

## ***Report to the Council***

**Committee:** Cabinet  
**Date:** 13 December 2022  
**Subject:** Wellbeing and Community Partnerships Portfolio  
**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor

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### **Recommending:**

**That the report of the Wellbeing and Community Partnerships Portfolio Holder be noted.**

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### **Short Breaks in West Essex – Activity Programme for Children with Disabilities**

Following the ongoing success of the Epping Forest Inclusion Project, a bid to the value of £152,480 has been submitted to Essex County Council to upscale delivery of Short Breaks activities across West Essex for children aged 0-14 years with Learning Disabilities, Autism, and Physical Impairments. Should the bid be successful, the team will work with Uttlesford and Harlow Councils to oversee provision in their respective districts.

### **ActivAte – Free meals and activities for SEND young people**

The Inclusion Project is a SEND Hub for ActivAte in the district. £516 was secured from Essex County Council to offer free activities and a meal for young people with SEND needs who are eligible for benefits based free school meals, and 'low income' working families during October Half Term. Three sessions ran at The Box in Epping, catering for 24 children. An additional 21 subsidised spaces were also made available to bolster the offer. Funding has been secured to run ActivAte during the Christmas Holidays and February Half Term.

### **Creativity & Sports Awards and Young Citizen of the Year**

Applications for the Creativity and Sports Awards 2023 closed on 11<sup>th</sup> December and those for the Young Citizen of the Year 2023 closed on 25<sup>th</sup> November. Some fantastic nominations have been received and winners will be announced at the Civic Awards event in the New Year.

### **RideLondon**

It has been confirmed that the RideLondon 2023 Essex100 mass participation ride will take place on Sunday 28 May 2023, and that the route will be the same as it was in 2022. The Classique women's tour event will not take place in the Epping Forest district for 2023.

Community Engagement events were hosted by London Marathon Events (the RideLondon organisers) and Active Essex, during the week commencing 31 October in Ongar, Epping, and Buckhurst Hill. The proposed route was displayed, and members of

the community were invited to attend and share any concerns or queries. An average of 20 people attended each consultation event, with feedback mainly relating to the need for clearer and timely community access plans. A further community consultation event is due to take place in North Weald.

Feedback from these events was presented to Members of Essex County Council on Monday 14 November 2022, where the proposed route was agreed. It is expected that the route will be officially announced during the week commencing 12 December 2022. Details of road closures will follow, along with information about further community engagement plans. London Marathon Events visited Epping and Ongar High Street at the end of November to engage with local businesses.

Active Essex have spoken to SweetSpot Group, the organising body of the Tour of Britain and Women's Tour Road Cycling races, to ensure that there will be no other organised races traversing through the district within close proximity to the RideLondon date.

The Community, Culture and Wellbeing Team will be organising pre-event activities such as; "learn to ride", Bikeability (cycling proficiency) courses, and inclusive cycling sessions. The team will be fully engaged with the County Activation Working Group to ensure the district secures all available wider resources.

### **Crucial Crew**

Crucial Crew 2022 took place in October, reaching more than 900 Year 6 pupils from 21 primary schools across the district. Partnering with a number of other councils across Essex, EFDC commissioned theatre production company Hyperfusion (TickTok productions) to deliver a bespoke film and workshop, focussing on child exploitation, grooming and gang crime. School pupils watched a short film called 'Lines', and this was followed by an interactive online workshop. The aim was to educate young people on the warning signs of an exploitative relationship and how to seek guidance and support. Funding totally £10K has been secured from the Integrated Care Partnership towards bringing Crucial Crew back to a 'face to face' model from 2023, with multiple partners delivering workshops. Consultation with schools is currently being undertaken.

### **Ninefields Health & Wellbeing Community Project & Safer Streets Project**

Since April 2022 funding totalling £500K has been secured for the Ninefields Estate in Waltham Abbey. In total, 18 new projects and interventions have been initiated involving over 500 residents. The Council's Community & Culture Team have successfully recruited local volunteer "Court and Road Champions" to assist with project consultation and roll out.

The topic of healthy relationships is being addressed in the four primary schools surrounding Ninefields and an initiative called 'Broadcast Junior' is being offered to Year 5 and 6 pupils with an interactive workshop tackling issues such as consent, social media, the law and consequences. The Ninefields Youth Club has been increased to two sessions per week. Local young people recently took part in a culture, diversity and equality workshop.

### **Stay Well and Safe This Winter – Interactive Event for Older Residents**

The Community & Culture Team organised a 'Stay Safe and Well this Winter' multi-agency event at Waltham Abbey Town Hall on 3<sup>rd</sup> November with over 70 attendees and 20 partner organisations from across the public sector. 40 Covid vaccinations were administered, and 10 Health Checks undertaken. Informative talks were given by 6

organisations and Arc Theatre delivered a performance themed around scamming. Essex County Fire and Rescue Service received 11 referrals for residents to have smoke alarms fitted in their properties.

### **Community Champions**

Proactive Limes Farm Community Champions have secured funding from the Grange Farm Trust and Community Safety Partnership in support of the Limes Farm Colts Football Scheme.

The Council's Community Engagement officers support 24 local volunteer Community Champions district-wide to roll out innovative community-based activities. Community Champions are all Mental Health First Aiders and have undertaken Dementia Friends Awareness Training.

### **Warm Places**

The Community, Culture & Wellbeing team has mobilised a district-wide offer of Warm Places this winter. On 24<sup>th</sup> October a Warm Place opened in the Civic Offices. In partnership with volunteers identified by VAEF, the Council's Warm Place is open on a Mon and Tues between 10am and 4pm and is sited within the existing Community Hub. Free hot drinks, comfortable seating, WiFi access, board games and a very warm welcome await visitors. A range of partners agencies, along with Council Officers, are on hand to offer support, guidance and signposting to wider services if needed. Friendly volunteers are on site to visitors throughout the day.

Additionally, local Town and Parishes, community groups and churches have been contacted in order that the Council can encourage and support as many wider organisations as possible to come on board and offer up their buildings as Epping Forest Warm Places. By way of an incentive, CCW are providing funding of £200 per Warm Place via the EF Public Health Community Grant to enable free hot drinks to be available and fund any resources needed to make the spaces comfortable and welcoming. The Council's commitment is to provide a central list of all of the Warm Places and promote these via the Council website, as well as encouraging wider partners to do the same. Warm Places are available in Loughton, Waltham Abbey, Ongar, Abridge, Chigwell, Buckhurst Hill and North Weald. It's anticipated this offer will continue to grow.

### **Epping Forest Youth Council - 'Repair My Pocket' Project**

The Youth Council's current project focuses on cost-of-living challenges. Youth Councillors designed a 12-question survey and conducted street interviews at a recent joint Council & Essex Police community "day of action". The survey is now available to all schools to complete. The aim is to assess how local young people are being affected by financial pressures and to get a better understanding of how services can help them.

Youth Councillors received £1k from the Jack Petchey Foundation to help educate young people about scammers. They have purchased 800 'The Little Book of Scams' booklet to support the cost-of-living project.

Four Youth Councillors attended the ECVYS Youth Voice conference at Anglia Ruskin University on 22<sup>nd</sup> October. They contributed to workshops addressing mental health and wellbeing, LGBTQ+, hate crime awareness, mapping safety, staying safe in public and on transport and healthy relationships.

### **Epping Forest District Museum**

September saw the opening of the Animal Mummies exhibition at the Museum. The exhibition had over 2000 visitors with many school bookings for this core curriculum topic.

Other exhibitions taking place at the Museum over the coming months include a display on Homelessness which will open in January. This exhibition will include the lived experiences of individuals and an art installation created by participants and highlight some historical stories of homelessness in and around the district.

The Museum recently put on a display for Black History Month about Peter Henry Abrahams Deras, a South African writer and journalist who lived in Debden. The Museum continued its work with local faith leaders with an online and in person display of the life of faith groups in the district as part of Inter Faith Week which took place in November.

The Museum received £3K from SHARE Museums East to support marketing and £10K from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Furthermore, the Museum has been successful in receiving the first part of the National Lottery Heritage Grant to inject over £500,000 into Waltham Abbey through a project to restore monuments in the Abbey Gardens, develop new signage and interpretation, a guiding scheme, art installation, education resource and exhibition to support tourism.

On the 8 November the Museum hosted the Essex Faith Covenant's annual event, bringing together faith leaders and public service providers to network, learn and develop partnerships. The Museum was chosen to host the event due to the work it undertakes to involve faith communities.

On 18 November the Museum took part in "Kids in Museums Takeover Day" for the 9<sup>th</sup> year running. This event saw King Harold Secondary School students take over the running of the Museum and organise activities for pupils from Hill House Primary School.

The Museum has been awarded the Hidden Gem status in Visit England's 2021-2022 Visitor Attraction Accolades scoring an overall 90%, with 100% in cleanliness, customer care and staff knowledge. The Museum was described as 'A fine example of a small museum with a varied and intriguing range of content drawn from the local area, supplemented by a calendar of considered, relevant temporary exhibitions.'