

Report to Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council – 12th July 2022

Ukraine

Along with the initial property checks and welcome visits for Ukrainian guests, WDBC has been developing a plan to support the sustainability of the host/guest relationship and put together a re-match scheme for placements that have broken down. The council is also planning for the end of the initial 6 months of the scheme and continues to deliver wraparound support through CA and CVS.

Changes to the Homes for Ukraine scheme have been announced which now allows hosts to match with unaccompanied Ukrainian children. This will have significant safeguarding implications and further details from government is awaited. It is anticipated that the visa process for those children will open within the next two weeks and hosts will be expected to provide a placement for 3 years or until the child turns 18.

A new member of staff has just joined the project team. She arrived in the UK through the Homes for Ukraine scheme and will be working with the council in co-producing the wraparound support offered to Ukrainian guests. She will help to ensure that resources and support offered to CVS and CA are tailored and translated into Ukrainian. The council will be looking to recruit a further two case workers for the next 6 months

EV Charging points in Mill Road car park

Work is commencing with Scottish Power in terms of the works associated with installing the EV charging units. The first part of the process is that the unit is installed within the parking bay and then covered over to mark as not in use. Western Power Distribution are responsible for bringing the power into the charging units and there is a significant wait for them to carry out these works. Scottish Power are chasing WPD on a weekly basis and we are updated weekly on work dates. Scottish Power then return to commission the machines, the bays are painted and marked up as EV bays and then a go live date is set.

Levelling Up Fund Bid for Capital Funding for West Devon Transport Hub in Okehampton

This is due to be submitted at the beginning of July with an anticipated decision date in the Autumn and is being led by DCC. Given the timings of the Council meetings, the Hub Committee has approved including a commitment to match-funding of £120k from WDBC in the bid. This will need to be ratified by Full Council. The contribution of £120,000 will be funded from any UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) monies allocated to the Council in the first instance. If the Council is not allocated any UKSPF monies, or they are insufficient, the match-funding contribution will come from the Business Rates Retention Earmarked Reserve. Any financial commitment from the Council will only be awarded in the event of the Bid being successful.

Persimmon Site on Exeter Road

The enforcement team are working with residents and the contractor to resolve the issues regarding deliveries and unloading taking place early in the mornings which is causing disruption and noise nuisance to the residents. There is a named enforcement officer, and the Clerk has the contact details.

Cllr Julie Yelland
Okehampton South Ward
Report prepared 8th July 2022