Braintree East project.

VOLUNTARY SECTOR

A joint event with the BDVSA was held on 26th March on how to apply for Lottery Funding. Third sector, Parish and Town Councils and BDC officers were invited.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

A meeting was held with Colchester Borough Council to give advice and share experience of setting up a Faiths Event/Forum. The Braintree Faiths Forum has held its first meeting to agree roles, remit, membership etc. They were very positive about BDC's input and enthusiastic about working with us.

Guidance should be received in July regarding the new Equalities Bill that is proceeding through the House of Lords. It should simplify existing legislation by bringing everything under one equalities duty.

Many areas that will have implications for BDC are socio economic duty, public procurement, age discrimination, equal pay and harassment.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

The new POD (Prevention Outreach and Development) vehicle which will be utilised by Probation Services and BDC for Community Payback work has arrived. From Oct 09 to Dec 09 Community Payback completed a total of 5393 hours work within Braintree District for example work is being done in Sible Hedingham Village Hall and painting in Witham Public Hall. It is worth a trip along Church Lane Bocking to look at the wonderful display of daffodils which were planted in the cemetery and Greenfields Bungalows by Community Payback after the areas had been cleared by a work day of the Braintree Local Committee, Living Landscapes Group. If members have projects in their wards please contact the Community Safety Team.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The new Children's Trust arrangements are moving on a pace. Mrs Dean and I are the District representatives on the Mid Essex Children's Trust Board (MECTB); Helena Goodwin will be on the Local Children's Centre Board and Jayne Wakeling on the Multi Agency Allocation Group (MAAG).

A presentation was made to Cabinet on March 29th by Philippa Bull, Head of Locality Commissioning ECC on the Essex Children and Young Peoples Plan 2009-2011. It is based on 5 outcomes of: - Be Healthy, Stay Safe, Enjoy and Achieve, Make a positive contribution and Achieve economic wellbeing.

It has been agreed by the LSP that this work will be incorporated in to the HHWB.

COMMUNITY TRANSPORT AND CONCESSIONARY FARES

Passenger journeys are slightly down probably due to the adverse weather conditions, there is also a downturn across the whole of Essex which may be due to the current economic climate and an increase in usage of the free bus passes

Work with ECC will see seven new shopper buses taking in routes within our rural areas.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Meetings continue regarding the transfer of the Institute, contrary to impressions given by letters in the press.

Goldingham Hall will be transferred to the community group on 1st April.

Meetings are continuing with Crittalls Social Club regarding Silver End Hall and meetings are progressing well regarding Witham Public Hall and Glebe Hall.

A new working group has been set up to look again at a new facility in Halstead which will be run by the community

The new Green Heart of Essex Project was launched at the Cabinet Meeting on 29th March

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

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