

Partnership Briefing



Welcome to the first edition of 'Partnership Briefing', produced by Epping Forest LSP to keep partnership members and local stakeholders up to date with the key decisions and the general work of the partnership. Issue Number One has been produced following the LSP Board meeting on 9th June.

Board meetings go live online

As part of its commitment to openness, transparency and increasing accountability, the LSP now provides live webcasts of its Board meetings. Copies of Board agenda and minutes are also available on the council's website www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk

Residents give their views on life in Epping Forest

The initial results of a large survey of over 1,300 local residents, commissioned by the LSP and the District Council, were reported to an audience of LSP Board Members and District Council Members and Officers on 9th June. Residents' views were sought on satisfaction with the area as a place to live, with 87% of residents describing themselves as satisfied. Topping their list of priority areas for improvement, were repairs to roads and pavements, activities for teenagers and traffic congestion. Residents were also quizzed about their overall satisfaction with a wide range of public services in the district, including council and health services.

MORE INFO - Contact Val Loftis 01992 564471

Work on new Sustainable Community Strategy gets underway

A programme to develop a new long term vision and strategic plan to improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of Epping Forest residents has been given the green light by the LSP. The new Sustainable Community Strategy will replace the one developed in 2003 and, when complete, will guide the work of the LSP collectively and the work of the partners individually over the next ten years. The Strategy will be produced following extensive public consultation and a review of the most up to date data and trends information showing how the district is changing.

MORE INFO - Contact John Houston 01992 564094

Plans to better join up public services debated

The LSP has approved further work to examine the joining up and better coordination of services in the Epping Forest area. New plans to establish a single Citizens' Panel, which would be a primary consultation vehicle for all the LSP partners, are to be investigated. The Citizens' Panel would see over 1000 residents recruited as a standing pool of consultees who would give their opinions and suggestions to help improve public services or to set new priorities. The full Citizens' Panel would be balanced to make sure it was representative of the district as a whole, and members would agree to take part in a range of consultative activities, from postal surveys to focus groups. This could be a more efficient and effective way for all the local agencies to coordinate and manage their existing consultation programmes and spending. If enough partners agree to support the new Panel, it could be established by the end of the year. Further work on a similar proposal to establish a single partnership magazine has also been approved. This would be sent to every home in the district giving residents key information on the services and plans of each of the partners. It is hoped that this will give residents a more complete picture of activity in the District, enhance accountability and be a much more efficient use of public funds than each agency acting in isolation.

MORE INFO - Contact John Houston 01992 564094

Making our Communities Safer

The Safer Communities Partnership, part of Epping Forest LSP, is making good progress in tackling crime in our district. Monitoring reports presented to the LSP Board show improvement in a number of key categories, including assault with injury (down 16%), criminal damage (down 18%) and wounding (down 11%), with overall crime (May 2008 to April 2009) down by 8% (658 Crimes). As well as coordinating the anti-crime initiatives of a wide range of partners, the team continues to run a number of successful targeted programmes with young people such as Crucial Crew and Reality Roadshow.

MORE INFO - Contact Caroline Wiggins 01992 564122

Tackling the Credit Crunch locally

A new LSP Task and Finish Team has been established to find out how the recession is impacting locally bringing together representatives from local business, statutory agencies and the voluntary sector. It aims to compile a list of the full range of services that are available to help local people, identify any gaps in provision, and where possible, develop new initiatives to address them. The Team has given an initial report to the LSP Board setting out the results of its first meetings. Data from Jobcentre Plus, groups such as the Citizens Advice Bureau and Epping Forest College are helping show what's happening on the ground. Plans have now been drawn up to quickly produce a 'signposting' information leaflet which will help people find out the full list of help available and enable them to contact service providers at the earliest opportunity.

MORE INFO - Contact Chris Overend 01992 564247

LAA Projects get up and running

Progress on two of the schemes which are being supported by some of the £450,000 of Local Area Agreement funding

secured by the LSP from April 2009 to address key issues locally has been reported to the Board. Enhanced CCTV and programmes to tackle burglary and make people feel safer are central to the community safety initiatives which Caroline Wiggins reported on. Initial work on projects to tackle transport difficulties for key groups was the subject of an update given by Angela Canham.

MORE INFO - Contact Caroline Wiggins 01992 564122 or Angela Canham 01992 564409

Children's and Young Peoples' Strategic Partnerships (CYPSP) to be reviewed

Plans to potentially change how services for children and young people are organised in Epping Forest were discussed by the LSP Board. Some concerns were raised about the loss of influence of local groups and schools and potential reductions in funding if the CYPSP moves from solely covering Epping Forest to a West Essex model. Groups and individuals across the county are currently being given an opportunity to comment on the future of CYPSPs as part of a wide ranging consultation programme, and comments are welcomed.

MORE INFO - Contact Lonica Vanclay 07920 466967

