

Community, Leisure & Recreation Committee

Date:	24 January 2017
Title:	Report - External Organisations

Cuttle Brook Management Committee (Cllrs Jones & Stiles)

There is little to report since the last update. The volunteers continue to carry out regular work and litter picks at the Reserve. The extra bins are being used by the public. The volunteers committee is due to make a decision soon on the purchase of a scythe bar cutter.

Thame Carnival Committee (Cllr Emery)

The Carnival committee have chosen to raise money for two charities this year The Fire Fighters Charity and Sobell House Hospice. The date is Saturday 10th June with a 1940s theme.

They need enthusiastic volunteers to help with project management and administration. All volunteers welcome.

The first meeting of the organising committee was 19th January. Officers have provided publicity for the recent appeals for more volunteers.

Thame Football Partnership (Cllr Dyer)

First team Thame United continue their success with nine consecutive victories over the last two months, and are now sitting comfortably in second position in the Hellenic League.

Continuing financial challenges, not least because of cash flow uncertainties during the bad weather period, are such that the Partnership continue to review their running costs and efficiency, and are currently implementing measures such as trialling the use of an independent outside caterer to run the food kiosk in the ground.

Management structure and decision making processes continue under the spotlight, and the club will be seeking two new independent Board members in the near future.

Twinning Association (Cllr Emery)

The last quarter's fundraising was very successful. The Food Festival tombola income raised £340, this opportunity will be lost in 2017.

The Montesson Christmas market visit; 8 members attended this year to celebrate our 15th anniversary with another successful Christmas stall. The Mayor Jean-François Bel attended the evening supper that had been arranged by all the Twinning committee members and supplied the Pink Champagne!

The committee have started organising the 2017 visit from Montesson scheduled for 19th to 21st May.

Thame Good Neighbour Scheme (Cllr Midwinter)

Nothing to report as at 20/1/17.

Thame Town Cricket Club (Cllr Champken-Woods)

Update covered under item 11 of the agenda.

Chinnor RFC (Cllrs Bretherton & Dixon)

Nothing to report as at 20/1/17.

Music in the Park (Cllr Stiles)

Nothing to report as at 20/1/17.

Red Kite Children's Centre (Cllrs Stiles & Wyse)

Since the decision of the Thame Alliance Group (TAG) to commit to year 1 of the community initiative to keep a Children's Centre in Thame after 31st March, the following actions have been taken

- A solicitor experienced in charity applications, recommended by OCVA, has been commissioned to start the process of creating a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) and she has submitted the application.
- The charity has 4 trustees - John Hulett (Chair), Sarah Roberts, Rosie Pearce and Mary Stiles. The charity and the centre will be known as "The Red Kite Family Centre". If the new charity has not been approved by 31st March, Sharing Life Trust will act as employer, until the new charity is in place.
- The trustees elect have met on 3 occasions so far. The main decision they have taken relates to the employment of staff. All staff currently employed at the centre by Action for Children were personally informed of this decision before Christmas and invited to apply for posts when advertised.
- The Centre Leader post has now been advertised and hopefully an appointment will be made on 2nd February. Other posts will be advertised after this.
- Discussions with Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) personnel continue re a lease agreement for use of the Thame Centre; the future working relationship with OCC Children's Services and arrangements for the payment of the first year of the transition grant.
- Following submissions to the OCC Cabinet meeting in December, the council agreed to waive rent payments for the whole of the first year after all, which was really good news. Everyone was grateful to Councillor Nick Carter for his support in this.

Business Plan update – in addition to the £10,000 from Thame Town Council, for which everyone is very grateful, funding has also been secured from the OCC Transition Fund, Sharing Life Trust, Thame Schools' Partnership and Thame Rotary. It is hoped that a significant amount will come from the Mayor's charity collection and from Thame Welfare Trust and that the charity will be the Mid Counties Co-op Charity of the Year for the Thame area. It is also planned to talk again with Chinnor Parish Council and the town business forum.

The TAG working group will need to meet for a final time late February / early March to formally hand over responsibility for the centre's work to the new charity.

Thame Sinaia Friendship Association (Cllr Bretherton)

Nothing to report as at 20.1.17.

Thame Museum Trust (Cllr Emery)

Q3 2016/17 Results:

Expenses in line with budget.

Income already exceeds annual target.

Museum extension amended plans recommended approval by Thame Town Council.

A fantastic surprise was received at the beginning of the New Year when we had notification that we have been awarded Lottery funding of £25k towards the Tudor Room display to enhance the room further with interactive digital equipment.

CCTV additional cameras completed. A welcome addition to the safety and enhanced security of the museum.

Thame Remembers (Cllrs Bretherton and Dyer)

As reported verbally at the last meeting Thame Remembers achieved a major coup in arranging with Cunard to enable a wreath to be deposited on the ocean over the wreck of the Branlebas off Lizard Point from the rear deck of their flagship Queen Mary 2, in commemoration of Lieutenant Commander Hugh McRae from Thame.

We also concluded an eighteen month mission to trace the burial site of Private Albert George Thomlinson, who had died as a prisoner of war in Poland but had no known resting place. Through a combination of dogged research by Thame Remembers, documentation discovered by family members, and a CWGC researcher visiting the area and consulting with local historians, we have now identified a small area within a community cemetery where he was almost certainly interred. Unfortunately we cannot be more precise because all grave markers were later destroyed by Russian artillery.

Thame Remembers have also now started submitting names, and supporting research evidence, for those men who it is believed were missed off the Thame War Memorial and whose names can hopefully be added at a future date. Evidence is being scrutinised by a Council Working Group and will be brought forward to Full Council for final approval in due course.

Although there is still more than eighteen months before the project ends, and still some challenges to be fulfilled, background work has also commenced towards the book that will become the project legacy.

Finally, just another reminder that we still have places available on our Battlefield Tour to France and Belgium in May.

Towersey Festival (Cllrs Bretherton and Lambert)

Nothing to report as at 20.1.17.

Thame Music Festival (Cllrs Deacock and Wyse)

The first meeting of Thame Town Music Festival Organising Committee took place on 10/1/17.
An event management plan has been submitted to trigger a licensing plan.
Bands are now being contacted for the various venues.
A display of Vintage American Cars is being organised for the Lower High Street.
Next Organising Committee meeting to be held on 30/1/17.

Officers have been working closely with the event organisers on operational requirements such as Road Closure Applications, Safety Management Plan and general advice on running a Town Centre event. Additional support will be given by Thame Town Council Officers when the event organisers meet with the South Oxfordshire District Licencing Team to assist with any clarifications and requirements.