

CULTURAL CONSORTIUM
WEDNESDAY 23 OCTOBER 2013

UPDATE FROM THE HERTS ASSOCIATION OF CULTURAL OFFICERS

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The Herts Association of Cultural Officers (HACO) last met on Friday 20 September at the Westminster Lodge Leisure Centre in St Albans. I was unable to attend this meeting due to leave, so this update is a little shorter than usual.

The main items covered at this meeting were:

1. Presentation – ‘Future approach as we move from Section 106 to the Community Infrastructure Levy’

A presentation was given by Manpreet Kanda Singh, who is the Spatial Planning Officer at St Albans DC.

It looked at how local authorities can use what used to be known as ‘planning gain’ contributions from developers to improve infrastructure that the local community and neighbourhoods want in their area.

The Levy must be set in pounds per square metre of floor space arising from any chargeable development. The charge will be applied to new buildings or extensions to existing buildings with more than 100 square metres of floor space. So most buildings that people normally use will be liable to pay the Levy. But buildings into which people do not normally go, and buildings into which people go only intermittently for the purpose of inspecting or maintaining fixed plant or machinery, will not be liable to pay the levy. Structures which are not buildings, such as pylons and wind turbines, will not be liable to pay the Levy.

Money raised by the Levy can be used to fund new transport schemes, flood defences, schools, hospitals and other health and social care facilities, parks, green spaces and leisure centres. It is up to the charging authority to decide how to allocate the Levy receipts to improve local infrastructure.

2. Herts Sports Partnership

HSP reported at this meeting that they were delighted to achieve the Quest Excellence Standard Award, the first of the 49 Community Sport Partnerships in England to achieve this. Quest is a tool for continuous improvement within the sports development sector and wider leisure industry and the award is a testament to the excellent professionalism, team working and the strength of the wider county partnerships.

They also reported on some their recent work programme outcomes:

Knebworth Sports Fest (Sunday 21 July) - more than 2,000 visitors enjoyed the mixed bag of around 20 sports and activities on offer at the Sports Fest. Set around the backdrop of Knebworth House, the day offered a great opportunity for adults and children to try out and enjoy a diverse range of sports, activities and games in a fun environment. It was organised in partnership between HSP, Sports Development Officers from North Herts, Stevenage and Welwyn Hatfield Councils and Knebworth Park.

Girls Get Sporty (Saturday 24 August) - more than 100 young girls, aged from 7-15 joined experienced players and coaches from Hertfordshire Mavericks Netball Club, Arsenal Ladies Football Club and Saracens Women's Rugby Club for a day of sporting fun, skills and games. It was organised in partnership with the clubs, the Herts Sports Partnership and Hertfordshire Sports Village, the venue for the day.

Coach Mark Bursary Scheme – HSP awards of up to £500 towards the cost of a course (and up to a maximum of 50% of the total cost) are available. Since January 2013, 26 awards have been made to coaches of 12 different sports and a total of £7,000 has been awarded.

Inspired Facilities: Places People Play - round 4 of the Inspired Facilities investment programme saw another six organisations benefit from National Lottery funding in Hertfordshire, as part of Sport England's Olympic and Paralympic legacy programme. Almost £350,000 in new funding has been awarded in round 4 (although none to any based in Welwyn Hatfield this time).

3. Creative Hertfordshire Update

Nick Denham updated HACO as follows:

Creative Hertfordshire has been promoted to the public across the summer at the Heart of Flame Festival, Knebworth Sports Fest and Welwyn Hatfield Play Day. Presentations have been made to the Welwyn Cultural Forum, Hertfordshire Libraries and the Dacorum Arts Partnership. New supporters include Pro-Action, the Federation of Small Businesses and the Hertfordshire Chamber of Commerce.

On 12 September, the University of Hertfordshire hosted the Creative Hertfordshire Launch. Around 80 people attended this networking event and there was a presentation from *Creative Torbay* which showed the achievements of the online network in south Devon.

There are currently 272 profiles from individuals, businesses or venues, with 400 events listed to date and 700 people requesting the weekly e-newsletter. The next stage for promotion of the site is for Creative Hertfordshire's partners to raise awareness among residents to take up the opportunities available there.

The Council's lead officer for the Creative Hertfordshire website is Clair Francis (01707) 357183 / c.francis@welhat.gov.uk).

4. District / Borough Update

I did not provide an update for Welwyn Hatfield as I was not at this meeting.

5. Next Meeting

HACO's next meeting will be held on Friday 6 December 2013 at a venue to be confirmed.

Paul Underwood
Head of Policy & Culture

October 2013