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INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUE:- September 2005 ①

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1.	Planning Appeals	Jennifer Hooke	707339 jennifer.hooke@surreyheath.gov.uk	1
2.	Local Authority Mortgage Interest Rates	Chris Dunning	707257 chris.dunning@surreyheath.gov.uk	2
3.	Community Funds Grants	Jayne Boitoult	707464 jayne.boitoult@surreyheath.gov.uk	3
4.	Benefits Monthly Stats	June Simpson	707119 june.simpson@surreyheath.gov.uk	4
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The following document contains reports for your information. If you would like any matters to be raised at the next Executive or regulatory committee, one day's written notice should be given to the Head of Legal and Support Services (with a copy to Frances Moody). Any matters must be raised within one calendar month of it being published in the Information Bulletin.

Produced by Borough Secretary's Division.
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1) New Appeals Notified to the Council

A) New Planning Appeals Table:

Ref	Site	Proposal	Appeal
05/0018	Eastlea Court, 20 Westerdale Drive, Frimley, GU16 9RB	Erection of three, three storey buildings comprising of 23 apartments. Erection of a total of 23 garages in five blocks and alterations to an access onto Westerdale Drive following demolition of existing house and outbuildings.	Inquiry
04/1375	Langshot Farm, Gracious Pond Road, Chobham, GU248HJ	Rear extension, rear conservatory and porch extension.	Written
05/0114	Woodpeckers, 14 High View Road, Lightwater, Surrey GU18 5YE	Erection of a part two storey, part three storey house with detached triple garage following demolition of existing.	Written

B) Number of Appeals Received:

	<u>April 05 -August 05</u>	<u>April 04 -August 04</u>
Written Representations	13	26
Public Inquiry	5	9
Informal Hearing	5	3
Enforcement Notice Appeals	0	0
	23	38

C) Appeal Decisions

Ref	Site	Proposal	Appeal	Decision
04/1058	Land adjoining 14 Red Lion Lane, Chobham, Woking, Surrey, GU24 8RH	Outline application for the erection of a detached bungalow.	Written	Dismissed
04/1302	Old Rectory Cottage, Grove Cross Road Frimley, GU16 8JP	Erection of a two storey building with accommodation in roof comprising 7 two bedroom flats together with associated parking and access onto Grove Cross Road following demolition of existing building.	Written	Dismissed

Ref	Site	Proposal	Appeal	Decision
04/1295	171 Macdonald Road, Lightwater, Surrey GU18 5UE	Erection of a three storey house to include the attachment of the existing garage, retention of 171 Macdonald Road on a reduced curtilage. Erection of a single attached garage to 171 Macdonald road and creation of new vehicular access.	Written	Dismissed
04/1349	19 The Fairway, Camberley, Surrey Gu15 1EF	Erection of a two storey house with detached double garage to new vehicular access onto the fairway with the retention of 19 The Fairway on a reduced curtilage following demolition of the existing garage and car port. Erection of a part-single/part-two storey side extension with accommodation in roof space to 19 The Fairway with associated alterations.	Written	Dismissed
04/1374	Land at 89 Gordon Road and 2 Georgian Close, Camberley, Surrey GU15 3TW	Erection of a two storey detached house with accommodation in the roof and a detached double garage. Creation of new access onto Georgian Close and the retention of 89 London Road on a reduced curtilage.	Written	Dismissed

Summary of Results of Appeals

		<u>April 05</u> <u>-August</u> <u>05</u>	<u>April 04</u> <u>-August</u> <u>04</u>
Appeals Allowed		6	12
Appeals Dismissed		18	7
Appeals Withdrawn		9	0
Total		33	19

LOCAL AUTHORITY MORTGAGE INTEREST RATES

September 2005 ①/2

1. The Council currently manages 26 mortgages advanced under the “Right to Buy” provisions contained within the Housing Act 1985 as amended.
2. The interest rate charged on the mortgages is based on the Standard National Rate, as set by the Secretary of State, or at the rate of this Council’s local average rate of borrowing, whichever is the higher.

3. The former Department for Local Government, Transport and the Regions advised local authorities that the Standard National Rate of interest with effect from 1st November 2004 was 6.28%.
4. The Council is required to declare its local average rate of interest as at 1st April and 1st October each year.
5. For a local authority that has no borrowing, other than short-term borrowing, the local average rate is deemed to be 0%. Therefore with effect from the 1st October 2005 the local average rate will be 0%.
6. From 1st November 2004 the standard national rate of 6.28% has been charged on existing mortgages (variable rate mortgages arranged since 3rd October 1980).

Members are asked to NOTE this report.

COMMUNITY FUNDS GRANTS	September 2005 ①/3
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Application No	Applicant	Purpose	Grant Value	Special condition
268	Lightwater Village Design Group	To produce a village design statement	£1,250.00	None
270	Christian Connect Counselling	Training for counsellors specialising in couples.	£1,800.00	None
Total			£ 3,080.00	
Total Awarded	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 16a ^t , 17, 18 ^h , 19 th , 20 th round		£ 91,404.55	
Awarded	21 + 22nd round		£ 3,080.00	
Grand Total Awarded			£ 94,454.55	
Large Grant Scheme				
181	Abbey Court Residents Association	Replacement trees	£3,000	Application declined at the Executive meeting on 5 th September 2005.

Caseload

No. of benefit claimants - 3040

No. of LIVE Housing Benefit/Council Tax Benefit claims - 5009

No. of application forms received in month - 133

Performance Indicators

Average days to process Change of Circumstances - 27

Average no. of days to process NEW claims - 36

% of NEW claims processed within 14 days of completion - 88%

% of ALL claims assessed within 14 days - 90%

% of NEW Rent Allowance claims paid on time - 80%

% of overpayments recovered since start of year - 42%

Outstanding Work

Total no. of items for processing - 1110

Oldest Work - 27/7/2005

Overpayments

Value of overpayments raised in Aug 05 - £46,467

Value of rewards claimed for month - £1845

Cumulative total of rewards for year - £7740

Expenditure to date

Housing Benefit expenditure to date - £3,167,404

Council Tax Benefit expenditure to date - £2,242,346

J Simpson

13/09/05

1. The main body of the Action Holiday programme was organised during the school summer holidays from 25th July 2005 to 26th August 2005. Leisure Service worked in partnership with other statutory, voluntary and commercial organisations, seeking to provide a value for money and quality play programme for the Community.
2. Following a decision to change the format of the Action Holiday Programme for 2005, so that the Borough Council only directly organised the courses. Four of the Councils previously used Children's Play Centres were made available by working in partnership with external organisations, Kids for Life and SCL thus used a percentage of the Council's allocated free hours on those sites.

3. As agreed a three-year business plan for the Action Holiday play scheme was commissioned following a survey by ABA Research of parents whose children had previously participated in the scheme during 2004, This report made it clear that intense efforts should be made to promote the scheme in 2005. Schools in particular were targeted and individual staff contacted to ensure that the programmes were passed on to children in time before the booking period which commenced on the 13th June 2005. The preliminary finding in the report suggested that co-operation from schools would require an even greater effort than in the past.

The Programme

4. The programme offered a wide variety of sport/activity's courses with constructive coaching opportunities for young people aged 5 to 16 years and was organised within the relevant legislation of the Children's Act 1989, Ofsted (Office for Standards in Education) and the Health & Safety Act 1974.
5. By providing opportunities for young people to play, the Council help through their coaching programme to develop their social, physical, emotional, intellectual and creative skills in a safe, reliable and happy environment.
6. This report includes and evaluates the performance of the parallel programme organised by D C Leisure, in the Arena Leisure Centre. This forms part of the Council's provision and reflected activities of a similar nature.

ARENA	Play activities	-----	(1740 max)	(1617 actual)
(six weeks)	Sports Courses	-----	(123 max)	(123 actual)

7. Following an agreement by Leisure Services there has been an increase in the provision of play activities provided by the private sector within Surrey Heath. Outside organisations provided a similar programme to that of the Council's Action Holiday play scheme that was on offer in 2004. Four of the Action Holiday Play Centres within the Borough were organised through the corporation the following organisations:- Kids for Life at Lightwater, Chobham and Tomlinscote, SCL at Deepcut and Frimley.

Telephone Booking

8. The in house telephone booking system was used again this year with on-line payments for pre-bookings. This reflected previous market research reported to committee showing that parents found booking in person to be unhelpful. Lines opened for a booking period from 13th June to 22nd July. During this period there were 535 bookings made with an additional 49 places taken up during the scheme the final total was 584. The feasibility of internet booking was carefully reviewed in 2004 but this was ultimately considered to be an option that needed to be considered within the remit of the Contact Centre.

Courses

9. The in-house courses were well attended and very successful because they met the needs of the young people, they offered a wide range of activities and gave value for

money. Fees were set inline with the rate of inflation for most of the courses. The courses were the Unique Selling Point (USP) of the scheme because no other provider is remotely able to challenge this provision or range of choice or quality. Because of this, prices were set to a realistic and competitive level.

The activities and the number of participants were as follows:

IN-HOUSE COURSES

ACTIVITY	Numbers 2004	Numbers 2005	ACTIVITY	Numbers 2004	Numbers 2005
Fishing	55	59	Archery	20	31
Canoeing	60	65	Athletics	24	37
Pond Dipping	72	62	Ranger Activities	49	15
Dance Workshop	28	29	Rugby¹	115	127
Jungle Safari	45	45	Netball	30	30
Jungle Adventure	60	60	Shooting	44	24
			TOTAL	602	584

¹ 20 Girls, 70% club, 20% school, 10% SHBC

OUTSIDE COURSES PROMOTED BT SHBC

Activity	Numbers 2004	Numbers 2005
Gymnastics (Bagshot)	220	125
Gymnastics	15	15
Tennis	160	230
Trampolining	101	123
Judo	33	Not run
Inline Roller Hockey	37	25
Football	165	450
Total	731	968

OVERALL TOTALS

COURSES / SITE	Numbers 2004	Weeks 2004	Provider	Numbers 2005	Weeks 2005
All Courses (Outside & Internal)	1333	4 weeks		1552	6 Weeks
Lightwater	328	3 weeks	KfL1	1743	6 Weeks
Mytchett	354	3 weeks		Football only.	
Chobham	414	3 weeks	KfL1	246	3 Weeks
Deepctt Village Centre	Not in operation	1 week	SCL2	85	1 Week
<i>Arena Leisure Centre</i>	1150	6 weeks	DCL3	1617	6 weeks
<i>Tomlinscote Sports Centre</i>	1077	1 week	KfL1	70	1 Week
<i>Peerless Activity Week</i>	Not included 2004		SHHA4	47	1 week

COURSES / SITE	Numbers 2004	Weeks 2004	Provider	Numbers 2005	Weeks 2005
<i>Frimley</i>	Not included 2004		SCL ²	340	2 Weeks
<i>Windlesham</i>	Not included 2004		SCL ²	1225	5 Weeks
GRAND TOTAL	4656			6925	

¹ Kids for Life

² Soccer Coaching Limited

³ DC Leisure

⁴ Peerless

SCHEME PERFORMANCE 2005/06

The performance against targets set for 2005/06 was as follows:

PROGRAMME AREAS	Targets	Actuals	Comments
In-house Courses/Activities	745	584	
Arena Play Day Camp visits.	1740	1617	
Partnership Courses/Activities.	1000	968	
Partnership Play Centre visits.	5300	3756	
TOTAL	8885	6925	

The estimated income including sponsorship for the Action Holiday Programme 2005/06 is £20,300.

Budget Net Expenditure	Actual Net Expenditure
£40,000	£39,700 – <i>This is estimated and subject to final accounts.</i>

12. All staff were checked through the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB). The staff employed as coaches held special qualifications and were employed on temporary contracts.

Marketing

13. The launch of the Action Holiday promotional programme was delayed. There was a call-in by this Committee on 20th May, of the Executive decision of 27th April on scheme prices. Every effort was made, with the advice and support of corporate colleagues dealing with media, public relations, and the internet, to vigorously promote the programme. Market research of users and non-users was also initiated, and this is dealt with below.

14. 17,000 programmes were distributed to 71 locations, in Community Centres, Church Halls, Leisure Centres, Parish Councils, Schools, Shops and Village halls and in a number of schools outside the Borough. Large posters were displayed on all notice boards. A banner was displayed over the main High Street in Camberley, together

with displays in the Main Square and A5 flyers circulated during the scheme throughout the Borough.

Regular press releases were published in the local papers with Radio coverage during the scheme.

Conclusions

17. Young people were able to experience activities that had a reasonable level of challenge in comparative safety, and to develop relationships with other children and adult staff in a safe, relaxed and easy atmosphere. The Council set and maintained high standards of health, safety and hygiene during the scheme period.

The Action Plan for the development of the Action Holiday Programme for the next three years are to include the marketing, programme development, working and enabling partnership with outside organisations to provide a similar programme increasing the number of attendances.

Action Holiday was delivered within budget.

Recommendation

20. The committee is asked to consider the above report in making any recommendation to the Executive for 2005/06.