Subject:	**Progress Report**
Director/Head of Service:	Director of Community Services (Herne Bay Champion) Head of Regeneration and Economic Development
Decision Issues:	*N / A*
Decision type:	*N / A*
Classification:	Non - confidential
CCC Ward(s):	**Greenhill and Eddington, Herne and Broomfield, Heron, Reculver and West Bay**
Summary:	*This is an information report from the Herne Bay Coastal Towns Manager about local projects, events and improvements.*

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1. Introduction.

This is a report of progress since the last meeting of the Panel to provide an update on projects involving the Coastal Towns Manager (Herne Bay & Whitstable).

2. Regeneration / Business Exhibition

On 24 March 2010 we held the Regeneration / Business Exhibition at the Kings Hall. Last year we held two separate events, by combining the two events we had 55 exhibitors and around 750 visitors in 4 hours. The majority of the businesses were from the Canterbury District and the feedback from businesses is that many found that the exhibition created new business.

3. **Fighting Anti-Social Behaviour**

With the support of the council, the Police introduced a Dispersal Order in April 2010 for areas in the centre of Herne Bay to help reduce levels of anti social behaviour. Since the order was introduced we have seen a noticeable reduction in anti-social behaviour. Groups of young people are not hanging around the town and the fear of crime seems to have eased. The Police have a dedicated anti-social behaviour team which will patrol the town on Friday and Saturday evenings throughout the summer. I have been working with the Community Safety Unit to encourage businesses and the community to report incidents of anti-social behaviour, graffiti or criminal damage.

4. BAY Card

The success of the Bay Card continues, with 25,000 BAY Cards in circulation and new businesses joining the scheme on a weekly basis. Both businesses and the public have reported extra business and big savings. The Kavavana Cinema started taking the Bay Card in February. In the school holidays we handed out 600 BAY Cards in two weeks, the majority of those were to be used in the cinema.

We are planning to re-vamp the BAY & WHIT Card to encourage cardholders to use both towns. We have just launched a new website: www.baywhitcard.co.uk which features all the 374 businesses and the BAY & WHIT Card offers.

4. **Classic Car & Bike Show**

On Saturday 1st May 2010 the town was transformed into an arena of classic cars and motorbikes from bygone years. We had 212 exhibitors, live entertainment in four locations within the town and an estimated 6,000 visitors throughout the day, despite the inclement weather. Classic Car Clubs came from Hertfordshire, Essex and Sussex to join in the fun and we have had some very positive feedback from local traders who had a good trading day. BBC South East News filmed the event.

5. **Town Improvements**

Herne Bay Town Partners have been making improvements to Mortimer Street and William Street. Posts, signs, benches and planters have been cleaned, painted and re-furbished. This will be an on-going project, which is part of Town Partners Quality Town Project supported by a KCC Community Grant from County Councillors Jean Law and David Hirst.

6. **Herne Bay in Bloom**

This year the Herne Bay in Bloom committee have made it bigger and better than previous years. The seafront and town will be blooming, with new features such as barrier baskets and additional floral displays in Mortimer Street. I have been working with the committee and I am pleased they have received excellent support and sponsorship from local businesses.

We are again promoting Herne Bay in Bloom with the Potato Growing Competition. Businesses have been given a bucket with potatoes to grow; all they have to do is water it and put it outside their business each day.

The South East in Bloom Judges will judge the town on 6th July 2010.

8. Empty Shops

I conduct a monthly business premises audit for the town centre and in May we have 9 empty units in the town centre, which equates to 5%. The national average is 9% and Margate currently has more empty shops than any other seaside town in the UK, which is 30%. We will soon see new businesses coming into the town and other established businesses re-locating to larger premises.

9. Events 2010

We have an outstanding programme of events planned for the summer.

19/6/10	Flypast of the Lancaster Bomber
5/7/10	London Taxi Charity Day
9 & 10/7/10	The Green Fair
10 & 11/7/10	Italian Market
30,31 & 1/8/10	Continental Market
21/8/10	Herne Bay Motor Show
21 – 29/8/10	Herne Bay Festival

I would like to thank the following businesses for sponsoring the Herne Bay events and Festival: **Cains Amusements, J & J Recruitment Solutions, Mackaris, Ship Inn and Kings Caterers.**

Contact Officer: Chris West Telephone: 01227 868515