

News from EPPING FOREST LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

This is the first of what I hope will be a regular update from the Epping Forest LSP which I now Chair, on how we are working together to improve quality of life and public services in our area. What I would like to say from the very beginning is that we always welcome feedback, so if there is anything you would like to know about the LSP, or issues you would like me to cover in this regular feature, just let me know.

It's been a very busy last quarter for us. We have now finally managed to get our LSP Manager in place (John Houston) and completed recruitment to the remaining admin post (David Wright.) I know John is very anxious to work with local voluntary groups and our colleagues from the business and statutory sectors too, and he also wants to hear from all our partners about what is working well and where we need to improve.

The last Board meeting was very well attended and had a very substantial agenda which I hope bodes well for the future. The Board was informed that its bids to the LAA Reward Grant had netted over £450,000 to support local projects. Other issues discussed included the council's consultation on proposals to increase Gypsy and Traveller sites, the PCT Five year Plan, the Housing Strategy, and putting into effect a whole set of changes in how the LSP itself works. The Board has agreed a sharper focus on 'delivery' and 'achieving outcomes', and working better with our colleagues across the county and region. New Groups have been set up to lead on work on Health issues, and achieving sustainable communities, while new task and finish teams will work and report quickly on how the Board can better support communities through the credit crunch, improve communications and refresh our vision and priorities in the Sustainable Community Strategy. These groups, which will work closely with the Safer Communities Partnership and the Children's and Young Persons Strategic Partnership, will replace the previous working groups. I would like to personally take this opportunity to thank all those colleagues who have participated in or helped lead these working groups for their excellent support over recent years. Wherever possible we will ensure that the new structures will make use of this existing pool of talent and commitment to take our work forward.

Finally, a word to remind colleagues that our Board meetings are **open** to everyone to attend. They are advertised on the council's website, www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk , and copies of the papers and follow up minutes are freely available there as well. Please come along, you will be very welcome.

**Di Collins,
Chairman Epping Forest LSP**