

**Policy & Resources Committee**

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<b>Date:</b>	<b>2 August 2016</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Reports - External Organisations</b>

**Thame Barns Centre** (Cllr Dodds)

The Barns Centre held its AGM on 14<sup>th</sup> July at which the Annual Accounts were received and agreed. They are being presented to the committee tonight.

The Barns Centre is a success story due to the tireless efforts of the Centre Joint Managers and staff. They have a high level of community usage and are a popular venue for Wedding Receptions and business conferences, which combine to give the Centre a positive income.

The one issue they have is the uncertainty regarding the arrangements for car parking with the cricket club redevelopment. As the Town Council is the major land owner of this overall site, we are looked upon to devise a solution to this issue which is both fair and equitable for both parties.

**Citizens Advice Bureau** (Cllr Austin)

An introductory meeting (on June 6<sup>th</sup>) took place with Graham, myself and Jon Bright (the new Director of South and Vale CAB) and Liz Johnson (Deputy Director).

**Health Summit** (Cllr Champken-Woods)

Nothing further to report.

**NALC** (Cllr Dyer)

Graham regularly circulates communications from NALC so I have nothing specific to report, except that I have been approached by Justin Griggs, Head of Policy and Development at NALC, asking me to join a national advisory group to support their work on planning and neighbourhood planning and, in particular, to scrutinise a new Planning Bill which is due to be published soon. I have confirmed my interest and am awaiting further information.

**Thame Business Forum** (Cllr Dyer)

The latest Business Forum meeting on 21 June was well attended and included presentations from Sylo Associates on Psychometric Testing, and from 'Reciprocate', an Oxfordshire organisation which advises on and coordinates business sponsorship within the community.

The second Open Doors event took place in Thame High Street on 9 July and featured twenty local companies (non-retail) meeting with the community to showcase their businesses and products, including Groves, Windles, DAF, Unicarriers, Lucy Electric, Kubota, CPM, Adactus, and a number of B2B service companies. The public reaction was extremely positive and the exhibitors were encouraged by the interest shown. It is hoped that we will run the event again on 1 July 2017.

**Thame & District Housing Association** (Cllr Butler)

Nothing additional received as at 29.7.16

**21<sup>st</sup> Century Thame** (Cllrs Emery & Fickling)

*Notes of meeting held on 16 June 2016:*

Graham Hunt told the meeting that a Market Town Coordinator position and a Neighbourhood Plan Continuity officer position had been approved by Thame Town Council and advertisements for this were out.

Graham suggested that everyone follow the course of the Neighbourhood plan continuity group's progress via link on TTC website

[http://thametowncouncil.gov.uk/index.php?option=com\\_jdownloads&view=viewcategory&catid=3&Itemid=148](http://thametowncouncil.gov.uk/index.php?option=com_jdownloads&view=viewcategory&catid=3&Itemid=148)

SMD requested PW to invoice Open Doors to cover their insurance, date of Open Doors is 9th July.

Thame4Business: GH advised that the 2 funding requests by Helen Johns recently have not been approved.

*Accounts as at 31st May 2016:*

Cash at bank £10,882.75 of which ring-fenced:

Video Thame £75.00

Environment Group £246.09

Equipment pool grant £2,013.45

Shop front grant £90.00

Thame Carnival £3,843.15

Tidy Thame grant £410.05

SMD told the meeting that a replacement marquee, canopy and additional lights had been purchased. The meeting wished to thank Peter Harris for his sterling work on the Equipment Bank. SMD requested that PW follow up with Thad Cooper for the balance of the outstanding £291 - to pay penalty for returning canvasses wet. 2 poles were driven over at Thame Carnival SMD to order new and also a spare set of lights and power cable.

Thame Equipment Bank: There has been no response to date from the job advertised on [www.thameequipmentbank.co.uk](http://www.thameequipmentbank.co.uk) website. GH said this might be possible to add this responsibility to the Market Town Coordinator position - though we need to continue to find a volunteer if possible.

SMD requested that all items in the equipment bank should be marked (Dan East agreed to take this task on outside of this meeting).

Marketing Strap Line It was agreed by the meeting that the 'strap line' should be 'Working Together for a Better Thame'

Small Business Saturday: All businesses are requested to log onto the Small Business Saturday website and add their own promotional information - a good national advertising medium. There is a database of businesses currently used only by Sue Martin-Downhill and it was suggested that maybe it should be held and sent to by the new Market Town coordinator. Action: GH to include this in information for new Market Town Co-ordinator when inducted

The Street Party & Carnival: The Queen's 90th Birthday celebration linked to the Carnival was a great success and residents of Thame requested that the event should incorporate a street party every year. The committee wish to thank the Town Council for the funding of £1200 which went towards 2 brilliant street entertainers.

Cows: One of the cows has been privately painted. The meeting agreed to allow the Barns Centre to repaint the cow that they have.

Eco Fair: Tim & Sarah are continuing to work on getting this off the ground in 2017. CAG is happy to help look for funding and volunteers - Alice Hemming to be introduced to Tim Dabbs and

Sarah Sanderson. It was suggested that a cycle festival being organised by Karl Buckley might be part of the Eco Fair.

Thame Hub: It was noted that there was a new website about Thame called Thame Hub. It appears to be independent and for profit.

The Thame Town Council website: The TTC website will be up and running imminently. Graham has previously suggested that 21st Century Thame has a presence on this rather than having a separate one at all. So this would supercede Thame4me. Sarah and Tim to be asked to create the content for this so that the council staff can update.

Date of next meeting: 12 noon 4th August 2016 at Racquets, Thame.

**Welfare Trust** (Cllr Champken-Woods)

Nothing further to report.