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Issue 5

Partnership Briefing

A Newsletter for your Local Strategic Partnership

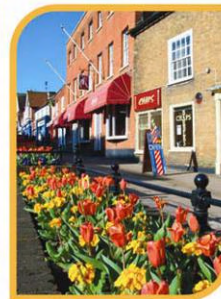
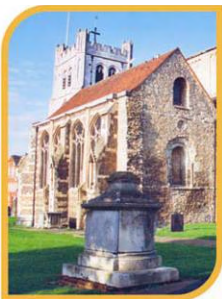


ANNUAL STAKEHOLDER CONFERENCE SUCCESS

This year's annual stakeholder conference was held in February with 100 delegates from business, schools, councils, voluntary groups, health and police gathering in the theatre at Epping Forest College. The conference listened to Eric Pickles MP, Minister for Communities and Local Government, set out the government's vision for the Big Society, before sitting down in workshops to look at how groups in Epping Forest could make the most of the opportunities that this new initiative might bring. The event also gave delegates the opportunity to quiz a panel of experts in various fields in a "Question Time" session. The conference concluded with an inspiring performance by the Artability Choir. One of the key outcomes of the conference has been the establishment of a Task and Finish Panel to involve groups from across the district to make practical recommendations for how things can be supported in our district. The Panel will be lead by Voluntary Action Epping Forest (VAEF). Jacqui Foile, Chief Officer of VAEF said *"This year's conference was an excellent event, showing the wide range of community groups we have in our district and*

PRIMARY PRIZE ON OFFER AGAIN

Following last years successful "Primary Prize" scheme which aimed to celebrate the talent and achievements of children in our primary schools, the partnership has been able to secure funding in a challenging climate to run the event again, with support from the LSP's in West Essex and Essex County Council. The scheme offers book token prizes to children for being the most improved in a range of areas and organises celebration events, one in each district, where children and their parents can come along and be presented with their Prize. John Houston, One Epping Forest manager said. *"I attended the main prize giving event in Epping Forest College last year with almost 150 parents and children, and was lucky enough to also go along to a number of schools to present children with their certificates of achievement. The prize scheme is a unique and wonderful opportunity to celebrate all the excellent work that goes on in our local primary schools, and I'm very happy that the LSPs have again secured the funding to help raise aspirations and celebrate our youngest resident's achievements."*



their commitment to deliver for their local communities. We need to get on now with finding exactly what the Big Society has to offer in practical terms and how we need to change what we do to make the most of it"

Essex Federation of Small Business representative for Epping Forest, Tina Dulieu, said *"Essex FSB was pleased to participate in this well organised and successful event and hope that other Local Strategic Partnerships across the county will follow the excellent lead set by One Epping Forest when they hold their stakeholder conferences."* More details on the conference are available at www.oneeppingforest.org.uk

For further information contact John Houston on 01992 564094

FUTURE JOBS UPDATE

The award winning West Essex Future Jobs Fund programme, which will give six months work experience to 170 long term unemployed 18-24 year olds has successfully completed the final stage of recruitment. Following a successful audit by government officials of the scheme, early figures have been produced showing that almost 60% of those young people who completed the programme in West Essex are no longer claiming unemployment benefit.

Cllr. Di Collins, Chairman of One Epping Forest commented *“The West Essex scheme has been an excellent example of local partnership. With over 20 employers from councils and the voluntary sector taking part and just over one million pounds of government support brought in to help our young people at a very difficult economic time. We have all been very impressed with the skill, enthusiasm and hard work of the young people we have worked with, and the scheme with its mix of support, training and real work experience seems to have made a difference in helping people step up into work. We will be working with our colleagues across West Essex to see if there is any way we can keep the successful elements of the scheme going and looking at accessing any government support to help us to continue to deliver programmes locally that tackle long term unemployment among this vulnerable group.”*

For further information contact David Sellings on 01279 446487

PARTNERS PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

The first meeting of the West Essex Partnership (WEP) Task and Finish panel on the future of partnership working in the area was held on February 19. The Panel was chaired by Jackie

up and sharing services more. Jackie said *“These are challenging times not just for the public sector but also for the voluntary sector. This is a very important piece of work we are undertaking, we all need to think about what we do and how we do it in order to eliminate duplication and to save costs, and maintain our focus and resources on the communities that we are trying to serve. Given the scale of the challenges we face I think the group may be discussing and recommending some better ways of working, and its very timely to be eliminating the red tape that has often got in the way of being responsive to local need. Some of the key issues we will be covering are around the localism agenda, and the Big Society and how we empower local communities in a practical way.”*

For further information contact John Houston on 01992 564094

EPPING FOREST CHILDREN’S PARTNERSHIP

With significant reductions in funding for children’s and young people’s services expected from April, the Children’s Partnership held a “Priority Planning” event before Christmas, to determine the key priorities for any local funding available. The following were identified as being essential for children and young people in Epping Forest;



Sully, a WEP board member and leading member of the voluntary sector in Harlow. It also included senior representatives from the police, health and West Essex council chief executives. It has been set up to make recommendations on how agencies and partnerships can work ever more closely in the future for the benefit of the communities they serve. With all agencies facing significant reductions in their budgets, including Local Strategic Partnerships, the panel will be looking at how to better coordinate and manage services together, how unnecessary bureaucracy can be removed, and new opportunities for joining

- Support for vulnerable children (children falling outside of the mainstream ‘system’)
- Provision of family support workers for most vulnerable families.
- Provision of family learning and parenting.
- Provision of “Crucial Crew” and “Reality Roadshow”, which are schemes targeted at Year Six and Year 9 school pupils to raise safety awareness across a range of issues including alcohol and drugs, internet use and road safety.

MAKING EPPING FOREST A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE, WORK, STUDY AND DO BUSINESS

It was also noted that the effectiveness of the above was dependant on having the right structures in place to ensure good working partnerships across the education and voluntary sector.

The partnership will therefore be working closely with local stakeholders and the West Essex Children's Commissioning Board, to try and retain these services for the district and will be seeking new funding by producing joint funding bids with the voluntary sector.

For further information contact Julie Chandler on 01992 564214

SAFER COMMUNITIES UPDATE

Crime figures

The total number of crimes in the district in the past 12 months has risen above the 2010/11 target of 7908 to 8094 crimes. Serious violent crime has also risen above its 2010/11 target of 64 cases to 70 cases. However within these figures are some measures of success, serious acquisitive crime has fallen below its target with 2142 crimes compared to a target of 2282, domestic burglary was slightly under its target of 790 cases with 788 being reported and antisocial behaviour was noticeably down from its target of 4683 cases with 4237 cases reported.



Safer Communities website

The Safer Communities website can be found at www.safercommunitieseppping.org.uk. This website provides information on the various initiatives of the safer communities group.

Tackling anti social behaviour consultation

Members of the public and partners are invited to comment on the propositions put forward in a government consultation which can be found at <http://consultations.homeoffice.gov.uk/index.php?survey=4>.

Safe and sound project

The safe and sound project which commenced in July 2010 has surveyed a total of 243 properties. Subsequently 56% of these properties were fitted with falls related safety equipment and 44% of properties were fitted with safety / smoke detection devices.

Epping Forest District Farmers Neighbourhood Action Panel

During 2008, there was a perception for Epping Forest District farmers that police and other enforcement agencies were neglecting rural issues. As a result police and Epping Forest District Council formed an E-mail family with farms to provide an information exchange. This proved very popular and a Neighbourhood Action Panel (NAP) was formed, which will meet on a regular basis.

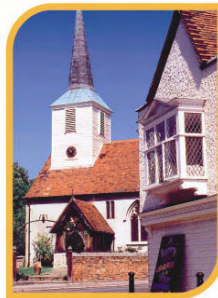
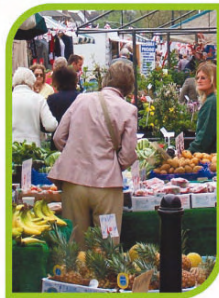
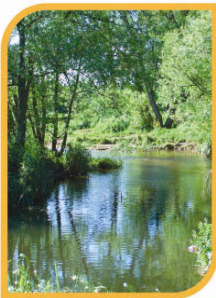
Over 200 separate items of information have been exchanged resulting in crime being prevented and arrests for crime. Some significant actions have been taking place as a result, these include:

- Partnership funding obtained to purchase trespass warning signs for off road vehicles damaging crops.
- The Neighbourhood Action Panel obtained funding through the partnership to purchase night vision binoculars for police officers patrolling rural areas.
- Safer Communities Partnership have also produced a leaflet to advise regarding trespass with firearms. This is now being used nationally.

- The Farmers have produced an Emergency Rural Resource Register. This lists their contact details together with specialist equipment they are prepared to make available to the police and the District Council in the event of an emergency. During the recent snow in December car parks and footpaths were cleared at Princess Alexander Hospital after a request for help.

Reality Roadshow and Crucial Crew

Reality Roadshow took place in Davenant School and Roding Valley High School the week commencing the 14th of February. Both schools have taken part in Reality Roadshow in the past and were delighted to host the event again this year for their Year Nine pupils. Planning discussions were held with the schools to determine the scenario providers and topics that they would like. Both schools made slight changes to their programmes this year. At Roding Valley High School the Youth Justice Team provided a new scenario and the West Essex PCT delivered a new scenario covering smoking cessation and general health issues. Davenant School had scenarios covering hate crime, fire



safety and internet safety along with other themes. Both days featured a drama performance from the London Bus Theatre Company.

For further information Contact Caroline Wiggins on 01992 564122

HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES UPDATE

Healthier Communities is a group of representatives from various local service agencies including NHS, Essex County Council, Epping Forest District Council and Voluntary Action Epping Forest, concentrating on issues in the district such as health differences between different population groups.

The Healthier Communities Theme Group is currently supporting activities to identify and reduce health inequalities in Epping Forest, these include-

- The HealthWorks programme in Waltham Abbey, which is being delivered by the Children's partnership.
- A new briefing is being produced describing local inequalities in health, and the action being taken to address them.
- The Festival of Healthy Living pilot in Ninefields which is being rolled out across the district, into Ongar and Debden initially.

For further information contact Dr Pam Hall on 01992 566127