

# Joined up thinking, joined up actions

We hear a lot about 'joined-up thinking' - the idea that money would be better spent on what people want if only groups worked more effectively together.

Well, that is the guiding principle behind Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) which bring together councils, private companies and the voluntary and health sectors. There are two covering the Babergh district: Babergh East (basically everything eastwards of and including Hadleigh) and Western Suffolk which combines the remainder of Babergh with the area covered by St Edmundsbury and Forest Heath District Councils.

Here, *Babergh Matters!* catches up with what both have recently achieved.



One of the priorities of the Babergh East LSP has been to address issues affecting some young people in



Hadleigh, including higher than average levels of 16 – 18 year olds not in education, teenage conceptions and some young people committing crimes.

The LSP has allocated £42,000 for projects in Hadleigh aimed at tackling these linked issues. These include:

- £2,000 to fund joint operations with Police/Trading Standards to help tackle the

issue of underage alcohol sales in Hadleigh. This replicates the successful operations carried out in Sudbury, funded by the Western Suffolk LSP

- £22,000 for the three- year funding of a bus as the base for detached youth work in the town

- £3,000 for sport and arts opportunities

- £8,000 for improvements to the skate park on the Calais Street Recreation Ground

- Identify and commission services aimed at working with families to help address underlying issues affecting some young people's behaviour and future prospects

Cllr. Penny Clarke, Chairman of the Babergh East LSP said "I'm pleased that we have been able to direct funding to all of these excellent initiatives aimed at both protecting young people and giving them more positive prospects in the future"

For further information: Tim Mutum, Babergh East LSP Project Officer, on (01473) 825718



Last year, the LSP gave grants to help 16 projects in Babergh. These included new toys for pre-schools and after-school clubs; funding for a magazine

for older people; conservation projects; information leaflets; support for Citizens Advice Bureaux and improvements to Little Waldingfield parish rooms



(main picture, above right) and Bures Village Hall (centre).

Such support can make a real difference to a community: Babergh Councillor Jenny Antill for Little Waldingfield

explained that "the refurbishment of this unique village amenity has been much appreciated by the many regular users of the Rooms". Francesco Bassi, a Trustee of Bures Village Hall explained how "the enhanced and extended Bures Community Centre has created a modern village venue with up-to-date facilities allowing current users groups to expand and enabling a wider use by other new groups from within the community".

The LSP has also launched its own projects such as support groups for young carers, giving out hundreds of free 'non-slip slippers' to older people to reduce their risk of falls and working with Warmfront to keep people warm. According to Cllr. Colin Spence, who represents Babergh on the Western Suffolk LSP Board, "the LSP is making a real difference in meeting local community needs. By working more closely together, all the LSP's partners are better able to focus on and support local projects for local people".

For further information: [www.onesuffolk.co.uk/WLSLP](http://www.onesuffolk.co.uk/WLSLP) or contact David Wood, WLSLP Manager, on (01638) 719285.