

Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 21 December 2017

Subject: Leisure & Community Services

Portfolio Holder: Councillor H Kane

Recommending: That the report of the Leisure and Community Services Portfolio Holder be noted.

Community Services

Community, Health and Wellbeing

Epping Forest Local Democracy Youth Conference 2017: I was delighted to join the Chairman of Council as part of the EF Youth Conference on 3rd November, where crime and the relationship between young people and the police focused the attention of Youth Councillors and a range of delegates from Parliament, the Police and Police and Crime Commissioners Office.

We welcomed over 80 teenagers from our secondary schools across the district that filled the Council Chamber for the annual event. Delegates listened to presentations from Alex Burghart MP, the Deputy Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, Jane Gardner, Inspector Tom Mitchell, from Essex Police, with introductions by the Chairman and myself.

The conference debated the question: "This house believes Essex Police should have a dedicated Police Liaison Officer serving the Epping Forest District." Issues such as knife crime and concern about gangs featured heavily in the debate. Delegates debated whether a single Liaison Officer could have the scope and resources to make a meaningful impact in their individual schools. Ultimately the conference rejected the motion by 62 percent to 38 percent. A dedicated Police School Liaison Officer does not seem to be the answer for the young people of Epping Forest.

The young delegates went on to discuss the Youth Council's new "Say No to N2O" campaign. This focusses on the growing problem of Nitrous Oxide use among young people. Earlier this year, members of the Youth Council collected hundreds of discarded N2O canisters across the district. Legally available for uses ranging from medicine to party balloons, in the wrong hands, N2O is being seen increasingly as a dangerous recreational gateway drug.

Winding up the Youth Conference, our Leader of Council thanked and congratulated each of the delegates and their schools for supporting the event and emphasised the importance of giving young people a voice. In a world dominated by older generations he approved the fresh ideas and knowledge brought to bear by involving young people in the decisions that affect the community.

MiLife: Delivery of MiLife year 2 is now underway with a successful programme of new workshops delivered at Roding Valley High School on 9th November. The newly designed workshop for Years 12 & 13 was enthusiastically received by pupils and the refresher sessions also proved a hit. Emotional Wellbeing remains a key priority for the Community Health & Wellbeing team as well as schools and as the results of the #Haveyoursay vote at the recent Youth Democracy conference, show that young people still see it as an issue to be addressed. The new Year 7 students received the full MiLife workshop experience and several were able to confirm that they had benefited from the newly developed MiLife Primary, delivered by our partners The Red Balloon Family. The introduction of the MiLife information stall during the lunchtime period proved a success, with over 50 young people visiting the stall to view the available information or to have a chat with the team.

I am thrilled to advise Members, that our Officers were invited to present MiLife at an Essex County Council Children and Young People's Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Conference on 30th November. The focus for schools was on the role of education in mental health both nationally and regionally and developing support for schools in Essex. Staff from the Community, Health & Wellbeing Team delivered a workshop to 40 delegates promoting the MiLife programme as a model of good practice. The presentation highlighted how MiLife has helped young people to build resilience and has removed the stigma that surrounds mental health.

Epping Forest Community Transport: Our Officers work in partnership with Epping Forest Community Transport to develop, secure and provide accessible and safe passenger transport services for residents who are unable to use conventional public transport. The District Council provides funding each year, in addition to providing support and advice. The range of services provided by EF Community Transport includes; Dial A Ride, Group Hire/Brokerage, Social Car service and education transport. Customer satisfaction about the service is very high and this is borne out in total passenger numbers that are recorded monthly. Between April – October there has been over 7000 more passengers for 2017-18 than for the same period last year.

Stay Well This Winter Events: This year's Stay Well This Winter events, run in partnership with West Essex Clinical Commissioning Group, have been a huge success. The three events were aimed at older residents of the district to encourage them to stay well through the winter, with a range of activities, presentations and advice available. Full evaluation was undertaken at each event and feedback was excellent. The Stay Well events were held in;

Waltham Abbey – 100 attendees

Theydon Bois - 120 attendees

Buckhurst Hill - 80 attendees

October Half Term Activities: Our Multi Sports Days once again proved very popular during half term with 82 children attending sessions and our inclusive programme once again offered a wide range of activities, which attracted high participant numbers, with a day at the Suntrap Centre proving to be the most popular activity.

Adult Community Engagement Workshops: A new programme of evening workshops has been developed and delivered to our local adult residents. The workshops have proved to be extremely successful and popular and have included a pumpkin carving session, a "make your own bath bombs" workshop and a "make your own Christmas floral decoration" workshop, all of which have been fully sold out. The aim of the workshops is to encourage residents who may

feel isolated or lonely to get out, socialise and make new friends. They are also an opportunity to signpost residents to wider support groups or services they may not be aware of. The workshops take place on a Monday evening at Hemnall Street in Epping.

Forever Active Day Trips: Our Forever Active Day Trips for older people have been extremely popular this year, with each one being fully booked. The day trips are a great way to socialise with like-minded people, explore new places and offer great value for money. Trips in 2017 have included; Bletchley Park, Chiltern Curios and the Royal Regatta Cruise along the Thames, Margate, and a visit to the Turner Contemporary Gallery. The final trip was to Rockingham Castle for a Victorian Christmas with Guided Costume Tour. Next year's Forever Active Trips are currently being planned.

Museums, Heritage and Culture:

We are continuing to see a high number of visitors to our District Museum and from October to end of November we saw 4532 users in person and 85780 online users. In addition we accrued 507 volunteer hours during this time.

No Borders & Lowewood Cafe: The new cake and coffee area at Lowewood museum opened on 25th October providing visitors with refreshment facilities and a completely refurbished welcome area and new shop. The new shop and refreshment area has brought in a total of £700 since the opening.

Culture Without Borders Development Trust (CWBDT) is holding its first Shadow Board Meeting on 4th December 2017. Additional trustee interviews take place in December 2017 and Charity registration will be complete by end of February 2018. It is planned for CWBDT to have additional training and a visioning day, where it will set out the priority campaigns and projects to seek funding for and develop a 5 year fundraising strategy.

Engagement and Events: Three Acres and A Cow: In one night, 1000 years of history came to Lopping Hall in Loughton. On Saturday 21 October at 7pm, as part of the Paths Unseen season of events, 'Three Acres and a Cow' presented 'A History of Land Rights and Protest'. In prelude to this there was an organic supper served and shared, which was in keeping with the evening's performance by Robin Grey, Keely Mills and Peter Relph. 'Three Acres And A Cow' connects the Norman Conquest and Peasants' Revolt with current issues like fracking and the food sovereignty movement via the Enclosures, English Civil War, Irish Land League and Industrial Revolution, drawing a compelling narrative through the radical people's history of England in folk song, stories and poems. Part TED talk, part history lecture, part folk club sing-a-long, part poetry slam, part storytelling session these tales were shared as they have been shared for generations.

55 tickets were sold which was well over the Arts Council target and 25 people paid for the food sharing. Feedback included 'Excellent Show! Great credit to all involved in bringing it here and making it happen....more of the same please.'

October Half Term: MHC's October Half Term programme saw over 300 children participate in our paper pumpkin lantern workshops across the two museum sites.

Boys Day of Dance: As part of the ongoing EFDC Dance programme of workshops and events, on Friday 10th November 120 Year 7 boys took part in a Day of Dance at Roding Valley High School.

Each class of 30 pupils were given the chance to explore 4 different dance genres through the day which included Commercial Street Dance, Contemporary Dance, Break Dance and Jive / Lindy Hop with expert professionals who are currently performing and working in the industry. These hour long classes tested stamina and concentration, exposed true and unrealised talent and built confidence for the boys. The teachers ended the day with a sharing of all the work they had done to give the pupils a performance experience and then the opportunity to ask questions about the industry and disciplines of dance to inspire and most of all, disregard the stigma that is often attached to boys dancing. EFDC works in partnership each year with the school to produce this valuable day of learning.

Takeover Day: The MHC team once again got involved in the national Takeover Day campaign on Friday 17th November. Takeover Day is an annual day on which museums, galleries and historic homes invite children and young people in and give them a meaningful role. Children are in charge, making decisions and participating fully in the life of the museum and it is an opportunity for young people have a say and contribute to the work of the museum.

At the Council's own museum, young people from King Harold Academy ran the museum for the day, working as curators, tour guides and education teams. They were visited by two primary groups from Leverton Primary School and members of the public throughout the day totalling 123 visitors. At Lowewood Museum, pupils from John Warner School ran activities and tours for visitors. They were visited by Wormley Primary and Westfield Primary with a total of 85 visitors on the day.

Cavalcade of Light: On Friday 24th November, Epping Forest District Museum stayed opened late, to celebrate the Cavalcade of Light event in Waltham Abbey. Pupils & students from St Andrew's School, King Harold Academy and Epping Forest College performed in the garden while visitors enjoyed refreshments and crafts in the museum. A total of 250 people visited the museum during the 2 hour event and the income from the evening reached a total £200.

Schools Engagement Programme: Our MHC education programme has undertaken its first nursery school workshops at the museum with 60 children participating in sessions.

First World War Projects: The Lowewood Museum First World War exhibition project is progressing well and pupils from John Warner School have already been on site for two days, working with Tim, Nathan and Cilla from 'Creative Film Workshops' to create some short films based on Stephen Warner's war diaries. The pupils have been inspired by the collection and subject matter, especially when given the responsibility of choosing their favourite quotes, writing scripts and handling technical equipment. This helped them to interact with the subject matter more and they said that they learnt a lot. They were particularly impressed when they saw the 100 year old diaries and photographs. The filming days coincided with Remembrance Day and teachers felt that this was important as part of their introduction to the subject that will appear on the syllabus this year. Around 9 short films have been created in total and these will be used in the exhibition in 2018

Funding Bids: The MHC team's Spradbery project bid, (Walter Spradbery, Artist in War and Peace) has been submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund. The team are seeking around £47,000 for the project which explores the life of unofficial war artist and former resident of the district, Walter Spradbery. The outcome of the bid should be received by the end of January 2018.

Leisure Management Partnership: I am pleased to report that work on the construction of the new Leisure Centre at Waltham Abbey is ahead of programme and progressing well. Similarly,

work is due to commence shortly at Loughton Leisure Centre on the new fitness suite extension. As part of this redevelopment, the Cabinet on the 7 December are due to consider the re-provision of a new crèche and the Council investing in an extensive upgrade to the changing rooms. I will be in a position to update Members of the outcome at Full Council.