

Bromsgrove District Council

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Cultural Services, Community Services and Worcestershire Regulatory Services

I am pleased to present my report to councillors for the areas covered by my portfolio. The five main areas covered by my Portfolio, in no particular order, are as follows:

1. Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS)
2. Sports Development, Parks and Open Spaces
3. Arts Development and Events Team
4. Business Development and Facilities Management
5. CCTV and Community Safety

Aligned to: Help me to Keep my Place Safe and Looking Good

WORCESTERSHIRE REGULATORY SERVICES (WRS)

The Council discharges its Environmental Health and Licensing functions through the shared service that reports to a Joint Board of which I am a member and which is currently chaired by Councillor Rod Laight. The Joint Board provides regular updates of both a physical and financial nature. This shared arrangement is made up of officers of all six district councils albeit with Bromsgrove acting as the host of the service

Environmental Health

There are currently 668 food premises in Bromsgrove listed on the Food Hygiene Rating System (FHRS) of which 264 have been subject to intervention so far this financial year in accordance with the agreed proactive inspection programme. Whilst almost 98% of these are broadly compliant indicating that they are well run, 16 businesses are rated at Level 2 or less. These premises are subject to further intervention by the service until standards improve to bring them to compliance. Details are available in the public domain and can be accessed via the WRS website which gives the FHRS rating of all Food Businesses in Bromsgrove District as well as those for all of our WRS Shared Service partners. Members and their ward constituents are encouraged to make use of this excellent facility when planning a meal out.

66 new food businesses have registered in Bromsgrove so far this financial year, with 74 having closed.

A Bromsgrove based mobile catering operation was subject to a Hygiene Prohibition Notice which formally closed the premises following a WRS inspection which discovered a rat infestation and very poor cleanliness. This was subsequently upheld by the Magistrates' Court who confirmed a Hygiene Prohibition Order. A report will

be submitted to WRS senior management in respect of recommendations for further action.

WRS has also responded to 62 food complaints and enquiries for the current financial year to 31 January.

The extraordinarily dry summer led to a large number of dust complaints throughout the county, particularly in relation to construction sites. Two of the largest sites affected were in Bromsgrove district, being the major residential developments at Norton Farm in Bromsgrove and at the former Polymer Latex site in Stoke Prior.

A high volume of complaints were received in relation to both sites, especially Norton Farm, in response to which a large number of site visits were made by several officers from WRS. Whilst the issues were intermittent, it appeared that significant dust was being generated at times due to the very dry conditions, despite the use by contractors of various dust suppression measures.

Following liaison with the developers and site management additional control measures were put in place. However, complaints continued to be received. WRS procured a new state of the art dust monitoring station and installed it close to the site in order to establish if the dust levels were exceeding prescribed limits. This also served to incentivise site management in ensuring that control measures were being strictly adhered to and provided reassurance to residents that their health was not threatened.

Significant further control measures including extra water bowsers, sprinkler systems and a water mist cannon were consequently brought into operation on site which further reduced dust emissions. Dust levels were closely monitored by WRS officers, who maintained regular communications with the site management and raised any notable increases in levels so that control systems could be checked and adjusted where required. Although the site inevitably continued to give rise to some dust emissions at times during the continued dry weather, no exceedances of prescribed dust levels occurred during the monitoring period.

In terms of overall numbers of nuisance complaints, demand was slightly down on the previous year potentially due to the introduction of revised call handling systems and directing customers initially to the self-help materials now available in the first instance. However, a significant number of the service requests that were received were of a more complex nature requiring lengthier investigations through the tasking process.

Health and Safety continues to be subject to an intelligence led approach based on accident reports and complaints notified to WRS. The team are investigating what was a potentially fatal accident in Bromsgrove where a conveyor system was being relocated by staff and collapsed onto one of them causing head and neck injuries.

Air Quality

The Bromsgrove Air Quality Status Report for 2018 has been completed and submitted to Defra. Once approval has been provided the report will be on the WRS

website together with the Air Quality Action Plan Update which is the document that details action taken to resolve air quality by all over the last 12 months. WRS have supported BDC with the application process for their funding bid of EV Charging infrastructure for Taxi's in Bromsgrove.

The AQMA in Kidderminster Road, Hagley has been revoked following many successive years of achieving the National Objective for Nitrogen Dioxide.

Contamination

WRS have been investigating the potential concerns around the Pinches Landfill sites and whether they are impacting on three properties off Wildmoor Lane. The purpose of the investigation was to identify whether there was a risk of significant harm from Landfill Gas as described by the Contaminated Land Regime.

An internal gas sweep was undertaken in all three properties in November 2018 as a spot check with subsequent continuous monitoring undertaken at one of the properties to assess the risk over a month period. The monitoring was timed to include low and falling pressure events as a worst case scenario. Minimal levels of methane and carbon dioxide gases were identified with no evidence that landfill gas is migrating into the properties and the investigation has been concluded.

Permitted Processes

The Pollution Control regulations are there to protect human health by ensuring emissions to air, land and water are controlled. Certain industrial processes such as car resprayers and flexible packaging printers use large volumes of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) which would be emitted to atmosphere if not controlled. There are other industrial processes that are regulated also, which means firms have to apply for a permit. In granting the permit WRS work with the business so that they know what they need to do to comply by using our wealth of experience of dealing with similar companies. Our aim is to support the businesses in navigating the red tape and protecting health and in Bromsgrove we believe most are compliant.

In addition WRS has expanded the Primary Authority contracts to now cover the permitting regime with two with National Companies; Cemex and Wienerberger. The former has a site in Bromsgrove. This industrial sector is new to the Primary Authority regime and we were successful in getting trade media interested in our arrangement with Cemex. Working with these companies we support them in complying with regulations across all their sites nationally and we support our budget by charging for our time and advice.

Licensing

In October 2018 the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018 came into force. These Regulations fundamentally amended the licensing regimes in place to regulate animal boarding, pet shops, dog breeding and horse riding establishments by combining them and creating a brand new licensing regime that also incorporates businesses that keep or train animals for exhibition.

A great deal of hard work has gone into preparing for the implementation of the Regulations, including communicating with existing businesses about the changes, updating the Council's website, setting fees for the new licences and processing the large number of licence applications that have been made.

The new licensing regime is much more resource intensive than the previous regimes in place. This is because determining each application received now involves an inspection of the premises taking place to check if the required standards and higher standards are being met. The inspection also involves the completion of a risk-based assessment of the applicant which considers their previous compliance record, their appreciation of relevant hazards/risks and the welfare management procedures that they have in place. The results of the inspection determine what star-rating (1 – 5) the business can be awarded, with licences granted for 1, 2 or 3 years depending on what star-rating is awarded.

In addition to this large piece of work, over the course of the last 12 months, the Council has revised, consulted upon and republished its Statement of Licensing Policy under the Licensing Act 2003 and its Statement of Principles under the Gambling Act 2005 meeting its legal obligations to do so periodically.

Worcestershire Regulatory Services, acting on behalf of the six district councils in Worcestershire have completed a gambling local area profile as recommended by the Gambling Commission in their guidance to licensing authorities (GLA).

The local area profile has been created with a view to increasing awareness of local risks, improving information sharing and to facilitate constructive engagement with licensees and a more coordinated response to local risks. It will also help to inform specific risks that operators need to address in their own risk assessments, which will form part of any new licence application, or an application to vary a licence. The work of the service has been much praised by the Gambling Commission.

Licensing Officers have met with the Police and other colleagues to develop the platform for multi-agency working known as MATES. This involves a number of different regulatory bodies including the Police, Fire and Rescue Service, Immigration Enforcement, the Security Industry Authority, Environmental Health and Licensing. Representatives of these bodies meet regularly to identify potentially problematic premises and individuals and then multi-agency visits are made in an attempt to disrupt and deter any illegal activity and ensure compliance with relevant regulatory requirements. It has been used to deal with a number of issues elsewhere in the county and will be used across Bromsgrove where there is an intelligence case.

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY (SPORTS DEVELOPMENT)

Health Intervention

Bromsgrove shows a middle-high level of excess weight in adults which is 4.9% higher than the national average; however levels in the District have dropped 1.3% since 2017. The Active People's Survey shows a decrease in lower level activity of

less than 1 x week and an increase in those that are fairly active of 3.6%. Bromsgrove are increasing people from inactive to fairly active people but not engaging as many active people as previous years.

Sports Development works to improve the health of the Bromsgrove Community through physical activity and mental health and wellbeing:

- **Activity Referral:** A referral scheme where the public can self-refer into a 6 week activity scheme. The scheme now runs out of the new Bromsgrove Sports and Leisure Centre and Altered Images (town centre) and Rush Active (Wythall). People also get access to all of the community exercise sessions as part of the scheme. There were **99 people referred in to the scheme in 2018.**
- **Escape Pain:** A rehabilitation program for people with chronic joint **pain** due to arthritis that integrates educational self-management and coping strategies. There have now been two cohorts in Bromsgrove with two more planned for 2019. **25 people attended the 2 courses held in 2018**
- **PSI (Postural Stability Intervention):** This is a national scheme which helps people who may be at risk of falling. People can self-refer into this scheme. **There are 5 of the courses running in Bromsgrove, with 241 referrals in 2018.** The course has recently changed to 20 weeks and all the sessions have got “maintenance” session running alongside them to help participants continue at the end of the course.

Community Exercise:

These classes are predominantly aimed at the over 50's and are developed to improve the physical activities levels in the older population along with the physical health improvements they also help with mental wellbeing and decrease social isolation. These include activities such as tai chi for dementia, Stretch and Tone, Zumba Gold, exercise to music and more. **April to December 2018 saw 4688 visits to community exercise classes in Bromsgrove.**

Couch 2 5k: This successful scheme has continued through 2018/19 and has continued in getting inactive residents engaged in physical activity. The courses run **in April/May and Sept/Oct saw 940 visits.** The programme encourages people to walk/run their way up to 5km over a 9 week period. 33% of those taking part are inactive. Targeting this population will see the greatest health benefits in terms of reduction in NHS admissions/appointments, increased mental health and wellbeing and improved community cohesion.

Engagement: There is a role for the sports development team in engaging with target groups such as disabled, ethnic minorities, women, low socio-economic groups where inactivity is more prevalent and access to services is reduced.

- The VIPA (Very Important Positive Activities) engagement football has continued to develop and in 2017/18 moved to being held at Bromsgrove

Hockey club year round creating continuity for participants. From **April to December 2018 there were 490 attendances.**

- Active Kitchen project in Bromsgrove started in March 2017 in partnership with West Mercia Police and the YMCA. This engagement work ran in 3 locations over the May and summer holidays in **2018 with 136 attendances.**
- A mums' Zumba in partnership with the basement project started in summer 2018 at BSLC working with mums at risk of homelessness.
- In 2018/19 it will be a priority to continue to create strong links with the new Youth Hub opening in Bromsgrove and looking to support youth provision in Sidemoor with a new Dodgeball club.

Children and Young people:

- In 2017/18 BDC continued to provide the primary sports project delivering curriculum and extra-curriculum activities in the Bromsgrove schools. There were 21 schools signed up to in the Summer term. There were **542 different children that attended our sessions in schools during the Autumn term.**
- The team continued to develop its provision and support for the special schools working in Rigby and Chadsgrove schools. This has shown its merit with the teachers able to take on a lot of the delivery through the CPD provided by our coaches.
- A dodgeball club was launched following the transfer to Everyone Active of the Sports Centre and has seen **20 plus young people attending each week.**
- 2018 saw a new free weekly family parks activity **each Saturday for 16 weeks** from May through until the end of August in Sanders Park providing different sports each week lead by different local sports clubs.
- After a Review of Physical Activity and Wellbeing in Schools was carried out and through this a new healthy eating program has started in partnerships with schools off the back of the Schools Physical Activity and Health review conducted by Sports Development in 2018. This is starting with a launch workshop in Catshill.

Club and Coach Development:

- In 2017/18 support and guidance and funding was given to Woodrush Rugby Club ground improvement that has now started.
- Bromsgrove Cricket Club netting pitch development, Bromsgrove Tennis Club new practice wall were both completed.
- Opportunity was given to support clubs promotion through the Sanders Park activity day and the weekly activities held through the summer at the free parks activities held for families.

- **Club Priorities for 2018/19** will be around the support of the club house development at Woodrush RFC, Developments at the Bromsgrove Indoor Bowls centre around the Charford outdoor rink and to help facilitate development at the Sanders Park bowls green now that the club house and changing facilities have been gifted to BDC.
- The Youth Coaching Pathway continued with success in 2017/18 and through partnership with Heart of Worcestershire College, coaching, first aid and safeguarding courses were provided.
- The BRAVO volunteer scheme has had more success in 2017/18 to help support programs and give experience and training to the volunteers. In 2018/19 this has been supplemented with a volunteer incentive scheme launched to help recognise the hard work done by volunteer and help to recruit more. **22 new volunteers recruited in 2018.**

Disability Provision:

- In 2017/18 there was a 12 month extension of the Sport England Inclusive Sport Fund, as well as the Keep on Moving multi sports sessions, Boccia and junior athletics program. The disability climbing program ran for the first time out of the new Clip and Climb wall at BSLC with **3 full courses with 36 participants** taking part.
- The disability sailing sessions ran again in 2018 with more participants than the previous year with **82 participants**. Aztec Adventure Centre at Upton Warren have been so impressed with the program they have offered to provide the facility for free allowing the program to become sustainable without funding.
- The sports development team have been granted the tender for short breaks funding from WCC to provide a number of activities in Bromsgrove including inclusive athletics, climbing and aquability. These sessions are starting through the early part of 2019.

Challenges:

<p>Facility Availability</p>	<p>Cost and availability to hire facilities can vary and means it is not always able to create affordable sessions.</p>
<p>Transport</p>	<p>Lack of transport links – Burt’s buses are the only community provider for older people to access and it can be restricted to location and time/day</p>

Location	Bromsgrove is a rural district with many outlying areas. Finding suitable instructors/coaches to deliver sessions to these areas can be challenging. Upskilling community members to deliver within
GP Referrals	Programs including Activity referral are predicated on GP referrals and with no Bromsgrove GP surgeries applying for the CCG's new social prescribing pilots there is a risk that these will remain low
Distribution of information	Rural location. No single newspaper or publication. Dependency on Community Groups and not all do this consistently. Members to deliver within their own area but are reliant on motivated person.

PARKS & OPEN SPACES

Parks & Green Spaces Stewardship Team

In September the shared Parks and Green Space Stewardship Team hosted by the Leisure & Cultural Service Department, went live after being extensively trialled across the two Councils over the previous 18 months. The purpose of the team was to create a focused service to facilitate and encourage the customers of our parks and open spaces to actively engage with the service on an individual basis and as a collective at the lowest and most public facing level. Some of the benefits of the new team have been:

- A dedicated operational, development and management team that puts the visitor at the heart of what we do
- Provide a flexible and responsive approach to service delivery to meet the needs of users and residents more quickly
- Identify and develop commercial opportunities that positively contribute to the overall financial stability of both Councils
- Enabled a partnership approach to service delivery where resources are pooled in order to maximise the benefits to residents with the private sector and with Voluntary Community Sector (VCS) providers within the local community to provide services, opportunities and experiences to residents.

Planning Negotiations

The team continue to work with the planning and legal departments in the District on pre and live applications to achieve the highest quality of POS, Sport and Play provision throughout the District

Sanders Park

Removal of the Concrete Channel – Following extensive planning and engagement with the public and partners, this works commenced in November 2017 and will be

completed in June 2019. There are still minor snagging issues outstanding which the Parks team are chasing. The maintenance of the natural brook has been discussed with the team and the EA and programmed for works in May 2019.

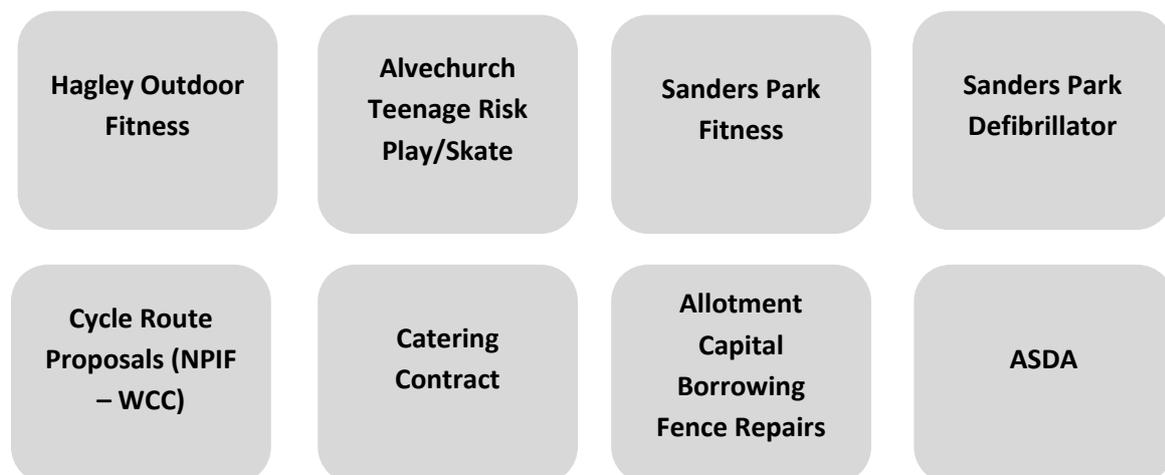
Phase 2 works: Scheduled Feb 2019 and legal are completing the formal Heads of Terms for this works. This works will involve minor “tweaking” of existing natural habitat and is not as invasive as removal of concrete. (we are awaiting formal specification of the detail of these works)

Boardwalk (Recycled Plastic) – Seven Trent/NMC have sponsored and provided a section of recycled plastic boardwalk to enable pedestrians to have easier access through a muddy section of the pedestrian route alongside the brook. This structure is being installed in January/February.

Play And Outdoor Fitness Provision

- **Wythall Park** – officers completed the installation of the Wythall Park Fitness equipment and trail with associated pathways. Remaining S106 available from this scheme is being discussed with the Wythall Park Association.

The team are now working towards the following projects for 2018/19:



- **Hagley Outdoor fitness** –completed in Autumn 2018
- **Alvechurch Teenage Risk play/skate** –Works Completed in 2018.
- **Sanders Park Fitness** – Completed and opened in December 2018.
- **Sanders Park Defibrillator** – a new defib machine has been installed in the park with thanks to the contribution of Cllr Mallett and his County funding. Inspections have been added to the facilities and parks team.
- **Cycle Route Proposals (NPIF – WCC)** – following early proposals and discussions with WCC regarding their successful funding for improved cycle routes – the parks team and engineering team are working with WCC to progress surveying and feasibility costs at Sanders Park. WCC attended a consultation event, alongside officers from BDC, at the 50th anniversary event on 16th September 2018. There will be phased approach to the work due to usage, school holidays and events, and it is hoped this will commence in Spring 2019.

- **Catering Contract** – Our onsite contractor is scheduled to carry our additional modifications to the building to open up access to the café from the bandstand side of the building. This will enable easier access and provide additional outdoor seating nearer the bandstand. (details and timings to be confirmed)
- **Allotment Capital borrowing fence repairs.** Rigby Lane fencing completed in Spring 2018 and Stoke Road fencing will be completed in March 2019.
- **ASDA** – Following the arson attack two reports have been completed (one structural and one from independent play inspector). Quotes have been provided and insurance have been notified. Play Area Inspector has ordered the new replacement equipment and surfacing based on survey reports and completion of works estimated end Feb/March. TBC

ARTS DEVELOPMENT BROMSGROVE – NEW ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

In partnership with the Council's Arts Development Service, Friends of St John's, Artrix and North Worcestershire Economic Development and Regeneration an exciting Christmas Offer was delivered.

- The successful 3rd Christmas 2 day Market in conjunction with the switch on event on Saturday 18th November, the production of the Better Bromsgrove Christmas publication, St John's Church musical Winter Fantasy on Saturday 25th November, performance's in the town on Saturday 9th December by Blackwell Concert Band and the 'Festival of Light' Christmas lantern parade in the town centre on Sunday 17th December
- Members of the Children and Young People's Providers Group attended the St Georges Day event in April to have a marquee to promote the different agencies services around children and young people and to engage with service users and their wider families.
- The Service supported Artrix to submit its 2nd annual report to Overview and Scrutiny as a part of their 3 year funding agreement, councillors found the report engaging, informative and positive.
- The Service worked in partnership with Bromsgrove Festival to successful deliver the Day of Dance event on the High Street and the Summer Jam, for teenagers, in Sanders Park and worked in partnership with the Court Leet to successfully deliver their historic market alongside the normal market.

Bromsgrove Arts and Culture Consortium

- The Consortium comprises the major cultural and heritage organisations in Bromsgrove - Artrix, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove Arts Alive!, Bromsgrove District Council, Bromsgrove Festival, the Bromsgrove International Music Competition and the newly formed Severn Arts organisation to deliver the project – **'Tell me what you want: a change of art for Bromsgrove.'**
- The project aim is to increase engagement in arts and cultural activities across the Bromsgrove District.
- The project is specified in a number of phases, with the initial research to identify under engaged groups and obstacles to greater participation to be followed by activity based work to encourage greater participation from the identified groups.

The stated aim is to encourage arts and culture in making Bromsgrove a better place to live and work.

- The main funding for the project was achieved by obtaining a grant from Arts Council England of £49,000 as well as matching funding from arts organisations, charities such as The Elmley Foundation and a financial contribution from the council for two years and the commitment of officer support over that period. The contract to undertake the work on this project was awarded to the Birmingham based Beatfreaks Collective following a competitive tendering process.
- The first phase of research work was undertaken during the second half of last year and a substantive report was received in early December. This confirmed a number of known factors inhibiting participation and identified a number of other issues such as a real shortage of economical space for arts activities.
- Based on this research report, the consortium is now moving on to the second phase of work to run activity based workshops around the district to identify and test approaches to gaining greater involvement from disadvantaged groups. This is planned to run through the first half of 2019 and culminate in a major arts event in the summer.
- The Consortium was visited by an organisation called Culture Central in the summer of 2018. Culture Central were under commission from the Greater Birmingham & Solihull Local Economic Partnership to work alongside good quality partnership groups to identify good quality methodology that aims to develop local distinctiveness in Towns & Local Centres (TLCs).

BROMSGROVE EVENTS TEAM PROGRAMME

St Georges Day - This well established event enjoyed a very local theme which included working the Artrix Choir and hosted lots of children's activities and with stand promoting local youth activities. In addition there were local amateur and professional performers supporting the event along with a range of British Austin Classic Cars on display for the public to enjoy

Street Theatre - Six Street theatre events were delivered across the district with a variety of 5 different professional artists, with two professional street theatre acts at each event. There was a variety of exiting interactive activities including circus skills, and crafts, for the children, together with community involvement at each event.

Bandstand Events Sanders Park – The well-established bandstand programme was enjoyed by the public in spite of the weather at times during May – September. Various bands played each week, including Worcester Youth Jazz Orchestra, Avonbank Brass Band and Chase Jazz Men, with a number of key events provided by the events team working in partnership with the community.

Bonfire Event – Another successful event, with infrastructure and the installation operation going smoothly. A review from a crowd science and risk analysis stand point included the development of a new access and egress system into the site, managing crowd densities and direction of travel. This produced positive feedback about a main entrance to the event.

- **60.9% of those attending came with a partner and children or young people aged under 17 years**
- **When asked how customers rated the event 86.4% of them said they thought the event was Excellent, Very Good or Good**
- **13.6 % thought the event was Fair**
- **0% thought the event was Poor**

Attendance for 2018 - 5900 people (2017 had 7,000 due to perfect weather conditions)

Date set for 2019 - November 2nd

Christmas - The Events team organised Christmas light switch on events in Bromsgrove High Street and Rubery.

- The Friends of St John Christmas Market was successfully delivered on Friday 16th and Saturday 17th November with good footfall across the 2 days with the stall holders reporting good to excellent levels of sales.
- The regular market continued to be integrated into the Christmas Lights Switch On day under the guidance of the new market manager. The market also, with the purchase of new stalls, provided the market stalls to The Friends of St John Christmas Market.
- The Christmas Lights Switch On Event, including the regular market, The Friends of St John Christmas Market and the Primrose Tree of Lights, saw the largest footfall at these event the town has ever seen. The retail sector reported widely the success of these events on their businesses.
- Under the direction of NWEDR, Worcester Road businesses ran their first Christmas event, following the main switch on, to promote Worcester Road and the businesses in that area. For a first event, these was incredibly successful with a more contemporary Christmas offer. This event attracted a different demographic to the town centre, which also benefited the wider retail sector.
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BUISNESS DEVELOPMENT SERVICE

The Business Development Team have had another very busy period overseeing the Facilities Caretaker and Cleaner Shared Service Review and implementation of the new structures/operational changes. Key areas of work include:

Facilities – Parkside / Council House / Dolphin Centre

- A number of defects that remained from initial build are going to be picked up following Place Partnership procurement exercise that is currently underway. (Separate list of outstanding defects supplied).
- Successful planning application for moving members room to create new meeting place. Door access control has been completed, however awaiting delivery of Audio items to start install of AV equipment in the room. (At time of writing currently at start of 2-3 week lead time for equipment)
- A spate of lead theft across the whole site resulted in internal damage to a number of areas including water marks and a collapsed false ceiling. Procurement exercise completed for replacement ceiling with works due to start imminently. Areas of lead theft have been repaired with a permanent alternative solution or temporary solution whilst planning application is undertaken for the change of material used.
- Following asbestos survey, the condition of the old council building has deteriorated and unsafe with areas of flooring, walls and ceilings now having large holes in them. This has caused problems in the FM team maintaining an active Intruder Alarm and undertaking their regular checks.
- To prevent legionella risk, all water was drained from the void area of the dolphin centre with a new supply re-routed to the sports hall. This was done at the start of spring when heating was no longer required. Now there is a need for heating, this is proving problematic as boilers and pumps have been shut off with no water going through them for a number of months.

Toilet Cleansing Operations

- The toilet cleansing operatives have continued to provide the cleaning function to the public toilets in the town centre, Sanders Park, Catshill Cemetery, Rubery High Street and Alvechurch 7 days a week in addition to cleaning changing rooms across the district.
- The operatives will continue to explore opportunities to make efficiencies and will explore further opportunities to be more commercial and generate additional income.

Bromsgrove Market

- Appointed Market Manager with a large amount of experience from Loughborough Market.
- Held a successful continental market in October with plans to run again in 2019.

- Maintained the current market stall holders and slowly seeing an increase in annual stall holders as well as an increased number of casual stall holders.
- Through agreement with Friends of St Johns, purchased and supplied stalls for their annual Christmas market, which can also be used for other specialist markets throughout the year.
- Annual calendar of events planned in conjunction with the events and town centre management teams for 2019 including street food festivals, a seaside theme and farmers markets.

Bromsgrove Sports and Leisure Centre

- Increase in footfall at the centre since opening with over 1000 more visits in Quarter 2 than Quarter 1 although lower than anticipated due to the long periods of dry and hot weather.
- The number of Fitness members has steadily increased from April with a slightly higher increase in July compared to previous months, and then a decrease in September. This is typical of what we would expect due to Students returning from University, and juniors joining and attending over the summer holiday period.
- Over the last 3 months there has been a continued success with the climbing wall, with more disabled climbers visiting regularly on a Sunday as part of a club linked to the Councils Sport Development Team.
- Everyone Active has supported National Table Tennis Day, and ran a competition during Wimbledon that had over 100 entrants. In addition to these, they are supporting the Councils Sports Development Teams schools programme delivering Tag Rugby in Beaconside Primary, Stoke Prior First Schools.
- Feedback from customers was mainly around the high temperatures in the Gym during the Summer heatwave however this was a trend across EA whole portfolio of centres. The only other notable comments were in relation to a couple of cleanliness issues which when investigated were down to staff carelessness and have been rectified.

Roundabout Sponsorship

Some of main sites on the A38 are due for renewal towards the end of this year 2018, this includes the site near Morrisons, the town centre splitter near Market Street and the Puddlewharf Island on the crossing of Worcester Road and A38. (we have now placed 'Advertise Here' signs on these sites and will look to get them sponsored in 2019.

The Slideslow Site (near the golf course) has been sponsored for an additional year by Greener Glazing and this will run from January 2019 to January 2020.

The Lovely Pubs Group (The Queens Head) continue to sponsor the site at the back of Morrisons near Buntsford Park – this works well for them and we have continued income with no need for signage change from their sponsorship.

The large development of new houses near the Hagly Roundabout has now been completed and new posts and signs (Advertise Here) have been re-installed on the roundabout site – we now await interest from this site

Fairfield has been successfully sponsored for an additional 3 years which will take them up to 2021.

The sites located in and near Alvechurch have proved difficult to sell once again, however we have had one sponsor on the site near Hopwood and this is due for renewal later in 2019.

Aligned to: Keep my Place Safe and Looking Good

CCTV

The BDC CCTV Scheme consists of 88 cameras located within Bromsgrove Town Centre, Sanders Park, Rubery, Alvechurch, Barnt Green, Hagley, Wythall, and Aston Fields.

During the last financial year operating staff completed 1039 incident reports for the camera locations and this equates to 86.5 incidents per month. This is a decrease of 52 incidents for the year.

The most prominent recorded incidents for the period under review were for Anti-social behavior. This again reflects the offence statistics for the area covered by the CCTV system and therefore provides an indication that operators are capturing relevant images.

During this period there were 235 reviews, this is where the police request footage to be examined for evidence of a crime or incident. This is an increase on the previous year of 28 reviews.

During 2018 a Short Sharp Review took place following a proposal by the Overview and Scrutiny group for a Strategic Review of the CCTV. The review considered the advancement in technology was highly significant over the last 8 years, since the scheme was last upgraded. As old equipment becomes costly to maintain and difficult to source it was recognised that it is important to plan the strategic and technical development of the scheme in line with the Camera Surveillance Commissioner's principles and needs of the District.

During the work of the Short Sharp Review, the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner released funding to support CCTV provision across the West Mercia Force area. Consequently a successful bid was submitted to the PCC's Office for funding in order to replace the current CCTV transmission infrastructure to a digital network and to purchase and resource the introduction of redeployable cameras. The bid was for £195,000 and recent Cabinet approval was obtained for the Council's £40,000 capital funding to be used to match-fund the bid. The bid is for

North Worcestershire and Redditch and Wyre Forest Council's are also providing equivalent match-funding. As part of this work, the current camera locations are to be reviewed and this will be in accordance with the Surveillance Camera Commissioners guidance and using data from the CSP Analysts. This work is now ongoing.

As a result of a recommendation by the Short Sharp Review, in January Cabinet approved a capital funding bid of £40,000 for each of the next 3 years. This is to fund a rolling programme to replace the existing CCTV cameras over a 3 year period. This is due to the cameras now being obsolete and will improve the imagery of CCTV footage.

The CCTV operation remains accredited to the Surveillance Camera Commissioner's Code of Practice, following an external audit in September. This ensures the scheme remains fit for purpose, legal, and encourages us as CCTV scheme owners to review the scheme in line with best practice.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership (NWCSP)

NWCSP has been in existence since May 2013 and delivers the statutory community safety requirements for the three district areas of Bromsgrove, Redditch and Wyre Forest.

Local representation on NWCSP is fulfilled through a number of positions. As the relevant Portfolio Holder, I am the Council's Elected Member representative. Sue Hanley, the Council's Deputy Chief Executive is Chair of NWCSP and Bromsgrove District Council's Responsible Authority representative on the Partnership is Head of Community Services, Judith Willis. The Council's Community Safety Manager, Bev Houghton provides support to NWCSP and is also Chair of the Safer Bromsgrove Group.

Scrutiny arrangements for the CSP remain unchanged with local authorities having a statutory duty to scrutinise the work of its local CSP, under Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006.

Alongside the relationship the Council has with the CSP, there is also a direct role in holding the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to account through the West Mercia Police and Crime Panel (PCP). Bromsgrove District Council's representative on the PCP is the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Partnerships, Councillor Karen May.

Strategic Assessment and Partnership Plan

NWCSP has a statutory duty to produce a three year rolling plan outlining how the Partnership intends to address key crime and community safety priorities, as identified through its annual Strategic Assessment.

The Strategic Assessment gathers research, evidence and intelligence from national and regional sources, as well as drawing on professional expertise of those working

locally. It is designed to be a point of reference and guidance to resource community safety initiatives among partner agencies across the area. The Strategic Assessment is used to inform the Community Safety Partnership Plan and the priorities that the CSP will focus on for a 3 year period The partnership agreed its priorities for 2017-20 in Dec 2016 and they are:-

- I. Reducing Violence and Abuse: including sexual offending, domestic abuse and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
- II. Reducing Theft and Acquisitive crime: including shoplifting, thefts and burglaries
- III. Reducing Anti-Social Behaviour, Damage and Nuisance: including criminal damage, environmental issues and deliberate fires/arson
- IV. Protecting vulnerable communities: including reducing harassment and threatening behaviour motivated by Hate
- V. Reducing Offending and Reducing the Harm caused by Drug and Alcohol Misuse are cross cutting themes which impact on all priorities

Grant Funding from the PCC 2017/18

Although CSPs in West Mercia had been advised their respective grant allocations for 2017/18 would be based on previous levels of funding, Partnerships were asked to apply to the PCC providing details of how CSPs would like to use their allocations.

Following the NWCSP grant submission in Feb 2017, the PCC rejected a number of the funding requests put forward and also made some suggestions of projects that he would like to see delivered. This was a significant change to how CSP funding had previously been allocated and reflects the PCCs move to a commissioning model for CSPs rather than the allocation of a grant.

The funding amount originally ring fenced for NWCSP initiatives totalled £155,950; however the final amount of funding provided to NWCSP for community safety activities in 2017-18 was £139,950. The table below details the projects that NWCSP agreed to deliver using their reduced funding allocation.

NWCSP Funding Allocation

The CSP has awarded its PCC grant funding as follows:-

Project	2018/19	2019/20
Research & Information Officer (in line with new CSP analyst arrangements)	£23,773 (allocated)	£20,000 (allocated)
Wyre Forest Keeping Safe Project	£48,125 (allocated)	£48,125 (allocated)
Redditch & Bromsgrove Schools Respect Programme	£15,352	£23,125
Contribution to Capital Upgrade of NW CCTV Scheme	£47,000	£47,000

Sandycroft Domestic Abuse Services	£5,000	£0
Young Citizens Challenge	£0	£1,000
<i>Unallocated Amount (as a result of the changes to the Analyst provision)</i>	£0	£0
Total Amount	£139,250	£139,250

DISTRICT DELIVERY, KEY PROJECTS AND PROGRESS

Safer Bromsgrove Group

Local delivery of community safety projects and initiatives falls under the remit of the Community Safety Operational Groups. The Safer Bromsgrove Group meets on an 8 weekly basis to monitor district performance and review local operational delivery. This group is the first point of contact for any local crime and community safety issues or concerns that may require a multi-agency response.

Below provides an update on some of the key community safety projects that have been delivered in the last year

Dedicated Bromsgrove Community Safety Project Officer

Safer Bromsgrove has invested some of its reserves in retaining a dedicated officer to deliver community safety projects and initiatives and liaise with local communities and groups on crime prevention and personal safety issues. David Rischmiller has been in post since May 2016.

Alongside partners, the Bromsgrove Project Officer has worked with a number of local community groups and residents to offer guidance and information on a variety of community safety concerns. This includes attending a wide range of groups such as neighbourhood watches, residents' representative groups, student events and specific health groups including dementia awareness and carers support. As a result of supporting these events, follow-up home and business security surveys have been conducted to offer bespoke crime prevention advice.

In Hagley, residents of a small housing development in an isolated lane became subject of anti-social behaviour from groups gathering in the lane at night, some intimidation resulted and tension was significant. Working with the ward member and the police, the Project Officer brought together relevant agencies to look at physical measures that could contribute to a solution. A site meeting with all parties carried out to reassure residents their concerns were taken seriously and positive links were established. The issue was resolved through collaborative effort without significant capital outlay, which was initially under consideration.

In the Lowes Hill Ward, a group of individuals established themselves on a route used by school and college pupils and significant anti-social behaviour was reported to be taking place including litter, graffiti and drug dealing. There was a clear risk to young people and the resident's quality of life was seriously affected. The Project Officer conducted a crime reduction site survey and a number of environmental and

physical alterations were identified to discourage the anti-social activity. A site meeting was arranged with the relevant partners and actions identified and tasked. Unfortunately, this project is on-going with the Project Officer investing considerable effort to ensure the environmental conditions enabling the anti-social activity are removed. Various barriers to progress on this project have been escalated to senior managers within partner agencies in order to progress actions as quickly as possible.

In Tardebigge, anti-social behaviour including open water swimming during the summer holiday was affecting recreational users of the reservoir and creating an increased risk of drowning at the location. Working with the water bailiff, a safety review was conducted at the location and an emergency services response exercise carried out. Plans to address any recurrence of this issue in the event of hot weather in the summer months are currently under consideration.

The Project Officer also responds to ad hoc calls from residents expressing concern about all aspects of crime, ASB and community safety issues in their local area. He offers appropriate advice, facilitates contact with other agencies and provides crime prevention support as necessary.

Town Centres Management Group

Led by Cheryl Welsh, the Bromsgrove Town Centres Manager, the group works closely with the Community Safety Project Officer and brings together the Police, Licensees, Businesses, Licensing Officers and Place Teams to identify community safety issues, particularly around the Night Time Economy. The group has successfully revitalised the local Pub Watch group, developing and modernising its practices and promoting the use of online information sharing platforms. These platforms allow the police, licensed premises and businesses to share crime prevention information and intelligence with other members in a confidential manner. The group reports to Safer Bromsgrove as a sub-group but also has a dual function of improving and encouraging footfall in the Town Centres as part of the Council's Economic Development and Regeneration Strategy.

The group has initiated a 'Best Bar None' Scheme within the Town Centre licensed sector. This national scheme seeks to raise standards, using a process of accreditation to help licensed premises to avoid crime and disorder problems and promote themselves as safe and attractive venues for all customers.

The group commissioned the Project Officer to conduct a crime prevention review of the Town Centre retail area to assess the security of the retail units. This was as a result of sporadic problems experienced by businesses including burglary and youths accessing the roof areas. The review identified significant security gaps and key responsibilities for individual tenants and property owners. These are being raised directly with premises owners for them to action.

Nominated Neighbour Scheme

In 2017, Worcestershire Trading Standards approached the West Mercia Police & Crime Commissioner requesting support in closing an “intelligence gap” between the Police and Trading Standards relating to doorstep crime.

In support of this work the PCC offered funding to NWCSP to address doorstep crime issues, encompassing distraction burglary, rogue trading and door to door high-pressure selling. In Bromsgrove and Redditch a “Nominated Neighbour Scheme” was developed, to respond to these particular threats relating to elderly and vulnerable residents.

The scheme involves the Council Community Safety team and partner agencies working with communities and local groups to identify those who may be vulnerable to door step crime offences and implement the Nominated Neighbour scheme with them. When identified, the Nominated Neighbour of a vulnerable resident agrees to check the identity of any cold callers to the address. The cold caller will be directed to attend the Nominated Neighbour’s address for their identity and purpose of visit to be confirmed. The caller is directed to the Nominated Neighbour by the resident providing written instructions through the letterbox without opening the door. A window sticker is also put in place advising any callers that their identity will be checked on approach. This in itself is an effective deterrent to any would-be offenders.

The scheme has also become part of the Police Economic Crime Unit’s prevention strategy for door step crime offences.

Bromsgrove & Redditch Schools Respect Programme

The Respect programme continues to be successful providing whole day awareness sessions as part of school drop down days, it also provides bespoke classroom sessions on a number of subjects such as recognising and reporting hate crime, understanding healthy relationships and domestic abuse, the dangers of substance misuse and promoting respect and community responsibility. The project also provides one to one mentoring sessions to individual students who are felt to be at risk of becoming involved in crime and ASB or are at risk of becoming victims of crime.

The last school year saw the following:

- **1,234 students receive community safety information during school PHSE lessons and drop down days across Bromsgrove and Redditch**
- **92 students were referred for 1 to 1 support through therapeutic mentoring sessions**
- **55 students received information via targeted small group workshops**
- **36 students took part in the nationally recognised CRUSH Programme, a young people’s Domestic Abuse awareness course created and accredited by Women’s Aid.**

Bromsgrove Youth and Community Hub

This is a project which has been led by Safer Bromsgrove, YMCA, Parenting and Family Support and Bromsgrove Baptist Church. The idea for the project came from a community safety drop down day with students at North Bromsgrove High School. The young people stated that they felt there were not enough places where young people could meet up and feel like they belonged. After further consultation with other young people in Bromsgrove, this idea was developed further.

The basement of the Baptist Church on New Road was identified as a suitable location for a new youth venue and funding was obtained to support the refurbishment costs of the venue. Safer Bromsgrove allocated £20,000 of its reserves to support the setting up of the project and in May 2018, a Youth and Community Hub Project Manager was appointed.

Safe Place Scheme

The Safe Place Scheme is a CSP supported scheme that was set up by Our Way Self Advocacy in Wyre Forest in 2014. The scheme is now operating across Worcestershire and it offers vulnerable people a safe place to go if they have a problem or concern when out and about in the town centres. All Safe Places are identified by a Safe Place sticker and staff receive training, so that they are able to give reassurance and help people contact appropriate support, if needed. A directory of the Safe Places in Bromsgrove and across the county is available at www.ourway.org.uk/safe-place-scheme/ and there is also a free Safe Place Scheme app available for mobile phones. Downloads of "My Town Worcestershire" from the App Store, will show you your nearest "Safe Place" and can guide you to it via Google Maps.

Community Safety teams in Worcestershire work in partnership with West Mercia Police and Our Way Self Advocacy to support, develop and maintain the scheme across the county. A Bromsgrove Community Safety Project Officer was instrumental in supporting the roll out of the scheme across the county and led on the development of the Mobile Phone App that is also shared and supported by the Bromsgrove Street Pastors.

Hate Crime Awareness Week

As part of national Hate Crime Awareness Week in October and using funding provided by the PCC, North Worcestershire Hate Incident Partnership organised a number of community engagement events across the districts. Locally, an awareness stand was set up in Bromsgrove High Street and a Street Theatre Company was commissioned to engage with residents through a number of thought provoking performances.

Over 270 information bags were handed out and Residents felt comfortable approaching the stand and engaging with performers and staff to find out more about hate crime. In some instances, people also offered their own personal experiences of how they had been a victimised and how services could be improved. Information was displayed in public areas across the town and press releases were sent to the

local papers. The events were also promoted via relevant Twitter and Facebook pages.

Community Engagement

Last year, Community Safety Project Officers attended a considerable number of events in order to speak to local residents, provide crime prevention advice and raise awareness of community safety campaigns. During a 12 month period, Project Officers estimated speaking to over 205 people in Bromsgrove at various events; for example, Older People's forums, sheltered housing schemes, Neighbourhood Watch & Parish Council events, White Ribbon campaign stands, dementia awareness events and Christmas crime prevention events. Purse bells, chains and cables; personal attack alarms and shed alarms remain popular items, which are useful as methods of engagement to encourage residents to discuss personal and home security and to encourage them to take a more active part in minimising their vulnerability to crime. 98 people received Home Security information and guidance, 198 people received personal safety information. 12 people received Home Security works at their properties and 152 people reported that they felt safer as a result of Community Safety intervention..