

1. COASTAL COMMUNITY TEAMS

1.1 Maldon and Blackwater Estuary CCT

1.1.a Joint Meeting

A joint meeting of the Maldon & Blackwater Estuary and Crouch CCTs was held on the 29th June 2017, hosted by the Blackwater CCT, to review progress with the delivery of key projects and to update the Project Ideas list. The meeting also welcomed members from the Bradwell Legacy Partnership, which has a similar interest in the economic well-being of the District. Work is now underway to update the Team's Economic Plan. The revised Plan will be presented to this Committee later during the year.

A verbal update on actions arising from the joint meeting will be given by the Economic Development Officer at this meeting.

The Maldon & Blackwater CCT are also currently seeking to appoint representatives from the voluntary, heritage and business sectors to support the work of their Management Team.

1.2 River Crouch CCT

1.2a Management Team Meeting

The Crouch CCT Management Team met on the 20th June 2017 to progress a number of key projects, including the Crouch Valley video, and to finalise arrangements for a Team site visit to Wallasea Island which will be hosted by the RSPB. The Team also received updates on the development of coastal footpaths/walks in the Rochford district, and distribution of the reprinted 'Explore the beauty of the Crouch' guide.

1.2b Lower Crouch Crossing

The Crouch CCT Working Group is continuing to develop a detailed grant funding bid for a new, all-weather and wheelchair friendly Lower Crouch River Crossing. The Working Group has met with representatives from Maldon and Rochford District Councils and private sector partners, where a number of actions were agreed which would clarify the role and responsibilities of each partner, and identify overall project costs. The Working Group is aiming to assemble all necessary information and planning consents, where applicable, in time for the next call for bids to the Coastal Community Fund, which is now anticipated by government as 'late 2017'.

2. BRADWELL LEGACY PARTNERSHIP

2.1 Partnership Meeting

The Partnership met on the 19th July 2017 at St Lawrence. The meeting reviewed progress on bids being submitted to the Magnox Socio-Economic fund in respect of continuation of the Dengie Enterprise Support (DES) service, and the Maldon District Enterprise Centre project. A verbal update on any actions arising from that meeting will be provided by the Economic Development Officer at this meeting.

2.2 Bradwell to Mersea Foot Ferry

Members will no doubt recall that this project is one of a number of projects proposed by the Bradwell Legacy Partnership and endorsed by the Planning and Licensing Committee. Officers have now met with the owners of Bradwell Marina, who have indicated a keen interest in developing a ferry service to Mersea Island, and given a presentation to the West Mersea Town Council Waterside Committee during March 2017 on the project proposal. At that meeting, the Waterside Committee expressed concerns over potential congestion on their pontoon hammerhead, and as to whether the service could develop into a commuter route and extend beyond a six-week school holiday period when most of the use was anticipated.

Officers have since spoken with the Chairman of the Waterside Committee who has given his in principle support to enquires being undertaken by Bradwell Marina on the potential to modify the West Mersea pontoon to accommodate the ferry, and to perhaps dredging some of the adjacent moorings, subject to Marine Management Organisation approval, to improve accessibility at lower water. Any proposals would need to be taken to the Waterside Committee for their further consideration.

At the moment, Officers are facilitating communications between Bradwell Marina and the Chairman of the West Mersea Waterside Committee. At the time of writing, no costings have been established for the project.

3. BUSINESS SUPPORT

3.1 BEST Growth Hub – Economic Development continues to work closely with the SELEP BEST Growth Hub with whom the Council now has an engagement plan (as attached). There is an assigned member of staff for our Local Authority, Elaine Gale, with whom the Economic Development Officer meets once a month to plan ways to work together for the benefit of SMEs. At the most recent meeting last week it was also agreed that BEST Growth Hub would be happy to provide an infill service with regards to 1:1 support on a bi-weekly basis in Burnham-on-Crouch and/or Maldon whilst a decision is awaited as to whether Magnox are happy to fund the resumption of the Dengie Enterprise Support for a further 2 years. A decision is currently awaited from Burnham Town Council's next Council Meeting on 20th June, regarding a request to hold the Burnham-on-Crouch 1:1 sessions utilising the Burnham Town Council Chamber as a venue free of charge, as neither the Council or BEST Growth Hub have a budget for room hire. The Maldon one-to-ones would be held in the reception of Maldon District Council. Officers hope that Burnham-on-Crouch Town Council will be supportive of this proposal. BEST Growth Hub also provides regular schedules of free training workshops to businesses, some of which are delivered in the Maldon District which are publicised to businesses.

3.2 Dengie Enterprise Support

DES has been mothballed since the end of May due to lack of funds and the end of the previous contract and has entered a Care and Maintenance period since 1 June 2017. Economic Development is currently paying for the retention of the DES website, dealing with any new enquiries and has also paid for the current DES phone line to be diverted to the Economic Development's phone line. We have continued to receive enquiries from new business starting up in the Maldon District via this

portal which we have been able to assist. Colbea have agreed to continue to look after any existing clients if they can travel to their Colchester base for the time being at no cost to MDC.

4. BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT

4.1 Causeway Business Forum – Economic Development is currently organising a follow on event from the recent Leader's Supper to instigate and implement the formation of a Causeway Business Forum with the hope that this will also lead to the creation of a Business Improvement District. The Event is proposed to take place in September from 3.30-5pm, most likely at Plantation Hall. However an exact agenda, date and venue are to be confirmed shortly and a 'Save the Date' email to be issued to all businesses/landowners in this area.

4.2 Burnham-on-Crouch Chamber of Commerce - The Economic Development Team continues to be an Executive member of the Burnham-on-Crouch Chamber of Commerce and was heavily involved in the organisation, promotion and delivery of the follow-on event from the re-launch Celebrating Burnham Business Event which took place on 20th June between 7 and 9.30 pm at the Royal Corinthian Yacht Club. It was a huge success again, over 30 businesses/organisations attended and 8 new members were recruited on the night. Jack Ellum from Maldon District Council presented on the benefits of businesses adopting the Sense of Place branding as well as examples of how it could be used including its use in some of the investment projects in Burnham-on Crouch, with a follow-on speech from Charlie Fillingham, Chairman of the Sense of Place Board, and Adele Bovingdon, a Bradwell based business woman in social media and co-founder of the Local Business Clinic who spoke about the power of Facebook to promote and grow your business and how she has incorporated Sense of Place branding into her business.

4.3 Crouch Valley Winegrowers - On 21 May 2017 the Economic Development Team and the Chief Executive had a meeting with the 5 local vineyards actively involved in the setting up of a wine region in the District. As a result of the meeting they will now be progressing the trademarking of their proposed CM3 region as Crouch Valley Winegrowers, and ED will be looking further at the skills remit on their behalf with Writtle College (already started), will arrange for them to get SOP assets adopted into their websites as a minimum, and support them with any other initiatives that can enable the expansion of their businesses. I've raised their awareness of funding currently available, the Food and Drink Festival proposed for later in the year in which I would encourage them to engage, arranged for their vineyards to be included in the Grape and Grain Trail and encouraged them to become members of the Burnham-on-Crouch Chamber of Commerce, the re-launch of they all recently attended.

4.4 Networking - ED also used to attend, support and promote the Maldon Small Business Lunch networking group run by a local SME owner Liz Jones that run bi-weekly. However, Liz has decided to concentrate on her new business as opposed to the networking group moving forward so this has recently ceased. However, one of its former members, another local SME owner, Janet Gilbert, has started a new business networking group at the Swan to run bi-weekly from this month. Economic Development is attending these meetings.

4.5 Small Business Saturday - 2nd December 2017 – Following a request made last year, the Economic Development Team has been successful in securing a place on its bus tour to the Maldon District. In conjunction with local business associations and groups and BEST Growth Hub the

Economic Development team will be looking to identify initiatives/incentives that businesses can deliver in partnership with this event to help promote Maldon District's business.

4.6 Maldon Vintage Christmas Fayre - Economic Development continues to sit on the working group for the Maldon Town Council organised Christmas Vintage Fayre which takes place on 30 November this year between 6 and 9pm to provide ongoing support and resource to an event which helps to raise the profile to external visitors of the Maldon District and its business, and particularly its retail trade.

4.7 Innovation 50 - Economic Development attended the Innovation 50 Event on 25 May 2017 at Anglia Ruskin University to celebrate those who had been identified as 50 of the county's brightest and most innovative small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) demonstrating fast growth or growth potential through a joint 3 year Anglia Ruskin University and Essex County Council project. This project also identified common characteristics and strategies that can lead to growth potential for other Essex SMEs. We are pleased to report that 4 of the 50 from across Essex were from the Maldon District including Poulten Selfe & Lee, Blackman & White, SKN-RG Performance Skincare, and Brynleigh Technology.

4.8 Superfast Broadband – Economic Development attended the BT and Superfast Broadband Essex Phase 3 Celebration on the 33rd floor of the BT Tower. It was good to hear that this project is ahead of schedule by 3 months, resulting in a gainshare that has led to further investment, and Maldon and Rochford District will be the main priority in the next phase and in particular the industrial parks.

5. SKILLS

5.1 Care - Economic Development is continuing to look at what interventions Maldon District Council could provide in terms of skills and recruitment support for the Care sector in the Maldon District.

Following Economic Development's attendance at the recent Colchester Borough Council's care workshop at Colchester Institute to better understand the economic growth opportunities within the sector Economic Development is now working collaboratively with Tendring and Colchester Local Authorities, businesses in the Care Sector including the Maldon District and other partners in Social Care including the 2 Essex Universities, other health practitioners, private and public training providers, to formulate some actions that could have a positive economic growth impact on Maldon District's Care sector and is to be part of a working sub-group to this effect.

5.2 Employment and Skills - Economic Development recently met with various officers within the Essex County Council Employability and Skills Unit to establish those skills initiatives being currently offered that could assist Maldon District Business and schools. This could potentially lead to a Construction Jobs Fair being held at Maldon District Council, a STEM event at one of the local secondary schools and continuing to work with CEC to identify some industry champions in conjunction with the Enterprise Advisor Network.

5.3 ICON Workshop - Development will also be attending a workshop being held by the Haven Gateway in Ipswich on 27 June regarding a new Innovation in Construction Project which will focus on enabling local SMES in the local construction industry to adopt new techniques, business processes and technologies so that they are able to build, or be part of consortia to develop housing and infrastructure more efficiently and to high quality standards. It will also develop a construction

innovation network to help bring the sector together with local authorities, housing associations, logistics, technology companies, Universities, FE colleges and other sectors involved in the development of new homes and infrastructure in the longer term.

5.4 Building Better Opportunities - Abberton Rural Training has been successful in winning a bid Building Better Opportunities in which Maldon District Council is a working partner.

This project aims to provide intensive and ongoing practical employment support for older people (aged 45 and over) to move into sustainable volunteering, training or employment. The Economic Development team identified a suitable venue for the delivery of the weekly Tuesday all day session that will take place for those in the Maldon District and neighbouring areas at Stow Maries. This will be in environmental conservation care and those attending will have the opportunity to gain a UKRS Level 1 qualification. The Economic Development Team will also be hosting the launch event for the Maldon Area, planned for 3 August 2017 between 3.30 and 5pm. Once all arrangements have been confirmed including the venue Members will receive an official invite.

5.5 Maritime Skills and Heritage Marine Foundation (HMF) - Members of this Committee who support the ongoing work of the Maldon & Blackwater Estuary Coastal Community Team will be aware of the work being undertaken by the Heritage Marine Foundation, which is based in Downs Road Boatyard, Maldon, to develop a nationally recognised qualification and apprenticeship structure for the Maintenance, Operation and Conservation of Traditional Vessels.

Maldon District Council was represented by the Economic Development Officer at a meeting held at Chatham Historic Dockyard on the 20th June 2017 where over 60 representatives from local and national maritime industries discussed the skills challenges being experienced by operators of traditional vessels, and the need to develop a meaningful apprenticeship and qualification which would include shore side work as well as time at sea.

Following some lengthy debate on the concept and merits of a new qualification, it was agreed that every attempt should be made by the sector to tailor a course to meet the specific needs of operators and to seek government funding to create the necessary standards.

Trustees of the HMF, based in Maldon, will now be seeking to establish a working group made up of representatives from across the UK to create the scheme.

Members are requested to acknowledge the important work being undertaken by the HMF, which will help secure the future of the District's maritime heritage, and to confirm the Council's support, subject to the scope of work to be undertaken, and the location and frequency of any meetings, for the aims of the project.

5.6 Skills Strategy - The Economic Development Team will be analysing data and feedback from businesses in the Maldon District over the next few weeks in order to identify the exact nature of our skills deficit and to develop and implement a Skills Strategy.

6. SENSE OF PLACE

6.1 The Economic Development team publicised the Sense of Place branding and its adoption by businesses, including benefits and how to use it, with examples, at the Burnham-on-Crouch Chamber

of Commerce event was a major part of the business awareness theme which took place on the evening of 20 June 2017.

6.2 The Communications team have now created the Sense of Place assets for business which can be currently accessed via the Communications Team. By the end of July these will be directly available to businesses via the Sense of Place dedicated satellite website linked to the MDC website www.wearemalondistrict.co.uk .

6.3 Work is still in progress regarding the installation of hoardings on the Aquila site at Fullbridge roundabout marketing the Maldon District and Sense of Place.

6.4 Since the last Planning & Licensing Committee there have been 2 meetings with Charlie Fillingham, Chairman of the Sense of Place Board, one with the Economic Development department and the Chief Executive , followed by a further meeting with the new Leader and Deputy Leader of Maldon District Council, the Chairman of the Planning and Licensing Committee, the Chief Executive of Maldon District Council and the Economic Development department to discuss the role of the Place Board in the promotion and adoption of the Sense of Place branding by businesses and how the Council can support the Board in this role.