

Cabinet Member update for the Economic and Community Development PDS Panel on 13th March

Councillor David Dixon (Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods)

- Food waste recycling – expansion to flats & schools programmed to begin w/c 5th May. Phased approach of 10 sites at a time for MRC's. DCLG funded vehicle and start-up costs.
- Big Belly bins – 30 more ordered. Intention is half in city and half in towns. Significant improvements in street cleanliness are obvious as a result of those installed in the city.
- Allotments – Administration will be streamlined from May, when enquiries will be handled by Council Connect and more electronic transactions will be possible. Delivery of new allotment plots in areas of demand has proved difficult. Officers are rethinking and will come forward with revised proposals in April.
- Bereavement Services – New waiting room with refreshments planned to be opened at the Top Chapel in April.
- Licensing Policy and Street Trading Policy - next steps. Both policy consultations to be run in tandem – dates now agreed with Dem Services for SMT/Informal Cabinet/Consultation (process to include Bath City Conference)/Licensing Committee/Cabinet/Council. Policies to be in place by Nov 14 - 3 month consultation to be built in. Councillors will have opportunity to input.
- River Safety – following the recent fatality, a meeting held with all RAs and ROSPA. It is not appropriate to comment at this stage. Action plan to be devised once various authorities are in a position to input.
- Capital programme - agreed for 2014/15 includes - new skate park at RVP, new facility for skaters in the East of Bath, new aerial walkway at the Great Dell, improvements to play areas and a designated BBQ area in RVP.
- The Chairman's Community Awards

The most successful event yet was held on 4th February and saw 113 nominations in 7 categories, including Young Volunteer of the year, Good Neighbour of the Year, and the Business in the Community award and Volunteer of the Year. The event- held at the Guildhall- celebrates the contribution volunteers make in our community. Next in the volunteering year will be our Community Challenge events which will see 200 days pledged to local projects from our partnership including Council, Curo, local business and the Student Unions. We have also signed up to www.neighbourly.com which acts as an online broker between volunteers and local projects.

- Midsomer Norton Community Alcohol Partnership

Since October 2012, the Street Marshalls established through this scheme have dealt with 408 incidents. The scheme has received a national award for outstanding contribution. The next step is to get "Purple Flag" accreditation, as in Bath and the Town Council is funding this.

- Safe Places scheme

Following the first “community safety zone” in 2010 in Radstock, this scheme was launched on 7th February. It encourages shops, cafes and businesses in Bath to sign up to provide vulnerable people with recognisable safe places for them to seek advice, reassurance and help. They help people with learning difficulties get out and about in their community with the reassurance that there is help available should they need to deal with difficult situations. Businesses can register with the scheme and display a Safe Place logo in their window so they can be easily identified.

- A Thank You

I am sure you will all join in thanking Sue Dicks for her huge contribution as Safer Communities Manager over the past 5 years, and the support she has given to this Panel in particular. Sue is leaving the Council at the end of April, having successfully managed our partnership during a period of huge change, including the introduction of PCCs and Government funding reductions. She will leave behind a robust framework of partnership working which “mainstreams” community safety across all our services and partners as well as a long list of projects which will continue to benefit local people.