



NEWS

Hertsmere Borough Council
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Herts WD6 1WA

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'Working together' is centre-stage in Radlett

The importance of working together, the need for more volunteering and a renewed sense of community were some of the sentiments that emerged from a pioneering community-led event in Radlett.

Around 100 people attended the Making a Difference in Radlett event at the Radlett Centre last year. The event, which was aimed at exploring ways of making Radlett and surrounding villages healthier, happier and safer places to live, was delivered by Hertsmere Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and Aldenham Parish Council (APC). It included an interactive theatre performance by Arc Theatre, based around the theme of change, in which the audience directed actors as they responded to plans for a new housing development in their community. This was followed by group discussions and a light buffet. A short film about the evening is available to view [here](#).

Among the positives of living in and around Radlett highlighted by participants were the proximity to London, feelings of safety, sports and community facilities, a sense of community, and its thriving artistic, cultural and religious organisations. Areas highlighted for improvement were the need for affordable housing, traffic, parking, the need for another secondary school and the existence of gated communities.

Hertsmere Borough Council's Community Safety Officer Valerie Kane said: "I want to thank everyone who came to the Making a Difference in Radlett event for their valuable and valued contributions they made.

"Hertsmere Borough Council, like the police, fire service, the NHS and other public service bodies, has limited resources and so events like this are vital, if we want to continue to serve the needs and aspirations of our local communities.

"While there exists in Radlett, as anywhere, a wide range of opinion and feeling, I think this event highlighted how much people have in common.

"Hopefully it will encourage more people to think about what improvements they could bring about, however small, that could make a difference to our lives.

"From these early conversations, we hope will spring real, positive change that will

benefit us all.”

Aldenham Parish Councillor Estelle Samuelson said: “We were really pleased to be able to work with Hertsmere CSP to bring this event to Radlett.

“The interactive play gave people an opportunity to discuss local issues in a relaxed atmosphere. Looking at the evaluation forms that were completed on the night it appears most of those who attended felt it was a worthwhile experience.

“Hopefully, this will be the first of many more occasions when APC can work together with Hertsmere to consult with the community. A big ‘thank you’ must go to all those who made the evening such a success.”

Before they left participants were asked to describe one thing they would take away from the event. Among the responses were:

“More meetings such as this one and including more residents, so ideas and complaints can be raised.”

“Let us look for improvement, but recognise it’s a great place here and now.”

“Sharing more good news and work that’s going on, not just negatives.”

“Good to discuss things – but we need to be listened to!”

“We need to co-operate with each other to facilitate change.”

“Try to encourage younger people to get involved.”

It’s the second such event organised by Hertsmere CSP. A Making a Difference event was also held in Borehamwood and Elstree towards the end of 2016. Further such events are being considered for different locations in the future. To find out more go to www.hertsmere.gov.uk/csp

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Gail Anderson
Corporate Communications Officer
Hertsmere Borough Council | Civic Offices | Elstree Way | Borehamwood |
Herts | WD6 1WA
e: gail.anderson@hertsmere.gov.uk
t: 020 8207 7824

Email - corporate.communications@hertsmere.gov.uk

Website - www.hertsmere.gov.uk

Twitter - www.twitter.com/hertsmerebc

Facebook - www.facebook.com/hertsmere