

***** KEY DATES AND EVENTS *****

Oaklands College Summer Fayre
Sunday 7th June 2009, 10.00am – 4.00pm
St Albans Smallford Campus, Hatfield Road

St Albans Annual Festival 2009
Bringing the District Together
20 June – 5 July 2009

Centre for Voluntary Service – Community Lunch
Supporting elderly people or those with sensory or physical disabilities?
Thursday, 25th June 2009 12.45p.m. to 4p.m
Homewood Road URC Church, Homewood Rd, St Albans. AL1 4BH

**Revised Sustainable Community Strategy for 2009**

Nearly there!

The final draft of the revised Sustainable Community Strategy 2009 was agreed with a few minor amends by both the Local Strategic Partnership Board and the Cabinet of St Albans City & District Council on Thursday 21st May.

It will now be submitted to the next full Council meeting on 17th June for formal approval before publication.

Watch this space.....

For further information please contact:
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**Working better together - Managing local strategic partnerships**

The Audit Commission national study 'Working better together? Managing local strategic partnerships' reviews arrangements for performance, resource management, and governance.

The report identifies LSPs as evolving and maturing, local and national partners still need to recognise the key dynamics that support partnership working. Too few LSPs take an area-wide approach to performance and resource management. Some LSPs have well developed performance arrangements, but less developed resource management. And most LSPs have progress to make on their improvement journey if they are to deliver sustainable community strategy and LAA outcomes.

LSPs that have good, shared systems for performance management (with performance reporting, resource allocation, and risk management) will find it easier to show that they are on track to achieve agreed outcomes than those that do not.

Full details and to download the report go to <http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/nationalstudies/localgov/Pages/workingbettertogether.aspx>



Changes within NHS Hertfordshire

Since the two Hertfordshire PCTs were established they have been moving steadily towards separating the PCT "provider arm" from the commissioning part of the organisations. By provider arm it means those health services delivered directly to patients in their own homes, in community hospitals and health clinics by clinical staff such as community nurses, health visitors and therapists.

Similar changes are taking place across the country and reflect the fact that community services are now seen as central to the modernisation of the NHS with the transfer of services traditionally provided in hospital settings out into the community close to where patients live and work.

As from 1 April 2009 the provider arm of the PCTs will formally become an "arms length" organisation and will be known as Hertfordshire Community Health Services (HCHS). This separation will enable PCTs to concentrate on becoming world class commissioning organisations, purchasing health care from a range of providers including the private and third (voluntary) sector.

Also from 1 April 2009, the two Hertfordshire PCTs will become known as NHS East and North Hertfordshire and NHS West Hertfordshire to more fully reflect our position as local leaders of the NHS.

If you would like to find out more about these changes then please contact the Communications Team at: Charter House, Parkway, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, AL8 6JL or phone on 01707 390855.



Role of Parish councils to be set out in Charter

Parish councillors backed proposals for a Parish Charter and discussed the future development of St Albans city and district and the impact of the recession on the community at an all-day Parish Conference held on 24 April and hosted by St Albans City and District Council.

They agreed to work with St Albans City and District Council to draw up a Parish Charter that will enhance the role of parish councils in relation to issues that affect their communities.

The Charter will set out how St Albans City and District Council and Hertfordshire County Council will work in partnership with the parish councils to promote the social, economic and environmental development of their communities.

The details of the Charter will be developed over the next few months, but it is expected that it will contain commitments on how the district, county and parish councils will communicate with each other and with residents and on how parish councils can be involved in policies and decisions that affect the parish communities, such as planning applications and the development of long-term strategic goals. The Charter is also likely to provide a framework through which parish councils can volunteer to take on responsibilities for services currently managed by the district and county councils.

The district council will work with St Albans District Association of Parish Councils to produce a draft of the Parish Charter in time for the next parish conference due to be held in November 2009.



Introducing Oaklands College PCSO

GIVING a reassuring high-visibility police presence and pre-empting criminal activities amongst students and members of the public are the key roles of Oaklands PCSO David Gatta. David took up the newly created post after working in Canada for a year at a back packers' hostel.

"I have a vital liaison role between the police and the college. By working in partnership with ward constables and educational officers, I can put preventative measures in place to help stop crime and anti-social behaviour on the Oaklands sites," said David, who works with the St Albans Neighbourhood Team.

Mark Dawe, Principal & Chief Executive at Oaklands College said: "This post came out of our Local Strategic Partnership and provides a great opportunity for us to work together. It also offers huge benefits for the College, not just offering safety and policing but also involvement with students through the student enrichment team."

For further details go to

http://www.herts.police.uk/crimedatabase/site/content.php?article_id=6385



West Herts Medical Centre opens 1st June

An exciting new GP surgery - West Herts Medical Centre - opens in Hemel Hempstead on 1 June.

Open every day of the year from 8 in the morning to 8 at night, West Herts Medical Centre combines new ways of seeing a GP offering a wide range of health services that are traditionally provided at your doctor's surgery.

Open to everyone living, working or visiting West Hertfordshire (the towns and villages of Dacorum, Watford, Three Rivers, St Albans and Hertsmere), West Herts Medical Centre offers:

- Pre-booked appointments to people registered with the Centre
- Pre-booked appointments to people not registered with the Centre and
- A walk-in service (no appointment needed)

The Centre is located in the Jubilee Wing at Hemel Hempstead Hospital and will work alongside the Urgent Care Centre that opened there last October. It will be run by Herts Urgent Care on behalf of NHS West Hertfordshire.

To register or book an appointment at West Herts Medical Centre telephone 03000 332233 or visit www.westhertsmedicalcentre.nhs.uk to find out more.



Weathering the Storm – advice for local charities and community groups

St Albans Centre for Voluntary Service (CVS) has facilitated the first of a series of workshops that consider the impact of the economic downturn on local charities and community groups. Twenty delegates gathered to discuss concerns and learn how to be more resilient over the coming months.

A panel of financial experts offered the following advice:

- economic downturn need not mean disaster for the sector but trustees need to be vigilant about income and expenditure. Plan ahead and be prepared for early intervention
- develop marketing, business planning and financial skills and maximise the opportunities presented by volunteers that are recently unemployed
- make the most of offers in kind (goods, skills, labour)
- keep up to date on sources of help and new 'pots' of money
- reduce costs by checking for deals and switching suppliers and don't be shy about demanding prompt payments
- consider working in partnership, merging or sharing premises and events with other similar groups
- know the true cost of your activities and think about what services you can charge for
- nurture current sponsors and donors. Ensure they know where their money goes, the difference it makes and how valuable it is in language that is easy to understand.
- make use of the support, expertise and services provided by helper agencies
- beware of mission drift as funds become more difficult to obtain.

All delegates received resource packs stuffed with practical cost saving tips, new funding sources, essential financial information for treasurers and finance staff, directions to on-line financial advice sites, in-kind offers of skills and labour from the local business sector, sources of free software and details of training courses to develop marketing and management skills.

Next session

Tuesday, 14th July 2009 (Reg from 9:45am) 10am to noon
The Waterend Barn, St Peters Street, St Albans AL1 3LE

For more information on this workshop visit www.cvsstalbans.org.uk or email laura@cvsstalbans.org.uk



The St Albans Festival is coming

The 2009 St Albans Festival celebrates a remarkable Festival in an extraordinary place with over 140 events, in 17 days, offering a mixture of old favourites and completely new events.

This year's highlights include the annual Albantide Parade – celebrating the city's history and Britain's first martyr. Join in the magnificent giant puppet procession. This is a must for all the family. Folk at the Festival weekend provides a spectacular procession of dancers filling the city centre with music and colour.

Enjoy a day in the sun at Larks in the Parks a free day of outdoor fun and entertainment in six local parks – featuring – The Green Fingerted Gals, the giant Stilt Walking Knight, The Push and The Untouchables. An ideal opportunity to picnic with your friends and meet the people that live in the street next to yours.

Fuze goes stateside this year to celebrate the Fourth of July. Celebrate the best of American music and culture in an amazing day of music featuring eight fantastic bands – be prepared to dance till you drop!

All new for this year is Film at the Festival, a chance to see some of the best films around in the open air, set against the backdrop of the mansion at Oaklands College's Smallford site. You can find out what are St Albans' Favourite Films as St Albans moviegoers get the opportunity to vote for their favourite film. The top three will be screened at the Maltings Arts Theatre.

The St Albans Food and Drink Festival returns for a second year offering an array of gastronomical delights! The 2009 Festival will also see the launch of a brand new set of awards for the region – The St Albans Food and Drink Festival Awards.

The Alban Arena and the Maltings Arts Theatre present top class professional entertainment and whilst at Trestle Arts Base get a sneak preview of some of the best shows and world premieres that are going up to the Edinburgh Festival.

For more details on all the events – visit the new Festival website at www.stalbansfestival.co.uk or call the box office on 01727 844488 to book your tickets.



Health Inequalities Fund helps the community get digging

Parents, grandparents, governors and children recently turned out in force to turn a corner of land into a new garden for the whole school community at Margaret Wix Primary School in High Oaks.

However, the highlight of the morning was receiving a cheque for £2,000 from the Health Inequalities Fund made available through the St Albans and District Local Strategic Partnership (LSP).

Everybody built up a sweat preparing three plots of land and planting the first seeds. Each class has its own mini-greenhouse and will try their hands at growing a wide range of fruit, vegetables and flowers which they will use during their work within the classroom. Follow on work will involve the preparation and cooking of fruit and vegetables, and the sharing of simple recipes which the children will take home. This will hopefully generate more interest and increase the consumption of vegetable based meals through the 'pester power' of the children involved with the project.

Sally Bishop, the Head Teacher said: "The project involves the creation of a children's garden, involving the whole school and residents in the schools locality. They will be planning, preparing, planting and tending the growth of a variety of fresh fruit and vegetables, increasing the children's and support helpers physical activity."

For full details got to <http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/press-room/news-releases.aspx>



Network St Albans launched to tackle congestion issues

One thing everyone in St Albans can agree on is that the ancient city was not designed for today's modern traffic, so a new partnership has been formed to bring together everyone who has a role to play in improving transport in the city and reducing congestion.

Known as Network St Albans, the partnership is the first of its kind and has been formed as a result of the Transport Act 2008 which offers new opportunities for local authorities to work with transport operators through the creation of 'Quality Network Partnerships'.

The partners involved are:

- Hertfordshire County Council (which includes the Passenger Transport Unit and Hertfordshire Highways)
- St Albans City and District Council
- First Capital Connect
- London Midland
- Arriva the Shires and Essex
- Centrebus Limited
- Metroline Travel Limited
- Universitybus Limited and Uno Buses Limited
- University of Hertfordshire

Stephen Joseph, the Executive Director of Campaign for Better Transport (CBT), is chairing the partnership and is also a local resident of St Albans. CBT are helping to facilitate the QNP and provide guidance where possible.

As well as building on projects that are already underway, the partnership will start by reviewing St Albans' entire bus and rail network to identify areas in most need of improvement. Smaller schemes that are already underway include creating new

maps for bus stops to make bus routes, and links to other forms of public transport, clearer. The partnership will also give consideration to the impact of the existing transport network on the environment and consider sustainable green travel solutions that will reduce pollution and our carbon footprint.

For full details go to <http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/press-room/items/2009/April-2009/NetworkStAlbanslaunched.aspx#0>



Health & Well Being Action Plan for Herts 2009 - 2011

Working together, to ensure adults and carers are able to:

- Have their say
- Access to high quality information and advice
- Keep physically healthy and active
- Keep mentally healthy
- Enjoy economic wellbeing
- Be active members of their communities
- Feel safe and secure at home and within their communities
- Live independently

The Health and Wellbeing Plan will also help to deliver the agreed objectives set out in Hertfordshire's Sustainable Community Strategy - An Ageing Population and Health and Wellbeing themes and the short term objectives of the Healthier Communities and Older People's theme of Hertfordshire's Local Area Agreement. In developing this plan, a review of Hertfordshire's existing plans and strategies, relating to health and wellbeing and the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, has been undertaken.

For full details go to

<http://www.hertslink.org/hertfordshireforward/15communitystrategy/14039415/?view=Standard>



The City and District of St Albans Sports Awards 2009

Do you know a sports club, team or athlete that has performed above expectations within the past year? Perhaps a local sports club has made some fantastic links with the local community and schools network? Or maybe someone you know (e.g. a coach, volunteer or committee member) deserves to be recognised for all the 'behind-the-scenes' work they do for local sport?

Whoever you want to nominate **The City and District of St Albans Sports Awards 2009** gives you the opportunity to ensure they get recognised and rewarded for the work they're doing! The evening, which will take place on Wednesday 8th July 2009, is divided into 3 categories:

Club Sport Awards
School Sport Awards
Special Olympics St Albans Awards

We completely rely on nominations from YOU to make the Sports Awards a success. So please click on the link - www.activestalbans.com - which will take you to the *Active St Albans* website homepage where you can download and complete the short nomination form and **send it into us by Friday 5th June 2009** (with a photo if possible).



Herts Forward website now live

The new site has a branch for each of the countywide thematic partnerships and aims to host the minutes from each of their meetings, together with 2021 Bulletins, Event information, partnerships contacts, the latest on both LAA1 and LAA2 together with a host of information concerning the countywide Sustainable Community Strategy. Links to each district LSP are on the right-hand side of the homepage.

For all of the latest information regarding the work of Herts Forward and its associated partnerships please visit:-
<http://www.hertslink.org/hertfordshireforward>

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To find out more about the information within this document, to give us feedback or to send information for the next issue, please contact:

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ST ALBANS
& DISTRICT
LOCAL STRATEGIC
PARTNERSHIP