

Councillor Keira Vyvyan-Robinson Projects

Pippbrook House

MVDC continues to work with CHiP and their partner RJK to agree terms for the letting of Pippbrook House. A further meeting has been set for July (rescheduled from March due to the pandemic) to agree the outstanding points prior to formally reporting to Cabinet in the autumn.

Community Hub

MVDC is committed to the development of a Community Hub in North Leatherhead, in both the short and long term. We were in discussions with the Diocese of Guildford and community groups with a view of seeking a lease of the Trinity Centre. The Diocese decided instead to market the site for sale and the first stage sought expressions of interest. MVDC has submitted an expression of interest based on retaining the land and buildings for community use. MVDC will be advised whether it has been shortlisted by 27 July and there will follow a six week period in which bids need to be submitted.

Swan Centre and Leatherhead Events

Physical events such as the March Artisan Market, Easter Egg Hunt, St Georges Day, Carnival 2020 and Ride London 2020 have all been cancelled. Events have shifted online and we ran a successful Easter competition and Father's Day competition. These all increased engagement with the Swan Centre website and social media accounts, and linked to those of our tenants still trading. Virtual trails are planned for the summer and autumn holidays.

Although footfall remains down year on year, it is gradually increasing as the range of businesses in the centre are reopening.

Asset Management

The focus for the Asset Management Team has been on engaging with each of our 120 tenants throughout the lockdown period and over the last two rent payment dates, March and June. Rent collection rates for March quarter were ca 70% with a range of measures agreed with tenants as way of supporting their cashflow. As of 1 July, rent collection rates for June quarter are ca 57% - however it is anticipated that this rate will increase at 14 days and 21 days because any late payment grace periods will have expired.

Transform Leatherhead

Bull Hill

Transform Leatherhead ran two drop in events at Leatherhead Institute in March during the first consultation on the draft Local Plan to provide more information about the proposed inclusion of Bull Hill as a strategic site. This information was also available online on dedicated pages on the Transform Leatherhead website and through a pop-up exhibition in Leatherhead Swan Centre.

Engagement

The new Transform Leatherhead website launched in February and this supported the publication of the 'Frequently Asked Question' videos at the end of February. The videos concluded the series of events known as 'TL in Conversation' which started in Autumn 2019.

Partner Procurement - Swan Centre and Bull Hill, Claire House and James House and Riverside Park

The pandemic has resulted in disruption to the property and construction market and this has led to furloughing of many teams within developers, contractors and consultants associated with this sector. The economic outlook, already uncertain as a result of Brexit, has deteriorated dramatically as a result of the pandemic. There are fears as to economic impact of the pandemic as the furlough scheme unwinds and this is coupled with the risk of further localised lockdowns. Officers are working with agents to monitor the level of market activity and interest, and the capacity of organisations to participate in these opportunities. Pre-procurement workstreams (including scheme and viability evaluations) are continuing so that the projects are ready to be tendered when market conditions are more favourable.