



Council Briefing Note 15 November 2023

**PLACE PORTFOLIO –
COUNCILLOR SHERON WILKIE**

Planning Services

Significant service achievements since last Council meeting:

- Two temporary enforcement officers are now in post which will work to reduce the backlog of enforcement cases

Strategic or significant operational matters which your service would like full Council to be aware of:

- Dacorum continuing to work with other Herts authorities (and wider host authorities as relevant) on specific matters. Key milestone to note deadline 5 on 14 Nov and second round of hearings taking place at the end of November. Matters coming up include, Traffic/transport, Environmental matters & Green Controlled growth and Draft DCO
- Work progresses on the new Dacorum Local Plan the new timetable agreed unanimously at full Council and to go ahead with a regulation consultation
- Consultation is live and closes 11:59pm on 11 December, face to face events will be held throughout the consultation period
- The Dacorum Task and Finish group will be set up with political balance of 3 LD, 2 Conservative and 1 Labour representative
- St Albans Regulation 18 consultation initial report will go to their committee and we continue to engage of duty to co-operate matters
- The revised South West Herts Joint Strategic Plan Vision and Objectives were supported by all six Local Authorities via their committee approvals
- Work will start on the Local Cycle Walking Implementation Plan, initial meeting Monday 8 Jan 2024 also marks the start of 4 week consultation to understand where it is good and not so good to walk and cycle across the borough, to understand a base level of information from the community

Hemel Garden Communities

Significant service achievements since last Council meeting:

- The HGC Health and wellbeing survey closed end of October and received over 500 response which highlighted residents interest in active and sustainable travel, the importance of open space and access to primary healthcare. Full details will be available in due course.
- Ribbon cutting event held 2nd November to celebrate the completion of the Grand Union Canal resurfacing works between Nash Mills and Kings Langley.
- Solar Bulk Buy 2023 closed at the end of October – note, I think Cllr England has included this in his update.

Place and Enterprise

Significant service achievements since last Council meeting:

- Two successful Velodrome events were held on the Market Square in Hemel Hempstead over the summer, funded through UKSPF funding. Additional activities provided by the BID were also funded as part of their summer activities.

Strategic or significant operational matters which your service would like full Council to be aware of:

- Maylands Masterplan work is now underway involving our consultants Cushman and Wakefield, our key partners St Albans City and District Council, Herts County Council and Hertfordshire Innovation Quarter. The outputs will be a long term strategy for the next stages in Maylands' development; an Immediate Opportunity Plan and a Design Code.
- Following approval by Cabinet of the UKSPF Investment Plan proposals, due diligence on applicants was undertaken. Successful bidders have been notified of conditional award of funding with some follow up due diligence being undertaken on two applications. Officers continue to follow government governance reporting requirements.
- This year's Dacorum's Den awards took place on 3 November 2023. Pitch presentations completed 6th October 2023 – 11 businesses (one no-show); Judges awarded 10 business grants up to max £2,000 each. Total £13,500 awarded.
- Arrangements have been put in place for Christmas lights across the Borough with switch on events for Marlowes, Hemel Old Town, Tring and Berkhamsted and for some of the neighbourhood centres. Christmas trees have also been ordered for some locations and options for additional attractions are being considered.

Communities Arts and Culture

Significant service achievements since last Council meeting:

KEY STATS THIS MONTH	
• Wake up and Dance engagement no's	291
• Let's Dance (in Supported Housing) engagement no's	100
• Recycling competition and event engagement	*1500 approx. in total (350-400 in person / 1117 online)
• Planet Munch 'Healthy Eating' Puppet Project	300 schoolchildren

Recycling competition and event – Recycle Week 2023

- Successfully delivered recycled sculptures competition and Recycle Week event involving 11 DBC, community and business partners and 6 schools/youth groups.
- Engagement figures above*

Dance Relgnite <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Planning started for the Dance Relgnite project funded by Arts Council England in partnership with Watford, Three Rivers, Welwyn and St Albans districts.• The project involves community participants working with a visual and performance artist to create a show and workshops to tour to community groups and venues in 2024• Meetings with 2 local artists took place in October with creative planning and prep sessions starting in November
Nothing On Earth – theatre and film project celebrating inspiring women in Dacorum and their lives. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Currently arranging to screen films in the Supported Housing Schemes involved in the project in November (Emma Rothschild Court and William Crook House)• The official launch of film will take place on 5th December with an event planned at Uni of Herts.

Adventure Playgrounds

<p>Bennetts End</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Together Fund – 12 week Sports Programme commenced – The playground is now working in partnership with the Health & inequalities Lead Officer to support local residents from Ethnic minority groups to help tackle obesity and physical health. Flyers have been translated and distributed to schools and via contacts within certain minority communities. The programme has 4 sessions left and is well attended, the children are developing new skills through a range of activities and more importantly keeping fit, which contributes to their emotional wellbeing.
<p>Bennetts End</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Shelter Project (Bennetts End) This has now been installed and post installation checks completed. The shelter is now open for use and has been very much welcomed by playground users who are using it for its intended purpose which is to use the shelter as safe space to meet friends and socialise away from the streets, which also allows for a variety of play types and skill development, such as communication skills. We still have some of the funds left for which we are looking into installing a Bluetooth system, so that the children can play music. Building life chances funding management team may be visiting the site to look at the youth shelter and to find out how it's making a difference in the local community.
<p>Adeyfield & Bennetts End</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We continue to work on an inclusion project to help break down cultural barriers for three of the major ethnic groups in Bennetts End and Adeyfield in order to support obesity and physical health. • Meeting arranged with Helen Roe-Wotton to look at projects to support Ethnic minority groups in the New Year.
<p>Adeyfield</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adeyfeld APG has been in touch with Carers in Herts with a view to starting a new project to help support children who are going through a tough time, or who may have caring responsibilities, so that they can come and make use of our facilities. We want to be able to give children and young people the opportunity to be themselves for a couple of hours a week and remember what being a child is all about, and hopefully meet other children going through the same kinds of issues. The idea is to have someone onsite that children can talk to if they need to disclose anything, or just want to some support. This has already been met with support from the Youth Engagement Lead at HCC and they have offered their support in trying to get this project off the ground.
<p>Grovehill APG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grovehill Adventure Playground has a new football session running, one on a Tuesday this is working with Healthy U and providing girls football. These session now have around 30 young girl from age ranges of 8-12. Five space have been taken up from the APG. They would like to add another session on a Thursday for older girls this is in the planning stage • A new session has been booked in for a Thursday the first session will start November this again will be girls only football but for an older age range.

Old Town Hall

KEY STATS THIS MONTH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oct 2023 Occupancy – Without Cinema 81% (20 performances) - With Cinema 60% (27 performances)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oct 2023 Ticket Sales – Without Cinema £16,385 (20 performances) - With Cinema £17,009 (27 performances)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oct 2023 Bar Sales - £3,355
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oct 2023 Customer Satisfaction – 98% Excellent/Good
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oct 2023 Value for Money – 89% Excellent/Very Good

PROJECT	STATUS
<p>A new venue management system and pre order/ticket dispatch system being investigated</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two systems, YesPlan and CrowdEngage are being investigated for their usefulness to the venue. • CrowdEngage is a mobile ticket and pre order system used by the RSC and The Bridge theatre to improve customer interaction and increase sales 	Ongoing

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YesPlan is a venue management system that allows for smooth operation of the venue, including but not limited to performance/hire diary, contract creation, staff management, financial reporting etc • ICT sign off complete • Awaiting Commercial Board review 	
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Health

KEY STATS THIS MONTH	
➤ 615 people, across 4 GP surgeries, applied for a space on the September Shape Up courses	
➤ £5k additional funding has been secured from HCC for further work with Bikes Without Barriers	
➤ £3k funding from NHS has been secured to produce the recipe book and outdoor cooking session detailed below	
➤ Q2 (July-September 2023) shows we have supported 555 residents with a health and wellbeing issue	

PROJECT	STATUS
<p><u>Bikes without Barriers</u> The project DBC funded has now been completed – we were very pleased with the results, as were HCC, stats were on Sept update.</p> <p>HCC have funded £5k to further this work – we have met with BWB and are looking to use this money to commission some work with younger children as well as adults. BWB also plan to use some money from schools. The final proposal is currently being developed and we should have it by the end of the month.</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>Progressing</p>
<p><u>Shape Up</u> – 7 cohorts of 12 week fitness and nutrition courses run by Watford Football Club’s Community Sports and Education Trust , commissioned by DBC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was overwhelming demand for the 2nd and 3rd cohorts (one for men and one for women) with over 615 applicants (many multiple applicants taking the gross figure to over 1,000) across 4 surgeries. Some of these applicants were directed by the NHS Health and Wellbeing Coaches. • 2nd and 3rd cohorts commenced on 27th Sept. There are still issues with attendance and retention which we are working on with the Trust. • A comprehensive Lessons Learnt exercise took place after the 1st cohort (men) ended due to the disappointing numbers of participants completing the course. Measures have included; utilising a more personal ‘touch’, over subscribing and having a reserve list. • Further work has taken place including looking at an alternative venue and introducing a pre-course session to allow participants to see the venue beforehand, talk to the team etc. • To ensure compliance with the SLA, DBC have worked with Shape Up and they will be putting on an additional cohort, at their expense. • We are working with Herts Sports Partnership to create a directory of physical activity for the unsuccessful applicants as well as those who complete the programme so they can continue with their fitness journey. • We will retain the details of the existing applicants for the remaining cohorts we have commissioned as well as continuing to take names from the NHS Health and Wellbeing Coaches rather than texting all patients again. 	<p>In progress</p>