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Issue 3

Partnership Briefing

A Newsletter from your Local Strategic Partnership



Sustainable Community Strategy

The first Sustainable Community Strategy for the district was written in 2003 and is now in the process of being refreshed. The new Strategy will be a plan for the district covering the next 15 – 20 years. Data from three sources will be used as a basis for the Strategy, over arching district wide data from partners showing how the area is changing, public views and priorities, and detailed data from each electoral ward. A draft revised Strategy will be released in March for final consultation by the One Epping Forest Board in February with the aim of having the new Sustainable Community Strategy in place by June.

Set out below are some of the events and activities that have helped shape the emerging document

Stakeholder Conference

The One Epping Forest Annual Stakeholder Conference took place on 11 December at Theydon Bois Village Hall. This years event had the key theme of helping the partnership to refresh the district's Sustainable Community Strategy. This was a very successful event with an attendance of more than 100 people and stalls showcasing the work of 15 local

www.oneeppingforest.org.uk. In addition 32 ward profiles with useful data driven down to ward level have been published and they are available on the Mini Observatory at

http://www.oneeppingforest.org.uk/MiniObs_Main.html

Delegates were then split into the following six workshops to discuss issues concerning each of the session topics - Building Safer Communities, Tackling Health Inequalities, Meeting the Housing Challenge, Building Better Futures for our Young People, Developing Prosperous Local Economies, Meeting the Environmental Challenge and Building a Greener District

Each group fed back the results of their discussion to all the delegates and the event was rounded off with a lively question time session. The event was the largest of its kind organised by the partnership and was well received by the majority of delegates.

Your Voice Matters - Community Consultation

The Community Consultation is now complete and the results are being analysed in detail. The consultation was run by Voluntary Action Epping Forest with



organisations. The day got off to an energetic start with an excellent dance display from the Groovy Movers dancers of Alderton Junior School.

Following an introduction from Cllr Diana Collins (Chairman – One Epping Forest) John Houston (Manager – One Epping Forest) gave a presentation reviewing the activity of the partnership over the last year. Catherine O'Connor (Director – NHS West Essex) then set the scene for further discussion by presenting a profile of the district. This set out the initial analysis of the feedback from the public consultation and data pulled together from all the partners showing the factors generating and sustaining change in the district. All delegates received a copy of 'Shaping the Future' a 59 page data picture of the district, which is also available on

financial support from Essex County Council and took place at the end of last year. Questionnaire leaflets were distributed across the district at tube stations, local markets and high streets and over 800 were returned. The aim of the consultation was to find out from residents and stakeholders their priorities for the partnership to address in both the short and longer term. Residents' top two priorities by quite a big margin are dealing with crime and fear of crime, and action to protect and enhance the green and unique character of the area. Looking further forward concerns about the environment, carbon emissions, and preserving the green heritage of the district dominate. Local groups including schools and pensioners were also consulted and these views have

also been fed in to the report. There was also an opportunity for local residents to record their views of the district in video form. This is available for viewing by following the link below or visiting the One Epping Forest website

[Your Voice Matters Video](#)

Future Jobs Fund Success

The application by the West Essex Partnership, which includes One Epping Forest, Harlow 20/20 and Uttlesford Futures, to the Future Jobs Fund was successful and the first young people have already taken up their new placements. This was one of only two bids from the Eastern Region that were approved by Central Government in November. The West Essex scheme will eventually offer up to 160 work placements to young, long term, unemployed people from the area, and involves over 30 local employers who have come together under the umbrella of the local partnership. This will bring in over £1,000,000 of external support much of it helping to provide additional capacity with local voluntary and community groups. The Department of Work and Pensions has recently approached the West Essex Partnership to

Epping Forest Mini Observatory Launched

Epping Forest Mini Observatory

A key message that we have been given by our partners is the need to share information better and help support those local groups bidding for money or planning services, to access good quality data. To achieve this the partnership has just launched a Mini Observatory.

This brings together for the first time in one place a wide range of data about the area and our people, including demographic facts, survey results, information about crime, and health and profiles of each of the 32 Wards in the district. This is a pilot project at the moment and we would very much welcome your views. You can find the Mini Observatory at

http://www.oneeppingforest.org.uk/MiniObs_Main.html



begin discussions around a major expansion of the programme locally, and these investigations are ongoing. Further details can be found on the West Essex Partnership page of the One Epping Forest website at

http://www.oneeppingforest.org.uk/WEP_Main.html

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