

## **Cabinet Member update**

### **ECD PDS Panel**

**Cllr Dixon**

#### **1. CONNECTING COMMUNITIES**

We recently held an event to which PDS Chairs and Vice Chairs were invited to look at how we can better work with communities to get things done “on the ground”. We found there were a lot of really useful projects happening across the area ranging from snow wardens to “In Bloom” many of which members are involved in. **Community@67** from Keynsham gave a presentation on how they had developed their project to serve a local community. Key points coming out were

- How to share this good practice
- How to work within Bath where there are no parishes
- How the Council and public services can get closer to communities- eg through the employee volunteering scheme

The aim is to create better support in localities without creating a bureaucratic structure. A number of ideas have been considered such as social media and building on initiatives such as the Student Community Partnership and Bath City Conference.

We will be doing more work with our community on this and are aiming for a report to May Cabinet- how would this Panel like to be involved?

#### **2. ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE**

The Panel has received a number of reports in the last year or so on how this scheme will work.


The Council has recently placed the first Asset of Community Value on its local list- the **Packhorse Inn** in South Stoke. The nomination was made by South Stoke Parish Council. The key points are:


- Although the pub is not currently open, it had been in use recently and had provided social uses such as for police surgeries and local meetings.
- There was strong local support for the contribution the asset had made to local social wellbeing
- It was considered realistic by the Council to think that in the next five years it could be used again to promote local social wellbeing.

A related item- **the Bell** in Walcot has launched a share issue in a bid to bring the pub into community ownership.

A website is also being prepared (screenshot below) which sets out clearly how the new community rights and other tools can be used by communities to get things done

**I want to...**

**Protect a local community building** 




There are many ways you can help keep valued local facilities such as pubs, shops or halls. These include:

- Increasing use so the service can remain viable
- Holding community events- for example to raise funds
- Bringing in more volunteers

There is also the option of nominating a local asset to be on the Register of Assets of Community Value.

[See resources](#)

**Influence local services**




There are many ways you can work to improve or change a valued local service. These include:

- Contacting the service directly to suggest changes- if you aren't sure who that is, the Policy and Partnerships team can help put you in touch with the right person
- Work within the community to get what you need- eg through litter-clearing events
- Working with Parish and Town councils

[See resources](#)

**Get help for a community group**



There are many types of help that benefit a local community group. These include:

- Volunteering to be involved in running the group or taking part in its work
- Identifying potential funding- sometimes small amount can make a difference

*Planning ahead for the future*

### 3. POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER- PLANS AND FUNDING

The PCC recently consulted on two Plans- one for the force area and one for B&NES. Our response has focused on ensuring the diverse needs of our area are fully reflected, for example

- Bath – a reminder that this is the second biggest city in Avon and Somerset with a vibrant city centre that is an international visitor attraction
- Villages and market towns- reflecting local concerns such as speeding traffic, Anti Social Behaviour etc (see report on CAP below)

Members will also be aware that all Government funding to Councils for Community Safety is ceasing from 1<sup>st</sup> April. Instead a new fund is going to Police and Crime Commissioners some of which is being allocated back to local partnerships. The PCC has now broadly decided how this fund is to be allocated (although there are still some final decisions to be made in relation to substance misuse funds), and there is a reduced amount for B&NES compared to last year (£86,000 to £60,000).

The Council has been preparing for some time for these expected reductions through planned efficiencies in community safety as well as staff reductions. We have also secured Police agreement to funding the ASB team and the PCC has agreed that Independent Sexual Violence Advisers (based in Bristol and who help victims of sexual assault from our area) will be funded centrally by the Police from now on.

As a result of these measures we are able to use the funding available to support victims of domestic violence and hate crime and to help young people particularly with substance misuse. We need to be aware however that next year this funding is rolled in with all Police funding so we need to ensure we are flexible.

#### **4. MIDSOMER NORTON COMMUNITY ALCOHOL PARTNERSHIP**

The **Designated Public Places** Order has now been agreed by the Licensing Committee and will become operational once the formal order is published and “sealed” and signs are put up in the street. This will happen very shortly

The CAP has also led to **Street Marshalls in Midsomer Norton**

- 2 Marshalls operate 10pm-3am Friday/Saturday
- They are linked to the CCTV control room
- They are jointly funded by Midsomer Norton Town Council and B&NES to 1<sup>st</sup> April
- We understand that Midsomer Norton will pick up funding from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 (NB- not yet formally confirmed)

The marshalls, as in Bath, provide reassurance and tackle lower-level issues before they can escalate. One positive is that the marshalls have noted generally good street environment/cleanliness- this had been a previous concern in the area.

Here is a summary of an incident from the Marshalls' log of Saturday 8 December 2012, at 10.10pm to give a flavour of the work

**Marshalls attended the triangle area as there had been a report of youths making excess noise in the area outside of elderly persons' home. The young people were gathered around a car: the marshalls requested that they move away as there had been a complaint from the residents about the noise. The young people apologised and started to move on.**

## **5. PUBLIC PROTECTION**

River Safety - We are working with RoSPA who are producing the report that they have been commissioned for the stretch of river from Pulteney Weir to Windsor Bridge. A workshop is being organised with key stakeholders for RoSPA to report back.

## **6. LEISURE STRATEGY**

With a new strategic director due to join the Council shortly we have decided that it would be more worthwhile holding back for the strategy so that the new director can have an input.

The recent Prior Information Notice attract a wide range of interest with over 15 different operators expressing interest in running our various leisure facilities in Bath and North East Somerset.

## **7. LIBRARIES**

It is a very exciting time for our library service, we have three new community libraries due to open very soon in Chew Stoke, Larkhall and Combe Hay. The new Paulton Hub has also progress extremely well and we hope to have an opening date for that soon. The levels of interest from volunteers has been very good and the capacity that will be freed up as a result of these new facilities will influence the new mobile library timetable.