

## **FULL COUNCIL: 26 MARCH 2009**

### **REPORTS FROM MEMBERS APPOINTED TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

#### **1. FAWBERT AND BARNARD EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION – CLLR MIKE GARNETT**

I attended a meeting of the Fawbert and Barnard Educational Foundation on the 11th March 2009.

Attendees included Paul Sztumpf, Pav Saunders, Christine Baxter and Sue Livings.

There was an up date on the Trustee account from Paul Sztumpf but basically as he had only just taken over no new signatories had been sought for the Bank account as they remained for the time being the same as before.

Applications were received from two applicants. One was a student from Kent who wanted help with buying books etc for study. She had no connection with either Harlow or the school so the Trustees refused the application. The second was from The School with help to pay for a purpose build 'Wendy House' for the Foundation Stage. The cost was £1200 and we were asked for a donation towards that cost. It was suggested 1/3rd and that was agreed.

The date of the next meeting is 1st July 2009 at 6:45 pm.

#### **2. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S STRATEGY PARTNERSHIP (CYPSP) - CLLR MURIEL JOLLES**

14<sup>th</sup> July, 2008:

I met with Lynn Seward who gave me an overview of what CYPSP covers. It is a very complex body. I will need to learn much – acronyms are a good start.

There are many associated bodies within the CYPSP Board:  
**Safer Harlow Partnership** – Community Safety, Respect Team  
Enforcement Team, Anti-Social Behaviour Team, Super Nanny, Crucial Crew Team

**Harlow 2020**

**Essex County Council** who give Extended School funding, manage the Children's Fund and Capital Funding

**Children Centres** at Parnell Street, Hare Street, Sumners Recreation Centre, Burnt Mill, Potter Street

**Harlow Consortium**  
**West Essex Primary Care Trust**  
**Social Care**  
**Task Team from Youth Services** - Young People's Information Centre (YPIC) and Harlow Youth Council  
**Essex & Harlow Police**  
**Voluntary organisations** – approximately 30 including Young Concern  
**Rainbow Services**

Lonica Van Clay is our Locality Commissioner of Harlow, Chris Fluskie is Chairman of Harlow Educational Consortium (HEC) and Lynn Seward is the Head of Community Services

There are five objectives which Children's Act and CYPSP have to cover.

They are:

- 1) Be healthy
- 2) Stay Safe
- 3) Enjoy and Achieve
- 4) Make a positive contribution
- 5) Achieve Economic Well-being

Tables of confidential data were given to me to assimilate.

Data from:

- West Essex Primary Care Trust 2008 "Supporting the Well-being of Children and Young People 2008"
- CYPSP's Priorities 1 – 5 Funding and Commissioning
- Parent Support Adviser Briefing Sheet
- Prevention and Early Intervention Strategies
- Raising Aspirations for Children and Young People 2007-8 by Lorna Spenceley
- Changes to the Child Protection Register
- "Next Steps" Expanding Children's Trust Arrangements

### **3. FAWBERT AND BARNARD EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION – CLLR MURIEL JOLLES**

#### **June 2008:**

- Trips during this term were enjoyed by all classes.
- Sports Day and a Teddy Bears' Picnic were also enjoyed including visits to these by Governors and Trustees.
- End of term disco was well attended.

#### **July 2008:**

- Mr Cochrane presented his final financial report and announced his retirement after 15 years of being a trustee and treasurer. Thanks was given for his hard work. Mr Sztumpf was elected to take over.
- Grants were discussed and equipment for a new Design & Technology room is to be purchased.

- A four-week visit from a Chinese teacher was enjoyed by everybody.
- Video link with a school in Montpelier in South France was established
- OAPs visited the school, some of whom had been pupils there!
- I have made two visits during Summer Term one to observe Year 2 children's interest in building work to the hall and kitchen. The second visit to look at students' Progress Tracking and how targets were met and monitored.

**November 2008:**

- Improvement Plan for 2008 was discussed.
- Outside Area Classroom for Reception and Year 1 children is now complete and in constant use.
- Local Authority is financing drainage to rear playground.
- New kitchen is now complete and provides lunches instead of them being delivered from Tanys Dell School. Increasing numbers of children enjoying hot meals. Great success.
- Hall floor has been replaced due to the previous flood damage. Insurance claim.
- Successful bid for Vegetable Garden from National Lottery.
- School was thrilled with SATs results for 2008. Challenging targets were set for 2010.
- Attendance for 2008 had improved and was running at 97%
- I made two visits to the school to see the new Kitchen staying for lunch and the second visit was to see the new Design and Technology and children's cooking area.

**January 2009:**

- Visit from Mr. Pincombe, ECC's Planning & Admissions Officer. Discussion on Local Authority's request that New Hall Farm children be included for admission to F & B until their schools are built. This request was refused as it would mean children from Old Harlow, who live in close proximity to F & B, would be forced to move elsewhere. This was thought to be unfair.

**March 2009:**

- Two Walking Buses operate two mornings a week. This helps with parking problems and increases healthy life-styles. We are pleased with the increasing numbers of children using it.
- Drainage to playground has been improved by a new soak-away in the meadow.
- The school has been successful in its bid to provide Sure Start.

#### **4. YOUNG CONCERN TRUST – CLLR MURIEL JOLLES**

**Young Concern Trust (YCT) Key local partners/stakeholders include:**

Harlow Council  
 Harlow College  
 Harlow Education Consortium  
 All Harlow's Secondary Schools  
 Harlow Foyer

Harlow One Stop Shop including Connexion Service  
Essex County Council (ECC)  
St. Clare's Hospice  
Rainbow Services and other Harlow Third Sector Organisations  
West Essex Primary Care Trust (PCT)  
Harlow's Children & Young People Strategic Partnership (CYPSP)

**MEETINGS:**

**June 2008** Policy for Personal Safety was distributed

**July 2008**

- Financial Report was presented. At 30.6.08 Harlow District Council provided one third of its annual income. It was made clear that this would be significantly reduced, but would not know by how much until Budget was set for 2009/10 in February. We now know that Young Concern will receive nothing from the Council in 2009/10. **The Council is however allowing us to lease Sewell House, the former Dashes Play Centre building at a 'community' rent, so the Council continues to support HCT positively but in a different way.**
- After paying out £50,000 to refurbish the roof of YCT House **we are left to raise another £150,000 to refurbish the building.**
- A teenage pregnancy programme called "Desire2Aspire" will begin at Passmores School in partnership with CYPSP. **We now know that this programme is being successfully delivered and will now be held in Harlow's other secondary schools.**
- Waltham Abbey, (Epping Forest District Council) used to receive counselling service from YCT but discontinued during the previous year.

**They say they would like to resume receiving this service shortly.**

**October 2008**

AGM: Our Guest Speaker had to cancel at the last moment. Neil Frost our Chairman delivered a talk on Teenage Pregnancy.

**December 2008 and January 2009**

- CYPSP will give funding which has to be used by 29<sup>th</sup> August 2009.
- There may be possibilities for YCT to extend its services to Hertford, Ware, Bishops Stortford and Welwyn Garden City as well as to the Lady Diana Kemp-Welch Partnership in Southend.
- Harlow Fields School will soon be receiving YCT service

As you can see from the above, YCT is a centre of excellence in providing valuable counselling services in so many different areas. It has an excellent reputation and has a team of experienced counsellors. They provide courses and one-to-one counselling. There is much opportunity for them to expand and become the centre for surrounding areas, even across county borders.

## **5. SUPPORTING PEOPLE COMMISSIONING BODY – CLLR MURIEL JOLLES**

**September 2008:**

I met with Cllr. Robinson, Essex County Council (ECC) Older People's Champion, Simon Harniess, (ECC) Head of Supporting People and Jane Greer HDC's officer

- I was given contact details of 18 providers of services in the Harlow district.
- A Glossary of terms which is most useful
- An Easy Read Version of Supporting People
- Older People's Service Review "The Future of Supporting People in Services for Older People in Essex.
- All of the above information is invaluable.

Meetings attended:

**17<sup>th</sup> September 2008 – Chelmsford.**

**A TELECARE event.** Separate report enclosed

**15<sup>th</sup> October 2008 – Chelmsford**

**Services for Older People in Essex.** Separate report enclosed

**3<sup>rd</sup> March 2009 – Chelmsford –**

**Essex Commissioning Body.**

This latter meeting's most important item on the Agenda was the "**2009-10 Budget - for decision**"

Although a previous and higher percentage of uplift had been sent to the Local Authorities, due to the present economic climate, cuts had to be made. Local Authorities will have had to re-write their budgets for the coming year with the 1% uplift being awarded instead of the expected 3%. Although the Harlow representation voted for the higher percentage, I'm afraid we were out-voted. This is a blow and has to be taken into account.

**Supporting People Commissioning Body – Course on TELECARE**  
**17<sup>th</sup> September 2008 at The Waterfront, Chelmsford – attended by**  
**Muriel Jolles**

This was a very exciting day. We were introduced to new technological appliances designed to enable vulnerable or disabled people to lead more independent yet safer lives. This will, in turn, give the carers more freedom, as well as being more efficient and yet more user-friendly.

IMPORTANT: Long term financial savings are obtainable, by cutting down hospital and doctors' visits while allowing clients to remain in their own homes, with more freedom for themselves and their carers. A medical officer can monitor hundreds or even thousands of patients from a control-room, supported by Telecare appliances, receiving all the routine information by broadband and radio.

The appliances have many uses such as:

- Medical information being passed to centres for monitoring;

- Reminders for medication to be taken and when medication needs adjusting;
- Sensors which can monitor the clients' movements within their homes;
- Chronic illnesses such as Diabetes, Coronary Heart Disease, High Blood Pressure etc., can be monitored from home; alarms sound in Centre if serious changes occur in patients' health;
- Care for patients with Dementia – safety precautions – night-walking alarms to centre;
- Broadband linkage from homes to medical centres which can trigger alarms when patients are in urgent need – similar to, and in conjunction with, CARELINE.

We were presented with the results of research done over the past 3 years. Better and more efficient monitoring of patients was achieved. Patients were happier, carers were given more respite, better and more responsive treatment was given.

**We have a growing population of people needing care:**

- **General increase of 18% for all ages across Essex**
- **61% increase in the 65+ population to 483,000 compared with the National figure of 54%**

Essex's increased numbers of elderly residents take up Sheltered Accommodation, hospital beds, Carers, Social Care Workers etc.

Some interesting facts:

Dementia affects: 1 in every 14 people over 65, 1 in 6 over 80 and 1 in 3 over 90.

There are six million carers in the UK looking after a family member, or partner.

- Unpaid carers save the country £87 billion a year
- 95% of carers questioned regularly cover up or disguise the fact that their own health is suffering as a result of their caring responsibilities
- The number of people providing support to relatives or friends with long-term health needs, learning and physical disabilities is set to rise to 1 in 4 over the next 40 years;

I could go on. I think that it is necessary for us to be informed about these products and think about planning for the future. Trials are being set up in various places and these trials would provide appliances at a much reduced cost, sometimes free. I think that we should invite various experts in this field to make presentations to our Group Meetings urgently and we should take advantage of the trials which are on-going. Let Harlow lead the way!

**Report on Supporting People funded Services for Older People in Essex - Wednesday 15th October 2008 – Chelmsford**

There were around 50 people in attendance from every part of Essex. County Councillor Derek Robinson gave the introduction. There is a growing population of people over the age of 65 years in Essex and it is forecast that more and more people are living longer, especially in our county. We have therefore an urgent need to provide for this growing population, financially, giving value for money and

also with the care available for the elderly.

Following this brief introduction, Simon Hamiess who is the Head of Supporting People Officer for Essex gave a presentation which dealt with Central Government's funded programme being cost effective and being able to provide reliable housing and support services. Delivery of Supporting People through the Local Area Agreement from 2009-10 is very likely, so it is a very important issue which must be discussed and prepared for much the same as the Children's Act was.

Most people wish to live independent lives and with the help of technology, as discussed in my previous report on Telecare, it will become possible for those who wish it. The need for supporting the elderly differs with the individual, some needing care at younger or older ages, but it should be the right of all to receive it when they properly need it.

People who live in privately owned homes often miss out on services available to them whereas those living in Sheltered Accommodation have more access and more publicity in what their rights are and the support services available to them. All elderly people must be treated equally.

Three models of supporting the elderly were then discussed in the workshop which followed this presentation.

The workshop consisted of each table brain-storming three different models of support:

- Status Quo (Things staying the same)
- Hub and Spoke/Community Outreach (Support based in accommodation services as well as providing for people in the local community)
- Floating Support (Support across all tenures according to need, not tied to specific accommodation based services)

There was much discussion, advantages and disadvantages were discussed and it was a lively session. The models which appeared to be favoured by the delegates were the Hub and Spoke/Community Outreach and, to some degree the Floating Support. These gave access and support to all elderly people within the area, with officers visiting people in their private homes or their sheltered homes.

I am sure that advantages and disadvantages discussed with the 3 models will be looked at carefully and put together for the County's policy so that we can be efficient and yet caring with supporting our elderly residents.

## **6. HARLOW ARTS COUNCIL EXECUTIVE – CLLR SHONA JOHNSON**

HAC has been very active this year, with a very successful inaugural Arts Conference combined with AGM

The Arts Council was formed in 1964 to assist Harlow Council (Leisure Committee) in matters concerning the arts in Harlow. It made recommendations concerning grants and scholarships. Prior to opening of the Playhouse, it organised an annual arts festival with local,

national and international performers. It coordinated date fixing of events to prevent clashes. It was the major force in getting the Playhouse.

In later years it managed rehearsal rooms at the Latton Bush Centre and grant aided new groups and young people's arts.

With a change in financial circumstances the Arts council had to review their role and means of operation.

The Arts Council now concentrates on being a campaigner, communicator and coordinator of the arts in the town.

Their key aims are:

- a) To keep a database of arts groups and produce a biannual arts directory The first was launched in September 08
- b) To organise an annual arts conference, which includes their AGM. The first was September 21st 2008 at the Study Centre
- c) To produce a six-monthly newsletter.

The committee meets 3 times a year and the full council annually at the conference.

The Arts council is now very well organised and active and I would recommend continuing HDC's appointment to their board.

**7. POLICE COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE –  
CLLR LEE DANGERFIELD**

The committee did not meet during the year.

**8. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR SUPERVISION OF  
TOWN CENTRE CCTV SYSTEM – CLLR LEE  
DANGERFIELD**

The committee did not meet during the year.

**9. RYELAND COMMUNITY HOUSING/ HARLOW  
NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSING BOARD – CLLR LEE  
DANGERFIELD**

The Board did not meet during the year.

**10. SAFER HARLOW PARTNERSHIP – CLLR LEE  
DANGERFIELD**

I was unable to attend any meetings.

**11. HARLOW RECREATION TRUST MANAGEMENT  
COMMITTEE – CLLR LEE DANGERFIELD**

I was not able to attend any meetings.

**12. LGA FOURTH OPTION SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP –  
CLLR MARK GOUGH**

Mike White, Head of Governance and I were invited at very short notice to attend the AGM earlier in the year in Newcastle starting at 11am. We took the decision it was a long way and a lot of expense to put us both up in a hotel and a lot of travelling for a short meeting where they would only be selecting the officers for the year. Since then I have not heard anything at all - so I guess this will need to be looked at as I know we had good representation and contact in the recent past.

**13. LGA STRATEGIC AVIATION SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP  
– CLLR MARK GOUGH**

There has been a problem with getting an agenda to me in time. Only two have arrived in time - the 11th July 2008 did not and the 7th November 2008 arrived at very short notice so I had to tender my apologies. The agenda for the 11:00 am meeting this Friday (27th March 2009) arrived on 25 March 2009, and I will be attending. I have let the LGA know that this is a very short time for me to study the thick agenda. This is not acceptable, and I will be taking this up with them at the meeting, as I already have in a telephone call. If anyone would like to see the agenda or would like more details, I will be happy to report back on Monday, 30th March 2009.

**14. MARK HALL AND NETTESWELL COMMUNITY  
ASSOCIATION – CLLR MARK GOUGH**

At the start of the year agendas were getting to me late and I only received them after the meeting date, but this problem has now been resolved.

This is a very good and well organised Community Association, and I'm very proud to be involved with them. They have many clubs and organisations running community clubs and events in Moot House. They are very good at standing up for themselves when they feel either HDC or ECC are letting them down. The Chairman, Secretary and full time Centre Manager and staff are very good and very dedicated, and I warmly congratulate them for their hard work. They have a good bar and social side, and organise their own events. They are however very short of an experienced Accountant to become their treasurer and openly ask if anyone knows of anyone who might be prepared to help and fulfil this role for them.

They have recently handed back the keys to Blackbush Spring Common Room due to issues with the roof and cost concerns, and they have an issue with keeping such an old listed building as Moot House going and in a good state of repair. They currently have an

issue with the stone frame around the main entrance for example, and did have a big dry rot problem not so long ago. So whilst their finances look healthy, they certainly would go under if a major problem like that should arise again, and I hope this doesn't happen as they are credit to themselves and our local community.

**15. STANSTED AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE –  
CLLR MARK GOUGH**

This committee meets at the Airport at about 3pm, and is a very good and useful forum for interaction between the local authorities and the Airport. It is therefore important that the appointee to the committee moving forward has afternoon availability. It is very noticeable that there is a stand-off situation between the airport management who want the second runway (G2) and nearly all the politicians who do not want it!

It is a great way for us as a Council to interact and make contact with members in other authorities as they lay on a lunch beforehand as some members of the committee are also on the passenger forum which meets in the morning. I have attended one of each of these, and unfortunately missed a couple as I started to work.

The passenger forum does a lot of good work looking at individual items within the airport and reports into the committee. They have been looking at how security works, Immigration and will be looking at car parking and signage as a result of the recent change from car parks designated by zone (A,B,C and so on), so the separate and different operators which are now in coloured zones (Red, Orange etc.) and are causing confusion and traffic problems.

This together with its passenger sub-committee does a lot of good and hard work, and a lot of the public also attend and also have the opportunity to put questions too. I would happily stay on this until my work commitments start again should the Council wish me to do so.

**16. HARLOW AND BROXBOURNE WOMEN'S AID – CLLR  
EDNA STEVENS**

I have only been able to attend about half of the Trustee meetings this year.

Harlow and Broxbourne Women's Aid appears to be well run and their finances in good order. There is a problem regarding some work done on premises at Latton Bush which is still under discussion with Council officers. The officers of Women's Aid will be meeting Council representatives on 31st March 2009 when I hope the matter will be resolved. The next meeting of the trustees will be on 20th April when this will be discussed.

**17. HARLOW COMMUNITY LEGAL PARTNERSHIP – CLLR LORNA SPENCELEY**

Representative	<b>Cllr Lorna Spenceley (Chairman)</b>
Date of Report	<b>24 March 2009</b>
Comments	<p>Harlow's Community Legal Services Partnership met quarterly during 2008/09 to bring together the key players in the field of advice in the private or not-for-profit sectors.</p> <p>The Partnership has relied heavily on Harlow Welfare Rights &amp; Advice for clerking of meetings, administrative support, and indeed a venue for its meetings. The present tender process for advice services, and the severe cuts to council funding of advice for residents in the 2009/10 budget, mean that the future of the Community Legal Services Partnership is currently uncertain.</p> <p>My thanks are due to Sue Jones, who has continued to provide efficient and effective support to the Partnership even during the pressures of the last few months, and to all those members who have attended meetings regularly and contributed to the work of the Partnership.</p>
Issues arising or action required	None
Next Report Due	March 2010

**18. GREATER PARNDON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION – CLLRS JOSHUA JOLLES AND PATRICK McCLARNON**

The GPCA is a very well-managed and successful social club with about 3000 members. The main premises are on Abercrombie Way, very near to the junction with Southern Way and are leased from Harlow Council.

GPCA also manages The Link in Parsloe Road, the Norman Booth Centre in Old Harlow and some leisure services which they took over when HDC were forced to discontinue them due to budgetary constraints.

Chairman: Peter Woolford  
Secretary: Mrs Karen Bartlett  
Treasurer and centre manager: Mrs Kathleen Kerrigan.

The success of the GPCA is due in great measure to the hard work and absolute dedication of its staff. But they are now stretched to the limit and would not at present be able to take on any more new commitments.

We have attended two meetings of the Committee - 7th August 2008 and 22nd January 2009.

They have a major interest in two projects:

(1) The GAF II reconstruction of Staple Tye, including Lister House. They are monitoring this keenly and have set up a small steering group for this, comprising Peter Woolford, Alan Jones, Ian Jackson, Dave Ingold, with possibility of co-opting others. We understand that, from the start, they are not satisfied that adequate car parking provision has been planned.

(2) Secondly, the Maunds Hatch project is a matter of concern to the GPCA. We had to reassure them that if there does not seem to be any activity this is only temporary and that the project is still very much on the table. GPCA have appointed Karen Bartlett to represent them on the M.H. Steering committee.

Altogether, the GPCA is a vigorous and healthy community group and seems secure for the foreseeable future.

**19. CHURCH LANGLEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION – CLLR ANDREW JOHNSON**

I have not been invited to any meetings of the CA this year. I see no point in the Council continuing to appoint to an organisation that do not wish to have a nominee.

**Recommendation** – Officers contact the CA to enquire about continued Council involvement.

**20. PAH NHS FOUNDATION TRUST – CLLR ANDREW JOHNSON**

The PAH NHS trust has not yet become a foundation trust, so therefore no meetings have taken place

**Recommendation** – The Council continues to support the Princess Alexandra Hospital with this appointment.

## 21. EUROPEAN NEW TOWNS PLATFORM – CLLR ANDREW JOHNSON

The ENTP had a successful conference last year in Helsinki and Stockholm over three days. Once again Harlow was one of the smallest delegations, with most council having four representatives at the conference (Basildon included). Harlow retained the Board position that Cllr Durcan had obtained for us. The conference was a key learning point for large scale regenerations of town centres, with a focus on mixing businesses with homes in a workable manner.

There were many good ideas that the Council has been able to take into the town centre regeneration project. We also made good links with the city of Vanta in Finland, whose position mirrors our own – a new town, just north of the capital city and just south of a major airport. They have managed to avoid becoming just a “distribution node” and successfully brought major businesses to their city. Our officers are now in direct liaison with them to learn the lessons that they made ten years ago.

I have since been asked to take on a Vice Presidency position in the organisation, and to concentrate on heading up the organisations Lobbying arrangements for New Towns to feature in the EU thinking in future law making and funding rounds. Since that appointment two months ago I have already met with one of the Regions MEP’s and a number of candidates in the upcoming EU elections to push this message locally. Following the election the ENTP staff in Brussels under my direction will be carrying out a major lobbying exercise with the new MEPs.

I have also successfully pushed to have the next board meeting conducted via WebCam, to save board members travelling to Brussels, reducing both costs and carbon footprint. Whilst this will not be achievable for all meetings of ENTP it is a good move.

HDC continues to be involved in Projects via ENTP and I believe this is a worthwhile body for us to continue our involvement, especially as I view any of our taxpayer’s money that we are able to reclaim from Europe worthwhile.

Because we are represented on the Board of the Body, the Council receives 10% of its membership fee back for each board meeting attended, effectively reimbursing the council for any travel costs involved in attending.

**Recommendation** – The Council continues to support the ENTP with this appointment.

## **22. HARLOW RENAISSANCE LTD – CLLR ANDREW JOHNSON**

HRL has continued to be a very active organisation in the life of the town, bringing together key partners to manage the Growth Area Funding [GAF] infrastructure projects and the major project to regenerate the town centre.

Moat Homes Ltd were appointed as preferred developer for the Clifton Hatch, Old Harlow and Potter Street developments with outline planning consent for the Potter Street development granted in December 2008.

HRL is working with the council and the 2020 Partnership on the re-branding of the town – ‘Harlow – see something different’ - and is assisting us develop the Local Development Framework.

As council Leader as well as a representative on the Board, I have posed the organisation a series of “challenges” for HRL to use their expertise in advising us on how to achieve some of our longer term aims for the town.

**Recommendation** – The Council continues to support HRL with this appointment.

## **23. STANSTED AIRPORT COMMUNITY TRUST - CLLR SIMON CARTER**

The Stansted Airport Community Trust (STACT) was established as part of the s106 planning agreement with British Airports Authority [BAA] for the granting of the last application to increase the number of passengers. BAA is required to donate £100,000 per annum for seven years to STACT for the benefit of the community within a ten-mile radius of the airport, subject to parish boundaries. The trust also receives the income from ‘fines’ for noisy aircraft at the airport, but this source has declined as planes have become quieter.

The trust comprises members from the main councils within the area of benefit. Awards are made twice a year for applications by community groups of up to £2000 for capital purposes, but the terms may be varied slightly in the circumstances. Details of each bidding round are circulated to parish and district councils at each cycle.

Bids should provide benefit to the wider community other than just the applicant, so often applications are received from village halls and churches where there is a wider community use.

We normally consider bids totaling around £60,000 because some are rejected and some previously granted bids are no longer required and their allocation is recycled.

A number of bids are received from Harlow each time and recently included:

## **24. 2020 LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP - CLLR SIMON CARTER**

Local Strategic Partnerships (LSP's) are receiving greater recognition from the government for coordinating services and monitoring performance under the new Community Area Assessments [CAA], which are replacing Comprehensive Performance Assessments [CPA]. LSPs are now responsible for bidding for Performance Rewards Grants from the first round of Local Area Agreements [LAA] to assist with the delivery of the new National Indicators, which are replacing Best Value Performance Indicators [BVPIs]. However, they are not responsible for delivery of services and rely on their partners to work together to achieve common aims.

The current 2020 Vision expires this year and work is underway to refresh this. This includes, for example, through Harlow Renaissance Ltd [HRL] examining ways to promote and re-brand Harlow – 'Harlow – see something different'. Market research shows that people from outside town value our sports and leisure facilities more than local residents, who think they are below par. Those surveyed did not agree on what made Harlow distinctive, but three areas stood out, its location, our green spaces and that the town is growing. HRL is continuing its research on behalf of the LSP.

There is a Social Marketing project underway on how to raise aspirations and in particular on how to reach worst off younger man who may have poor life expectancy and low educational achievement. This is in addition to the task group looking at Health Inequalities.

The Partnership is moving towards being more open and accessible, and following lobbying by the Council, now holds its board meetings in public, closing with a public question session.

## **25. LGA URBAN COMMISSION - CLLR SIMON CARTER**

The Urban Commission is a special interest group within the Local Government Association [LGA] to formulate responses to national planning issues and to change best practice in urban design.

At the last meeting I attended in Cardiff, issues included the Local Transport Bill, Concessionary Fares, Prosperous Communities, Sub

National Review, Post Offices, Community Engagement, Climate Change and Migration.

Meeting in Wales, there were a couple of presentations on how devolution was working to the west of Offa's Dyke – or as it was described, triple devolution, from central government to regional government to local people.

Two tours were also offered, Regeneration and Sport, and Regeneration and Housing, including sustainable housing schemes in the Cardiff Bay area where there were practical examples of best practice.

There is a growing debate over the role of district councils in the LGA and the benefits that accrue from membership but the Urban Commission has widespread support and involvement. We shall see how the debate develops.

## **26. HARLOW STANSTED GATEWAY TRANSPORTATION BOARD - CLLR SIMON CARTER**

The Board was established to help get Harlow's transport growth issues on to the regional and national agenda through working with its local councils and organisations. The Board procures studies to provide evidence based bids, which carry local support for local and major infrastructure schemes.

Members are: Essex County Council, Hertfordshire County Council, Harlow District Council, Highways Agency, Government Office – East, Harlow Renaissance Limited and the British Airports Authority.

Epping Forest and Uttlesford Districts are invited as guests. The board is chaired by the ECC Portfolio holder for Highways and Transportation.

The big issue over the past few months was securing funding to investigate routes for a northern by-pass and another junction on the M11 through the Regional Funding Allocation. The positive was that schemes supporting growth were being viewed favourably; the downside was that extra motorway junctions were not. In the longer term, indications coming out of the Department for Transport were that funding is becoming increasingly tight and major schemes would need funding from elsewhere. However, if we can get funding in the short term to carry out the research, we will have a project on the way to being developed.

In the shorter term, the Board lobbied hard for Community Infrastructure Funding [CIF 2] to dual the A1184 all the way from Southern Way to the M11, phasing out the narrow section on the southbound carriageway, along with funding for the remainder of the

widening of First Avenue from the Stow to Mark Hall school. (the present works are just to move utilities further away from the road and to widen Gowers bridge). A formal announcement is due shortly.

Other pieces of work include Harlow Area Rapid Transit [HART] to speed up public transport within Harlow; Behaviour Changes to get people out of cars; promotion of cycling and walking; Long Term Road and Rail capacity studies; M11 widening; and transport modeling for the Gateway area.

There are some major players and sensitive issues involved here but our officers and Harlow Renaissance Limited are fighting hard for Harlow, ensuring we are leading the way on growth in the region.

## **27. HARLOW COMPACT STEERING GROUP - CLLR SIMON CARTER**

Compacts are a set of protocols agreed between the private, public and 'third' sector to describe how they can work together in a mutually respectful and professional manner, with particular regard to funding contracts to and the supply of services from the third, not for profit sector.

I have not been invited to a meeting of this group during this municipal year. The Essex Compact was presented to the 2020 Partnership recently by the Essex Partnership in the expectation of each individual organisation signing the compact.

## **28. HARLOW EDUCATION & EMPLOYER PARTNERSHIP - CLLR SIMON CARTER**

The Harlow Education and Employer Partnership [HEEP] was created by the Harlow Education Consortium to help introduce pupils to future employment and bring major employers into schools. Its members include Anglia Ruskin University, BAA, GSK, ECC, Harlow College, Kier Harlow, Raytheon, Pearson Education, Learning and Skills Council, Chamber of Commerce, HDC and Bill Ramell although attendance by all is erratic.

It's activities include:

- BAA is an enthusiastic member and runs the Stansted Insight Programme that is a series of structured taster days for pupils.
- HEEP is working with Diploma Curriculum Leaders to identify relevant employers to support the design and delivery of the new Diplomas.
- Princess Alexandra Hospital is working with HEEP on a year-long programme of activity for junior schools to enable young people to see the variety of roles and careers within the Hospital and health service.

- HEEP, through the consortium, is involved in organising and promoting activities within the Science Alive Project at the new sports centre. However, as we know, it was unsuccessful in its recent bid to the National Lottery and its future looks uncertain.

The priorities for 2008-2010 are:

- BAA Pilot
- Diplomas Gateway 2 – Society Health & Development and IT
- Diplomas Gateway 3 – Hair & Beauty, Hospitality, Sports, Travel and Tourism, Business Administration and Finance
- Enterprise

## **29. GREATER ESSEX PROSPERITY FORUM - CLLR SIMON CARTER**

The Greater Essex Prosperity Forum [GEPF] was formed in 2004 by the Essex Development and Regeneration Agency (ExDRA) to bring together a grouping of businesses, local authorities and other agencies that all wish to see Essex to continue to be a vibrant and successful county. It works very closely with Essex County Council and East of England Development agency.

Essex is facing significant growth in the next 15 to 20 years. The County's three major growth areas (Thames Gateway South Essex, the Haven Gateway and the M11 Corridor) have been identified by national government as the focus of attention. The East of England Plan proposes that 124,500 houses are built in the Essex between 2001-2021 (an average of some 6,200 homes per year).

The provision of employment is also a priority. A regional job target of 109,000 new jobs between 2001-2021 was set for Essex, concentrated in the major growth areas: Thames Gateway South Essex (52,000), the Haven Gateway (20,000), the London Arc (12,000) and the rest of Essex (25,000).

To help shape this future economic growth GEPF is one of the nine Sub-Regional Economic Partnerships in the East of England. As well as ensuring the establishment of policy and strategic priorities across Greater Essex, the Forum is responsible for specific activities that are defined in the Forum's Business Plan and funded by the East of England Development Agency.

Its role is mainly to commission research, feed into, and respond to the regional plans but is also a partner in the Essex Partnership, which coordinates the Local Area Agreements for Essex. As a foretaste of things to come, its funding from EEDA is reducing next year and consideration has been given to scaling down its activities.

Last year the government undertook a Sub National Review of the regional plans to formalise economic groupings. Harlow was described as being in the 'London Arc' – essentially the councils outside the north eastern arc of the M25. It was through a GEPF conference that Harlow argued that the arc does not operate as economic grouping but rather as the London-Stansted-Cambridge (or M11) corridor, and a 'heart of Essex' for the rest of Essex not in the gateways. This proposal was broadly accepted by the remaining authorities and is gradually gaining general acceptance. This was another example of where Harlow is leading the county and the region in growth issues.

### **30. NACRO - CLLR SIMON CARTER**

Harlow Council is invited to send a Member to their steering groups to provide democratic accountability for public funds spent in the town. NACRO (in this case the National Association for the Care and Rehabilitation of Offenders Housing Association) not only provides supported housing for ex offenders but also for young people referred by a range of agencies and those with mental health problems. The Council leases a number of properties to them in Northbrooks and Wissants.

They have a very close working relationship with our benefits section to ensure client details are kept up to date for some people who have complex life styles and that correct advice is provided to tenants.

Through our membership of the Steering Group, it is possible to assist with problems or issues they have with the Council, on allocations, benefits and maintenance of the properties.

### **31. HARLOW OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE - CLLR SIMON CARTER**

The trust was set up in 1955 by the Nuffield Provincial Hospital Trust to provide a medical service to the industry growing up in the new town in the days before the town had its own hospital.

It provides a range of services to assist companies achieve improvements to their productivity and profitability through reducing sickness absence, compliance with legislation and promoting good health. They undertake health-screening, presentation to employees on first aid and manual handling and provide inoculations for foreign travel, amongst a range of other services.

Harlow Council and Kier Harlow use the service.

Trustees are drawn from local employers, with Harlow Trades Council, Harlow Chamber of Commerce and the council having automatic nomination rights. Our membership may be something of an anachronism now but they appreciate our involvement and support.

An extremely well run and focused health service of which the town can be proud.

### **32. KIER HARLOW LIMITED - CLLR SIMON CARTER**

Kier Harlow Limited is 19.1% owned by the council and remainder by Kier Building Maintenance Ltd. The board comprises five members, one from Harlow Council, and a councillor as an observer. Although described as an observer, board meetings are an opportunity for the administration to raise issues directly with the directors.

With lower spending by the council and continuous performance written in the contract, improving efficiency is an imperative. There is recognition that there were problems within KH during the opening phase of the joint venture but these are being addressed and performance improving. Training is also highly regarded, with moves towards more multi skilled employees to reduce the number of visits required to housing repairs. KH is working with the council to improve void property turnaround times and reduce costs.

KH takes employee safety very seriously with a regular series of talks and information to staff in order to reduce accidents. Seeking third party business, a fundamental part of the original contract is gathering pace with a number of recent successes.

Within the new three-year business plan, along with the issues mentioned above, improving communications between Contact Harlow and their repairs centre is a priority, along with improving communications both within the company, with the council and their customers.