

Councillor John Feilding

Report 16 July 2018

Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Task and Finishing Group.

We will be reviewing the work and developing a revised Social Inclusion Statement and priorities for the period 2018-2023.

Stratford-on-Avon District Social Inclusion Partnership developed the Stratford-on-Avon Social Inclusion Statement (SIS) in August 2014 working up and commissioning research 'Measuring Social Exclusion in Stratford-on-Avon District undertaken by Warwickshire Observatory. The Partnership interpreted this research to agree priority areas and interventions which informed the social inclusion work undertaken by the Communities Team between 2014 and 2017.

The Statement priorities need to be reviewed to reflect the current climate however there is no cost-effective option to re-commission the research with more recent data. The aim of the committee is to establish social inclusion objectives and priorities, as broadly identical to the existing priorities in both thematic and geographical contexts using quantitative and qualitative data.

The Social isolation work within Stratford-upon-Avon town that we are undertaking are:-

- Isolation and wellbeing work amongst older members of the community in areas of Stratford-upon-Avon

Monitoring, impact measurement and creating greater understanding.

- Develop a core group of partners to monitor the progress of social inclusion work and monitor the impact.
- Research into the impacts of rural isolation and options for targeted work to reduce this.

Boosting the alternatives to high cost credit.

- Cross Cutting Priority - Support to credit unions to re-establish accessible financial services into District.

Working alongside older people and associated organisational community groups across the district, to identify need and provide information, support and services.

The other areas that were discussed were rural transport and Affordable Homes.

Wellesbourne Airfield has now become an important issue within the council as reported in the Herald. Although this does not directly affect The Red Horse Ward a large number of jobs could be lost if the airfield was sold for housing.

ORBIT

The main director came to a meeting of the council. As usual, we heard the same comments about building new homes and developing communities. I am afraid that this is not good enough as communities in the rural area are just as important and they should not be selling off vacant properties.