

Borough Councillor's January Report for Hawstead

Moyse's Hall Museum has been awarded an Arts Council grant of £23,300 to make the upgrades needed to display national treasures from major museums. The upgrades will include the installation of new secondary security glazing, conservation blinds and the purchase of a high security display case. Moyse's Hall will remain open throughout the improvements which are scheduled for 2016 and hopes to exhibit its first national loan in 2017.

Bury bus station. Reconfiguration work is underway and scheduled to last until the end of March. The bus station to remain open and functioning during the building works. There will be some disruption but this will be kept to a minimum and there will always be a waiting area and access to public toilets. Staff will remain on hand working in the bus station, until the end of March, to assist customers during the change.

Applications are now being invited to lease the café kiosk in the waiting room area. This will be followed at a later stage to find a tenant for the larger 'lettable' area.

The shopmobility service from the bus station will be transferred to the library in late January. Shopmobility users have been informed of this change of service and customers will continue to be supported by the Council.

Community Chest Funding. In St Edmundsbury awards have been given to:

- £6,586.00 to the Bury St Edmunds Volunteer to deliver a project for adults experiencing mental health issues, including cognitive behaviour therapy programmes as well as support groups.
- £5,000 to Gatehouse Caring for the furniture store project which is a complete home furnishing service for disadvantaged families and individuals, referred by housing associations, Social Care Services, health teams, CAB and the Probation Service.
- £13,250 to Homestart which give support to families who may be struggling to cope with a variety of challenges including post-natal illness, disability, isolation, the demands of parenting young children, bereavement and multiple births.
- £5,000 to Hopton Day Care Centre which provides a social centre for the elderly and frail from local villages to meet up a least once a week and enjoy a nutritious lunch and refreshments.
- £9,000 to Mentis Tree, a community interest company to allow it to offer clients in hardship free long term therapy, not available on the NHS, to improve their mental health and wellbeing.
- £5,000 to REACH to run a supported volunteer programme enabling people with physical or learning disabilities to help at its foodbank.
- £5,000 to Relate Norfolk and Suffolk for relationship counselling services.

- £182,000 to Suffolk West Citizens Advice Bureau towards reviewing the way clients access services and ensuring clients see the most appropriate agency. The SWCAB also want to work to ensure people are enabled to help themselves and to provide support to those who are unable to do so.
- £9,860 to The Volunteer Network for its Befriending Scheme to further develop the service to enable clients to benefit from attending day centres, social groups, or other places to help resolve any barriers such as confidence and access.
- £5,310 to The Voluntary Network for its community transport scheme.

Locality funding. I have now had some ideas as to how the village would like to spend my £500 which I am making available for Hawstead. I await to hear the outcome of further research regarding this. I must also flag up the Rural Initiative Grant Scheme (RIGS), which has money available for capital grants in the rural areas.

West Suffolk Operational Hub. The next stage of the public consultation for the WSOH started on the 8th of January and will finish on 19th of February 2016. This consultation is to give those people, who felt that there were sites other than the one at Hollow Road, the opportunity to put forward suitable alternatives.

Further information is available online at www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/wsoh, giving details of three drop-in exhibitions, a public meeting, how to provide feedback and how that feedback will be used.

Brown Bins. The scheme of charging for the. People only pay if they decide to keep their brown bin. Details will be circulated nearer the time. The scheme will begin from the 1st of April. The cost is likely to be in the region of £40.

Angela Rushen

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