

Community, Leisure & Recreation Committee

Date:	26 July 2016
Title:	Reports - External Organisations

Cuttle Brook Management Committee (Cllrs Jones & Stiles)

Site Visit Report - 6 July 2016:

1. The sign at the main entrance to the reserve off the Southern Road recreation ground has been removed for repair and will be re-sited when it is fixed.
2. A fourth species of orchid was found during the annual plant survey - a common spotted orchid. This is the fourth year in a row that a new orchid has appeared in the reserve.
3. Yellow rattle has also been found in the Town Meadow which will reduce the height of the various grasses and encourage more diversity of other plant species.
4. The pond has been refilled by winter rains but the level is dropping again. It seems there has been an underlying change as regards the water supply to it. The water quality is good - low in phosphates and nitrates. It may be possible to divert water flow from a drainage pipe.
5. Garden escapees - possibly water soldiers - are in the pond. They need to be removed when they have been identified for certain as non-natural/native.
6. The dipping platform is going to be replaced.
7. The spiling by the bench by the swing and at Watkin's Bridge has been a great success in repairing the banks.
8. The Environment Agency's geomorphologist, Paul St. Pierre, has suggested that to encourage faster water flow, river plants should be allowed to grow concentrate the flow. Faster flow will stop silting, maintain the hydraulic capacity and make the gravel bed visible. In order to facilitate this some overgrowth on the banks may need to be cut back to reduce shading. This may need to be explained to local residents.
9. The drainage ditch behind Chiltern Vale is very important to amphibians despite the water quality being variable. The capacity of the ditch to have anything but a minimal effect on flood relief is negligible and the vegetation in it will have no effect either. However, the inflow pipe has a diameter four-times the width of the outflow pipe so this might have to be looked at and perhaps reduced.
10. It was suggested that the Cuttle Brook management committee could apply for a grant to build a pond in the flood meadow and use the spoil to build a berm to further protect the houses.
11. The Phoenix Trail bridge has been repaired by Sustrans
12. There is a requirement for a management plan in Cox's Wood to thin the trees.
13. There are still people mowing areas of the reserve near their houses.
14. The locations of the new bins were decided.
15. A local resident has contacted TTC and the management committee regarding improving the flow under the Oxford Road Bridge. This is being looked at.

Thame Carnival Committee (Cllr Emery)

This year's Carnival and Big Street Party, on Saturday 11 June, was better than ever with a super procession winding through the town to the Southern Road Recreational Ground giving all spectators a day to remember. John Hampden, St Josephs and Barley Hill schools all dressed up for the occasion and were joined by local stage and theatre academies.

There was a wide variety of entertainment, including a demonstration by Thame Fire-fighters cutting a trapped casualty out of a car in the arena at Southern Road Recreation Ground. Followed by a fly-past by a Hawker Hurricane fighter plane. Thame Town Council float adopted the 'Best of British' theme to

promote our anti-litter campaign. There were inflatable's for the children and a Family Fun Dog Show. Beer and Pimms were on tap throughout the afternoon.

The organisations, sponsors and individuals that contributed to ensure we had yet another fantastic carnival were thanked by Sue Martin-Downhill and the Carnival Committee. More than £4,000 was raised from the proceeds of the Carnival. £3,000 has been given to Megan's bench, £300 donated to each school and £100 to Emma Sotherby for her sponsored walk.

Thame Football Partnership (Cllr Dyer)

After a strong winter's trading TFP endured a challenging spring as footfall through the bar and party bookings were below budgeted levels. However trading and results improved through May and June with the partnership ending the year in a stronger cash position than 12 months previously.

In June the TFP Chairman, Neal Garnett, General Manager Frank Thompson and a Board Director met with the Oxfordshire FA and Football Foundation for a mandatory 'Support Day'. An outcome of this process was a Sustainability Assessment whereby TFP scored 30 out of a possible 32 points, were ranked as good or very good in every category, and were judged as exceeding expectations.

In other developments since my previous update to Council:

- the outside kiosk is now fully operational
- plans are being drawn up for development for the lower end of the site including extension of the 3g Astro to full size, in advance of various grant applications being submitted.
- The main sponsor ASM have agreed to renew their main sponsorship of £10k per annum for a further 3 years and have agreed to continue their travel expense revenue sponsorship of £10k per annum for the 2016/17 season
- The Chairman has negotiated a new 'wet goods' supply arrangement with Carlsberg who will now replace Green King. Main features of the agreement include a £1k per annum sponsorship of the main stand for 3 years the stand will be known as 'The Carlsberg Community Stand', replacement fridges at no cost, and pricing which at current volumes would lead to gross margin accretion of £12k per annum.
- Paul Merson (a hugely popular speaker) has agreed to be the main attraction at the next Sportsman's dinner in October.
- An enhanced TFP structure with a Strategic Football Committee and a new Commercial and Operating Committee has been approved by both Founder Member Clubs and has been implemented
- David Dack (Treasurer) and Iain Livingstone (Co Secretary) have signalled their intention to stand down at the end of the year and replacements are being sought.

Twinning Association (Cllr Emery)

Thame Twinning Association have had a busy year as usual fundraising and organising visits to Montesson.

The highlight of the year was clearly the visit of our friends from Montesson for the weekend in May to celebrate our 15th Anniversary of Twinning. The reception we gave them through our hosts and the activities of the weekend, coupled with their obvious enjoyment of it all, showed that the original ideals of the twinning charter are still alive in our two communities.

Finance: £541 in bank.

Plans for 2016: Promotion of Lord Williams's school student exchange and Thame Tennis club exchange.

September Visit 2016: 16th-18th September. Linda is unable to attend due to a family commitment. Linda will ask Deputy Mayor, Nicola Dixon to attend in her place to represent Thame Town.

Thame Good Neighbour Scheme (Cllr Midwinter)

The TGNS has been in operation since March 2015 and as at 21 July has received 192 requests for help from 81 clients. 143 of these requests have been for transport and 49 for jobs such as befriending, gardening, shopping etc. Officers will continue to administer the scheme until a replacement Community Project Support Officer is recruited. During this time there might be a period when we will look to the TGNS committee members to assist in taking phone calls.

Thame Town Cricket Club (Cllr Champken-Woods)

Covered in item 10 on agenda.

Chinnor RFC (Cllrs Bretherton & Dixon)

The season 2015/16 will be remembered for a creditable first team performance, the Mini Membership growing, the Juniors getting close to National Titles and producing Colts that played in the first XV. Several members achieved with County honours and Regional Honours. They ran rugby camps and worked with local schools as well as devising a rugby based format for Thomley Hall.

Phase One of fund raising for the new extension is complete and they have started the build with a view to having it finished by early September. This is on course to deliver on time. This phase of the extension will enable greater access to the club house facilities for all as well as an improved entrance, shop and entertaining facilities. They now move on to part two where better changing facilities and more social space will be built.

This has been made possible with the active help and support of the Town Council and SODC for which they are most grateful whilst recognising this support has been given to them as a community asset. The community is at the heart of the club and will continue to be so. £36,000 of S106 money has recently been secured from SODC.

The club has many sponsors and members all of whom are working and living in the Thame catchment area who have contributed to the fund raising by donating £50k. This in turn was match funded by Rectory Homes.

The club look forward to the coming season with a mixture of excitement and challenges. On the field many players have been retained from last season and should have a settled senior squad with some new blood to move forward. The coaching staff have been re-organised and will employ more coaches for the youngsters. The playing challenges are around getting more senior adult rugby players to join and play and this will be one of the major tasks led by the current Chairman, Doug Humphries.

The club is a member's club limited by share and are happy with the governance and structure. They finish this year solvent with little debt other than the mortgage. They have a loan from the Town Council which is paid back monthly; all the debt is guaranteed by the assets as security. Whilst the club cannot be complacent in anything they do view the future with positive enthusiasm.

Music in the Park (Cllr Stiles)

Nothing additional received as at 22/07/16.

Red Kite Children's Centre (Cllr Wyse)

There was a meeting of the Working Group on 13 July. A discussion took place concerning the end of the present financing scheme on 31 March 2017. A business plan is being formulated in order to apply

for a grant from OCC. Bidding for the £1m funding pot will close on 21 October 2016 following which the £1m will be allocated to a potential 34 applicants according to their needs.

Thame Sinaia Friendship Association (Cllr Bretherton)

Nothing additional received as at 22/07/16.

Thame Museum Trust (Cllr Emery)

Finance:

Copies of year ended 31 March 2016 accounts were circulated for review and discussion at the AGM on Saturday 25th June 2016. Total income for the year £15,871, total costs £19,574 Annual deficit £3,703. The total deficit was created because of £4,647 project costs. Cash balance £21,519.

Policy & Procedures:

The meeting arranged for Trustee agreement and sign off the Museum Forward Plan for 2016-2021 which is required to be submitted as part of the application for renewal of the Museum accreditation with the Arts Council was approved and is to be adopted.

Following the security requirements (CCTV) added for the new Stanley Anderson exhibition, DB explained the need to formulate a policy for data protection. A discussion took place on the main features that need to be covered, and various external source guidelines available. The draft policy will be circulated to the trustees for review and approval.

Two new trustees were elected at the AGM (Phil Williams and Adrian Dite) on 27th June 2016.

Next Meeting: Wednesday 21st September 2016, 7.00pm at the museum.

Thame Remembers (Cllrs Bretherton and Dyer)

A lot has happened since we last reported to CLR in early February so let me just pick out a few of the highlights from the last five months:

- Later in February a party from Thame Remembers and TTC visited the Poppy Factory and combined the visit with the opportunity to deliver a cross in the cemetery at Kingston-on-Thames in memory of George Alfred Edsell, a past Chairman of Thame Local Council.
- We also learned in February that BBC Reporter Victoria Cook, who had accompanied our Battlefield Tour and produced four features on BBC South News, had been nominated for, and subsequently won, a Royal Television Society Award for her Thame Remembers series.
- In May a small group from Thame Remembers made yet another trip to the Western Front to recce new locations which we now intend to include in our next Battlefield Tour in May 2017, including the trenches at Hooze, Talbot House at Poperinge, and the Wellington Tunnels under Arras.
- May was also the occasion for our first delivery to an ocean grave when a wreath was laid over the wreck of HMS Vanguard in Scapa Flow, in memory of Boy 1st Class Frank Tickner from Thame.
- 1st July 2016 was the centenary of the first day of the Battle of the Somme and Thame Remembers took over the Thame Players Theatre to host a commemoration in narrative, verse,

song and original archive film. Pulled together at very short notice but with the support of some Councillors amongst other volunteers, the event proved a great success with hardly an empty seat in the theatre.

It is hard to believe that it is less than two years since we launched the Thame Remembers project, with another two years still to go, and that it continues to inspire all who become involved.

We are now taking bookings for our Battlefield Tour from 19th – 23rd May 2017.

Towersey Festival (Cllrs Bretherton and Lambert)

Nearer to the Festival, meetings will be held at the Cross Keys to which Cllr Lambert will be invited.

The Information Centre will be selling tickets leading up to the Festival with a possible gazebo at the back of the Town Hall on the Saturday before the event for additional publicity.

The Community Services Manager is in discussion with Festival Organisers regarding arrangements for adhoc dancing to take place behind the Town Hall and in the Upper High Street Car Park on the Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday of the event.