

## **Housing & Community Safety Advisory Committee**

**26 March 2015**

### **Portfolio Holders Report**

#### **Housing Strategy/Policy and Housing needs**

I met with Berkeley Homes to see proposals for the new development at 98-116 London Road and to argue you a case for more affordable homes. The previous application had 11 affordable homes agreed, with the new application down to zero, with the developer claiming viability due to issues such as the new underground car park.

I attended the Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH) South East's Housing Conference in Brighton with the Chief Housing Officer: Pat Smith on Wednesday 4 March.

The Landlords Forum was held on Monday 23 March. Private landlords are increasing becoming an important way for the District to provide accommodation for people and avoiding Bed and Breakfast.

Attended the Ryewood (West Kent Cold Store) topping out ceremony on Tuesday 24 March.

There is a possibility that HERO could be replicated in Medway.

We have drafted a letter, that the Leader has signed, and we have sent it to the government to ask if Sevenoaks can be exempted from the recent planning regulations that will seriously impact on our affordable housing contributions.

#### **Community Safety**

Positive press coverage was achieved in the Sevenoaks Chronicle as a result of the Council's e-safety poster competition that was aimed at Key Stage 2 (ages 7 to 11) children across the district. Over 100 entries were received that were split into two age groups: 7 and 8 years; and 9 to 11 years old. The judges consisted of the Council's Chairman: Cllr Jill Davison, the Youth Police & Crime Commissioner: Kerry Boyd and the Editor of the Sevenoaks Chronicle: Gabriel Shepherd.

Prizes were awarded by the Council Chairman and Youth Police & Crime Commissioner on Safer Internet Day itself (Tuesday 10 February) and coverage followed on Thursday 12 February.

Les Ayres and I represented the District Council at Kent Police's E-Safety workshop on Tuesday 3 March.

#### **Environmental Health/Licensing**

The number of abandoned dogs finding their way into the council's kennels is increasing. SDC are trying to combat this by offering pet micro-chipping for just £10 so that dogs can be returned to their owners much faster.

#### **Youth**

Responded with local members to the proposed closure of the Furness School in Swanley.

Taken an active part in the Girl Guiding's 'Girls Matter – Hear our Voice' campaign to encourage young women to involve themselves in this year's elections. Spoke at Brownie, Guide and Senior Section meetings about politics, the role of politicians and the importance of women taking part.

Brownies took part in a debate in the SDC Council Chamber on Monday 2 March with live Tweets from their PR officer and a written account which will be posted up on their blog.