

## **Housing & Health Advisory Committee**

**29 November 2016**

### **Portfolio Holders Report**

#### **Housing**

We commissioned Arc4 to conduct our housing survey and they were posted to every household in the district during early November. Hopefully we will have a high response rate as the higher it is the more accurate the results. As you know the results from this will feed into our housing strategy and new local plan.

Mike Williams and I met with civil servants from the DWP in Wednesday 9 November to discuss the possibility of developing Pocket HERO in partnership with them. Pocket HERO is a mobile phone app version of our HERO service to help people manage benefit changes. The meeting seemed to go well and DWP said they would be in touch.

#### **Health & Leisure**

I have been invited to become the Chairman of the District Councils Network (DCN) Healthy Towns and Villages Network; as well as being a member of the DCN task force. I attended a meeting of the task force on 11 November.

I attended a breastfeeding drop in session at Spring House on Thursday 13 October to see how staff and volunteers encourage and support breastfeeding mothers. Breastfeeding mothers are still coming across unwelcome organisations that ask them to leave even though this is illegal. We thought that having a family friendly community award would help to reward a family friendly organisation while helping to raise awareness of this important issue.

On 4 November I visited South Norfolk District Council along with Peter Fleming and Lesley Bowles. They shared how they refurbished one of their leisure centres, how they have built more affordable homes than any other council in the country and information about their property company. It was very useful.

Thanks to councillors and officers (particularly Hayley and Anton) this council won the most dementia friendly organisation in Kent at the Kent wards.