

Babergh Community Development Newsletter Spring 2011



Welcome to the Spring Newsletter from the Babergh District Council Community Safety & Leisure Team

The Community Safety and Leisure Team at Babergh District Council are part of the Community Development Division. The team works with and in the community to make Babergh a fun but safe place to live, work and visit. The team consists of:

Community Safety and Leisure Manager: Paul Little

Tenancy Enforcement Officer: Kate Parnum

Anti Social Behaviour Officer: Sally Watson

Community Play Worker: Kate Lowe

Community Safety & Leisure Assistant: Barbara Tottle

Community Sports Coach: Simon King

Community Development Officer (Sport Development): Sue Longhurst

Community Development Officer (Leisure Inclusion): Stephanie Lloyd

Any of the team can be contacted on community@babergh.gov.uk

This Spring Newsletter contains a summary of functions, events and projects which the Team has been involved with since the last edition.

Many people will have heard about the plans to join up the delivery of Council services between Babergh District Council and Mid Suffolk District Council. Change is very much in the air and we are confident that this change can build on the best practise in both areas to improve services for the Communities we serve.

In addition to these changes the world of Community Safety work is changing across the County. There is a growing consensus that we need to reform, to ensure that our increasingly scarce resources are focused on delivering results for our Communities and not being used to service bureaucracy that does little to improve or support action on the ground. A county-wide group is developing ways in which this can be achieved and here in Babergh we have been longstanding supporters of a more action led way of doing things; building on the good work done directly in the community, like the example in Capel in this newsletter.

We very much support and are helping to shape this work and hope that this could be a positive consequence of tightening resources. One of the many negative consequences though is that there has already been and are likely to be further reductions in the money available to fund projects. None the less we are determined to make sure that as far as we possible can, our track record of good service will continue.

Holly Watson - Young Citizen Award Finanlist

Holly Watson has been selected as one of five National Finalists for Rotary in Britain and Ireland's (RIBI) Young Citizen of the Year. Holly worked closely with Sudbury Police Sgt. Ian Watson, who started the Knife Project in Sudbury, and also with Sally Watson, who is the Anti-Social Behaviour Officer at Sudbury. Since the Sudbury Young Citizen Awards presentation in February, Holly has received a Community Award for her work on the anti-knife campaign for Babergh District Council.. Holly and the other two winners of the Sudbury Young Citizen Awards, were also invited to tea at the House of Lords with Lord Philips of Sudbury.

Capel Backs Community Resolution Following Criminal Damage

A group of young men responsible for a spate of vandalism in Capel St Mary has been working with the local community to make amends for the damage they caused.

The eight, aged between 15 and 21 and from Capel and East Bergholt, between them damaged equipment in the children's play area and a bus shelter and sprayed graffiti on a vehicle and fence panels during July and August 2010.

Following a thorough investigation by PC Jacqueline Philpot of the Babergh East Safer Neighbourhood Team, the young men were interviewed and admitted their part in the damage, for which they were reported. After consultation with SNT Sergeant Ian Watson, Capel Community Trust, Capel Parish Council and Anti-Social Behaviour Network Officer Sally Watson, it was decided that a community resolution would be the way this offence would be dealt with.

Community Resolution was introduced in September 2009 as a less bureaucratic method of disposal and a return to 'common sense policing'. It provides officers with discretion to deal with the individual circumstances of each offence, victim and offender rather than being forced to use a one size fits all approach. It stops people being criminalized for low-level offences, instead giving them the chance to learn from and make good their mistakes.

Community Resolution involves the victim in the decision making process. In this case Capel Community Trust and Parish Council were able to set the terms of the community resolution, with the options of an apology, reparation or compensation up for discussion.

The eight young men attended Capel Police Station and were interviewed, before accepting the terms of the community resolution. They signed Acceptable Behaviour Contracts and wrote a letter of apology which has been sent to the local community magazine for publication.

On Saturday 12th February the young men spent the morning litter picking and relocating a large mound of soil in the playing field to the children's play area, as it was being re-designed. This was a very physical job, which Sgt Watson assisted with. The ASB Network Officer, members of the SNT, Capel Community Trust and Parish Council turned out to support the eight who worked extremely well.

Sgt Watson said, "All eight of the young men turned up on time and took their work seriously. I was impressed with how they actually took to the work even though it was quite strenuous (I know, I did it myself!).

"I believe it was far better for the young people to payback something into the community than end up with a criminal record. They accept they have done wrong and have been given the opportunity to repair their relationship with local people."

Steve Bishop, Chairman of Capel Community Trust and a local Parish Councillor added, "I think it's a worthwhile exercise getting them to pay a debt to society and put right some of the damage they have caused. I hope it has the desired effect in preventing them getting a criminal record in the future."

The eight were appreciative of the chance they were given to apologize and put something back into the community to pay for the damage they had caused. One of them said, "I think it's better than us getting sent to court and getting a criminal record. I think what they've made us do is hard, but fair and what we deserve for our childish and immature behaviour."

Another added, “This is the hardest day of my life so far,” with a third commenting, “It would have been easier to have paid for the damage, this is really hard work.”

ASB Network Officer Sally Watson said, “Community Resolution is an excellent way of dealing with young people who admit they have done something wrong and want to pay something back to the community. The young men have made practical amends, which has been physically hard for them but has satisfied Capel Community Trust, the Babergh East Safer Neighbourhood Team and the wider community.”



Easter and Term Ho



Spring Half olidays





FEBRUARY 15TH 2011 **FIRST OUTING FOR MOBILE SKATE PARK**

A new mobile skate park is set to entertain school children during the half-term holidays – thanks to funding from the Babergh East Local Strategic Partnership.

The Babergh East LSP, a body that brings together the local council with other public services in the area and representatives from the business, voluntary and community sectors, released funding after an application from the Babergh Community Safety Partnership (CSP).

The skate park, which cost £11,000, consists of several different types of ramps that are incorporated into a trailer. This equipment can be used indoors or outdoors making this an all year round provision.

Cllr Penny Clarke, Chairman of the Babergh East LSP, said: “The LSP is delighted that we were able to fund the purchase of this important equipment.

“A mobile skate park is an ideal way to provide facilities for an increasing popular sport on a temporary basis, it can be utilised across the district and also hired out to interested parties.

“The mobile skate park could be taken to rural areas where there is a gap in service provision for young people but also where there is potential for anti-social behaviour.”

Julia Catterwall, Babergh’s Substance Misuse Officer, said: “The mobile skate park will be taken out in the half terms and the summer holidays.

“There is going to be a partnership approach to where the mobile skate park will visit and it will be targeted to specific areas and will include input from the BDC sports and leisure team, youth & connexions, police, local youth groups and the ASB team.

“By providing diversionary activities enables young people to avoid crime and it is an opportunity whereby partner agencies can positively engage with young people.”

And Cllr Nick Ridley, Chairman of Babergh’s CSP, added: "This equipment provides an excellent addition to our leisure team’s facilities and means that we can build on already well established good practice developed at Babergh to provide positive activities for young people.

“The funding provided by the Babergh East LSP has been welcome in these difficult financial times and goes to show that with some imagination and determination the council can build on its successful services for the benefit of Babergh's residents.”

Partners have already received training from the skate park providers on the 25th January and the mobile skate park will be making its first appearances during half term, one of the locations will be Hadleigh leisure centre on 23rd February.



Be Active....the coming months....

Basketball News -

Hadleigh Basketball Club - Off the back of the Friday night basketball sessions that Be Active have been running for close to a year now - a mens senior team is now being formed, hopefully come September Head Coach Charlie Griffiths will be entering the team into the Suffolk basketball League - all of the players are aged between 16-19 and local to Hadleigh and surrounding areas. Be Active, the East LSP and Baberghs Sports Development team have all contributed towards making this financially viable. Be Active are working with the club on an awards for all bid and ensuring the club continues to be an access point for local young adults to play sports, be competitive and act as a positive influence on them. The club and Be Active are also developing a coach education programme within the Awards for all bid to ensure the youngsters get a chance to train and become coach's and also ensure the clubs sustainability.

Cornard Kings - Cornard Kings junior basketball club continues to run Monday evenings 5-pm for 11-14 year olds. Head coach Arron MacDonald is working with Be Active to try and link in with the local middle schools to form a junior club that can enter into the Suffolk Basketball roadshows.

The Hub

The Hub - The Hub continues to thrive and now has a team of 6 committed volunteers who Be Active are now investing in their training. Parkour continues to be a very popular activity as are the CDJ decks. Projects for summer 11 include an outdoor 5 a side competition, summer ball/disco, and some provision for dance at The Hub.

Babergh Communities together - The partnership with BCT has grown steadily over the last few months and they have been a great source of volunteers for The Hub particularly and Be Active hope to continue working with them in the future.

Coach volunteer programme - Be Active continues its regular contact with Connexions and the police and endeavors to find volunteer placements for any interested young person, and continues to invest time and funding into their future.

Be Active Referral programme

Referrals - Be Active are at capacity with referrals at present and has widened the access route into the programme out to family practioners and school pastoral teams - funding is to be sought

Boxing news

Hadleigh Boxing Club - The after schools sessions proved there is demand in Hadleigh for a community boxing club - which has now been started and runs Tuesdays 7-pm and is open to all ages up to adult. The club is an associate of Sudbury Amateur Boxing Club and will be run on this basis, it is hoped a permanent venue can be found, and the a ring and permanent fittings can be put out it make it feel more of a 'club' and offer some sense of belonging to the members, from here it is then hoped we can put on shows and bouts.

Be Active holiday time plans

Half term and Summer plans - Acton will be a hot spot area for targeted intervention work for Be Active this year and a trial day of activity is taking place on in may half term with plans to continue the provision one day a week throughout the summer holiday and from her build some sort of youth project run by the community similar to that of the Hub.

Glemfest - Be Active will this year be supporting Glemfest on Saturday 23rd July in Glemsford by arranging a youth basketball competition combined with some DJ tuition and hopefully access to the Youth bus.

Party in the park - Be Active will be supporting the highly successful party in the park event in Sunday 24th July with Amp and Deck, Cornard Kings and The Hub.



Health Walks – Thursdays 12:00

Numbers have continued to increase and now reach 30+ on most walks. The areas have increased too from Hadleigh and Sudbury to include : Long Melford, Boxford, Cockfield and Lavenham.

The success of the walks has brought about it's own problem in as much that more volunteer walk leader are needed to ensure all walkers are safe and reach the end of the walk – at their own pace. Health Walk Leader Training takes place on Tuesday 20th September when 8 new recruits will join Sam Cross as volunteer leaders.

Sunday 18th September 2 p.m. Blue Badge led circular walk from Dedham to Flatford.

Chair Based Exercise – Various Classes

After a very successful demonstration of a Chair Based Exercise class at a recent POPS event in Hadleigh, interest in the classes has increased.

Added to our weekly classes at 2 BDC schemes and one at King Fisher Leisure Centre working with South Suffolk Leisure, 3 news Clubs, the Cameo Club in Hadleigh, The Lunch Club in Aldham & Elmsett and Brantham WI, have expressed an interest or booked taster sessions. More clubs are on their way to hosting sessions in the near future. BDC qualified instructors are Sue Longhurst and Barbara Tottle as well as qualified volunteer instructor Sam Cross.

Nordic Pole Walking

This is a new venture for BDC and funding has been available to purchase 6 pair of walking poles, to enable Barbara Tottle, BDC's qualified Nordic Walking instructor, to lead these sessions in Hadleigh and Sudbury through the autumn.