

## CHAIR'S STATEMENTS TO COUNCIL

**Councillor Alex Coley**

**Chair of the Community and Wellbeing Committee**

### **Youth Hub funding**

I am very pleased to report that this council has been successful in a bid to the Department of Works and Pensions (DWP) to fund the establishment of a youth hub.

In response to a growing problem of unemployment and to avoid the pandemic creating a cohort of left behind young people, the DWP has requested bids from local authorities to establish a Youth Hub within the borough with the intention of supporting 18 – 24 years olds to help them seek employment and increase their chances of gaining future employment.

The role of the Youth Hub is not to replicate existing DWP provision but to leverage a range of additional partner and industry resources to provide employment information and advice, support employer connections, work placements and mentors to support young people find pathways into work as soon as possible. Partners would include NESOT and Coast to Capital Enterprise Adviser service.

### **Biodiversity**

I would also like to draw the council's attention to the Epsom & Ewell Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2020 Progress report which we discussed at the last Community & Wellbeing Committee. Members noted the commendable work by volunteers and I would like to extend my personal thanks again.

### **Reopening of Venues**

The following arrangements are in place for council venues

#### **Playhouse**

The following ongoing Covid secure risk assessment requirements are in place:

- Sanitiser points
- Protective screens for box office/bar
- Track & trace

- Increased ventilation
- Enhanced cleaning including fogging every 28 days

Post 19 July 2021:

- The following will be open: Building Box Office, Bar, Auditorium, Myers Studio and Members Bar
- 3 x professional shows July/August
- Autumn/Winter programme commences on 2nd September

**Bourne Hall**

The following ongoing Covid secure risk assessment requirements are in place: •

- Sanitiser points
- Protective Screens for reception/Coffee Shop (Fitting date TBC) •
- Track & trace
- Increased ventilation
- Enhanced cleaning including fogging every 28 days

Post 19 July 2021:

- Building, Library, Coffee Shop, Museum will be open
- Museum Kids Club returns in August
- Bodyfit Clinic open for appointments
- Regular, ad-hoc & event hirers able to return

Both venues will be subject to the Government Covid guidelines in place from the 19 July.

**Community & Wellbeing Centre**

At the Community & Wellbeing Centre all activities and classes have resumed which can within present legislation, we have also returned to venue hire.

The capacity in the dining area is set at 20-30 people with a maximum of two people at each table by means of a pre-booked service only and a Grab and Go food service is operating too.

## **Community Services**

Transport from Home, Hospital from Home and Dial a Ride return with a reduced service. Up to four people will be taken on the buses at a time, due to the risk assessments for social distancing. This affects the number of journeys we can manage each day and also a reduction on the income generated.

Meals at Home, Community Alarm and the Shopping Service continue to run as normal.

Clients in need of the bathing service are being assessed at present, this will recommence within a few weeks, on Wednesdays to begin with.

We are continuing to re-open the Higher Needs service and are currently carrying out assessments on clients as and when they request to return.

The Day Care area can now hold a maximum of up to 20 people because we are using the Park Lounge which has a larger size and can offer the social distancing.

The number of current clients within Higher Needs has reduced during lockdown due to declining health, increase of dementia, death or where the family do not feel comfortable. We are receiving new enquiries and undertaking assessments for suitability and needs.

**Councillor Neil Dallen**  
**Chair of the Environment and Safe Communities Committee**

### **Climate change**

At the last Environment meeting the committee considered the targets of year 2 of the Plan including those that were partially implemented in Year 1 and the new targets included to best facilitate a green recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the past, there has been a member working group to create the climate change action plan of the Council. It is currently under consideration whether a member working group should reconvene.

### **Protect duty – government consultation**

The UK Government's counter-terrorism strategy known as CONTEST is composed of four strands:

Pursue – catching terrorists before they carry out an attack;

Prevent – stopping people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism;

Protect – making infrastructure and similar targets less vulnerable to attacks;

Prepare – planning responses in the event of an attack.

The nature of the threats from terrorism continue to evolve. Attacks in recent years have taken place in open spaces, requiring a shift in emphasis from protecting a small number of iconic sites, to protecting a larger number of public sites.

We recently responded to the Government consultation (closed on 2nd July).

### **Government waste strategy**

As a Council we have been working with fellow B&D's and SEP to try and analyse the government's proposals regarding waste collection going forward.

This is a real area of concern as that any decisions will have an impact on our already highly thought of Simply Weekly Recycling initiative.

The two main areas revolve around

EPR: Extended Producer Responsibility - producers of packaging are to pay for its subsequent collection in councils' recycling, refuse and litter collections. A

'modulated payments' system will incentivise low-volume, easy-to-recycle packaging with a high content of recycled materials.

And

DRS: Deposit Return Scheme - producers place deposits on drinks containers – cans, glass bottles and certain plastic bottles. Consumers will be able to redeem the deposits after use via 'Reverse-Vend Machines' in supermarkets and shops, etc.

Early indications show a level of support for EPR but there are still questions around DRS as it appears to conflict with our own collection service and appears to be designed more to capture the "on the go" type of litter say at beaches or events rather than domestic generated recycling.

Although we are at very early stages of the consultations with the Government, EEBC, B&D's and Surrey have analysed the detail and are making some suggested changes.

The third consultation is "Consistency of collections" which interacts with the first two. It includes things like a mandatory free garden waste collection.

It is the intention to have a members briefing on this subject as it is a complex subject matter and has potentially major impacts on us as a council and our residents going forward.