

## **Housing & Health Advisory Committee**

**1 December 2015**

### **Portfolio Holders Report**

#### **Housing**

Attended many meetings with West Kent Housing Association regarding anti-social behaviour and have been working with officers to devise strategies to clamp down on it. These will come forward for discussion by members at the strategy workshops.

Attended the West Kent Housing Association annual liaison meeting on Thursday 8 October, where I raised with members of the Board and senior management team SDC's desire to see them introduce fixed term tenancy agreements. The government is looking at forcing fixed term tenancies anyway – so this battle will probably be won by them.

Working closely with the Housing Team to plan the new Housing Strategy Workshops to be held later this evening and then to pull members ideas together into our new strategy. This is quite exciting we haven't undertaken brain storming before with Members and this will produce a joined up Housing Strategy capturing all the local issues.

Working with Cllr Pearsall on monitoring the new Housing and Planning Bill and have been writing to DCLG ministers with any comments or ideas (first letter attached).

Meeting with the two Sevenoaks MPS: Michael Fallon and Tom Tugendhat to update them on the strategy and raise our concerns with the new Housing & Planning Bill. As Gary Johnson only has one ward in the District I will update him by email.

Pav Pamewal and Pat Smith met with representatives from DCLG on 2 November and raised all our housing issues again. We will use all communication channels to make sure our voice is heard by DCLG.

We will be hosting a Housing Forum in the Spring to launch our new Housing Strategy and showcase our achievements such as HERO. WE have a commitment from DCLG Minister: Marcus Jones to attend but no fixed date yet.

Will be attending the No Use Empty Conference at KCC tomorrow (2 December)

#### **Health and Leisure**

I have had to stand down as a Trustee for Sencio as there is a conflict of interest with me as the Portfolio Holder. Cllr Pat Bosley agreed to replace me. This will keep the link between Housing, Health and Leisure.

Cllr Horwood, Deputy Portfolio Holder and Lead member on Leisure will be working with officers to devise a new Leisure strategy with members for the District to help us make better decision regarding Whiteoak, Wildernesse and other leisure issues.

Had numerous meetings about Wildernesse and the state that KCC are leaving leisure facilities there as a result of the building works for Trinity School and now the new Grammar annexe.

Working very closely with the SDC Health Board, chaired by Cllr Pat Bosley (who attends Portfolio Holder Briefings), in order to tie together all the health initiatives across the District.

Attended a *Why Weight* session with Cllr Pat Bosley, Cllr Faye Parkin and Cllr Larry Abraham on 9 October to see how public health funded initiatives work in practice and whether they provide value for money.

Met with Andrew Scott Clark (in charge of public health across the county) on 2 October. Public health funding is being cut and KCC are looking at different ways to achieve health outcomes. KCC will be putting together public health deals with each district that will replace current arrangements in the Autumn 2016. SDC are looking to put together a holistic deal using all our tools as the main strategy and health programmes (where they can be externally funded or run for free) to support the strategy.

Met with Maria Heslop, Portfolio Holder for Health at Tonbridge and Malling, on 24 November.

We will be appointing a Mental Health Ambassador who will be either a member of this committee or the Health Board. They will report back either directly to this committee or indirectly through the Health Board.

Cllr Faye Parkin, Deputy Cabinet member and lead member for health, attended the Domestic Abuse and Substance Misuse conferences to see the overlaps with health and how the council can develop a more holistic approach to tackling these issues.

In conjunction with the Health Liaison Board we have devised the following three health priorities for this District and will be looking into a holistic approach (using all the District's tools: Housing, licensing, planning, EH, leisure, Communications as well as various programmes) to tackle them:

- Tackling the rise of obesity (District's tools, communications and programmes)
- Mental health support including tackling dementia (Housing, Health & leisure)
- Communities for older people and tackling prevention of dementia development (Housing, health, leisure and community safety – including road safety)