

Community, Leisure & Recreation Committee

Date:	25 July 2017
Title:	Report - External Organisations

Cuttle Brook Management Committee (Cllrs Jones & Stiles)

Funded by the s106 grant awarded last year, CBCV have now made all relevant applications to the Environment Agency, mostly regarding flood planning. Cat Robinson of the EA visited the reserve on May 5th and will oversee the approval process. Hopefully CBCV can start work in August or September. Four primary developments are planned, including substantial earth works for which the grant includes the hire of a mini digger and dumper truck for volunteers to operate onsite:-

- Near the steps to the Phoenix Trail, dog erosion scrapes large amounts of soil into the brook, which inhibits fish spawning and invertebrates. They will provide a hard surface (eg boulders) to reduce future erosion. Downstream of this there will be a 35m (115ft) bed of large flint gravel to aid spawning, followed by five “deflectors” at intervals down to the wooden bridge. Each will be a large log across up to half of the brook, facing upstream and fixed to the bed on the inside of a bend, to cause turbulence which will clean the centre and outer side of the channel, scouring silt away and improving the flow.
- Where the flood meadow ditch exits to the brook (between the storm flap and brook), CBCV will widen and deepen the ditch to create a shallow in-line pond. This will provide a refuge for fish and amphibians.
- Gravel will be added to the dog slope from the brook by the large ‘rope swing’ willow. This will reduce silting to benefit fish and other species. These *official* dog entry points may need educational signs to encourage their use. New spiling will deter other entry/exit points.
- There will be a fish refuge in Nontron Meadow (between the Spring Path and Oxford Road) made by digging out the existing marshy inlet so it is always flooded and supports aquatic plants which will protect young fish from predators. At the ‘mouth’ of the inlet the banks will be supported and a simple bridge will be made from railway sleepers to maintain the path by the brook.

The dipping platform at the pond (now over 20 years old) will be replaced, using recycled plastic stakes which will not rot.

The bird survey didn’t take place due to a lack of volunteers on the day. The pond is still low – there has been a severe lack of rainfall. The baby owl had fledged and left the nest. Byron continues to empty the bins which are well-used. The site visit on 21 June was a success and more orchids were found.

CBCV will have a stand at the Play Day on Southern Road Rec on 22 July.

Thame Carnival Committee (Cllr Emery)

A beautiful hot day for the Carnival. The public turned out in great numbers for the 1940’s Themed parade. The Town Council Dad’s Army entry was a winning success.

The school's participation was amazing. The steam engine built by John Hampden school showed great team work, ingenuity and enthusiasm. St Joseph's and Barley Hill school's giant vegetables linked to dig for victory was marvellous.

The Fire Fighters Charity and Sobel House Hospice each received a £500 donation. Barley Hill, John Hampden and St Joseph's schools all benefited from the profits, each received £150.

Sadly, the stand bookings were below the previous year. This will impact on Carnival profitability. The stall holders appeared to do very well. The accounts for the event have not yet been published.

The road closure programme organised by Mike Bradley went according to plan. Southern Road Rec was organised by a great team of volunteers that ensured that this fun filled family day with stalls, live music and area attractions had marquees, tents and all facilities to make this event so successful. All the volunteers who helped on the day did a brilliant job again.

Sue Martin-Downhill has been responsible for the last four carnivals. It takes a lot of effort to organise and we thank her for all her time given to this event.

Date of Next Year's Carnival: Saturday 9th June 2018

Thame Football Partnership (Cllr Dyer)

Congratulations to Thame United for finishing three points clear as champions of the Hellenic Football League and securing promotion to the Southern Football League Division One (Central). Their opening league fixture is on 12 August, away to Chalfont St Peter, and their first home game on Tuesday 15 August when they welcome AFC Rushden & Diamonds to the ASM Stadium.

Finances have been turned round with positive trading in June and a very successful Festival of Football, resulting in a surplus for the year and a more positive cash flow outlook. Following the departure of Frank Thompson TFP conducted a thorough review of the Governance structure, with consultancy input from Nigel Hargreaves, and are now discussing and implementing some fundamental changes in the management of the club. These include acceleration of the move towards one club / one brand, and a change of emphasis in the use of the premises to encourage more corporate clients and events.

TFP have also agreed in principle that Lord Williams's School should have daytime access to the new pitch (Einig reclamation), which will assist LWS in reaching agreement with Sport England in relation to consolidating the school on one site.

Twinning Association (Cllr Emery)

It's been a very successful year for Twinning.

The Committee set four objectives for the year 2016. The first objective was to increase the awareness and promotion of our association in our community. The second objective was to try to increase membership. The third objective was to ensure that Twinning maintained its presence as an annual event. The fourth objective was to improve fund raising which would also help secure the foundations of our first three objectives.

We have increased awareness and promotion of Twinning by attending the local events of Food festival, presence at Thame Christmas market and June carnival.

Membership has stabilised at 35 despite attendance at new events. At the year-end, we held a healthy cash balance of £1555.

35 members from Montesson attended our annual May visit. We visited the magnificent Wallace Collection museum in London. Our Sunday lunch at the Three Horseshoes was attended by both Montesson and Thame Twinning Associations.

The future; for the 2018 Montesson visit we are considering a visit to the Museum of Oxford in the morning and a trip to Bicester Village in the afternoon.

Thame Good Neighbour Scheme (Cllr Midwinter)

Thame Good Neighbour Scheme continues to grow and celebrated its second birthday in March this year.

Due to other work commitments we were unable to celebrate at that time, however we held a tea and cake party in the Upper Chamber on Wednesday 7 June for volunteers and committee members to attend, it also which coincided with National Volunteers Week.

The Good Neighbour Scheme has 101 clients who have requested 355 jobs from our bank of volunteers who currently number around 30. As has been the case right from the start, transport needs make up the majority of the requests, but there is an increasing need for befriending from lonely and isolated residents.

This scheme is run very efficiently and with great care by Council Officers, Jane Webster and Lizzie Fuller and they are both very much appreciated by the volunteers and those who receive help.

Thame Town Cricket Club (Cllr Champken-Woods)

Covered under item 10 of the main agenda.

Chinnor RFC (Cllrs Bretherton & Dixon)

Nothing additional received as at 19.7.17.

Music in the Park (Cllr Stiles)

Unfortunately I wasn't able to attend the "wash-up" meeting in May after this year's MiTP, but I understand that it was a well-attended and very positive meeting, with some useful feedback that will help ensure an even better event next year. I think everyone will agree that this year it was an excellent and very enjoyable day.

One idea that the committee would like the Town Council's view on is the possible hiring out of the event equipment (i.e. stages, etc) to other groups in the community on the day after (Bank Holiday Monday) in order to maximise its use and to generate some income. An example of how this works well is in Chinnor where a marquee, originally erected for one event, remains on site for a week and is so popular, there is often a waiting list of potential hirers.

MiTP still has not become a charity. The process has to start all over again, because of a delay in re-submitting the application, due to a disagreement among the proposed trustees about the constitution.

Thame Sinaia Friendship Association (Cllr Bretherton)

Nothing additional received as at 19.7.17.

Thame Museum Trust (Cllr Emery)

Finance: Copies of year ended 31 March 2017 accounts were circulated for review and discussion at the AGM on Saturday 24 June 2017. Total income for the year £28700; total costs £19526 Annual surplus £9174. Cash balance £30693.

10th Anniversary Celebration: Sir Hugo Brunner was welcomed back to celebrate with members on Easter Sunday the 10th Anniversary of the official opening of the museum on 15th April 2007.

Museum Extension: Planning consent for extending the museum has been approved and the work costed. The next steps will involve seeking funding to enable the project to progress.

Election of Trustees: All current trustees were elected as trustees of the new Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) for three years.

Membership Fees: It was agreed that membership fees should remain the same for 2017.

Next Meeting: Monday 11th September 2017, 7.00pm at the museum.

Thame Remembers (Cllrs Bretherton and Dyer)

Another eventful couple of months for the Thame Remembers project. Our second Battlefield Tour to France and Belgium took place during 19 – 23 May, when 23 people from Thame visited the major memorials, preserved battlefields, and some CWGC cemeteries, commemorating six further men from Thame in the process.

On 14 June we held a very special event at the Portsmouth Naval Memorial to commemorate nine men from Thame who lost their lives at sea. The event was supported by the Lord Mayor, Lady Mayoress, and three Portsmouth Councillors, local RBL members and standard bearers, a number of naval veterans complete with their service medals, the Royal Navy and, not least, by BBC South News who broadcast coverage that evening (see link through our website at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q3B6iYUVwsc&feature=youtu.be>).

Wreaths were laid by Thame Mayor Tom Wyse, the Lord Mayor of Portsmouth, SODC Chair Jeannette Matelot-Green, and by Lt Cdr James Fickling on behalf of the Royal Navy, with a personal wreath from Ann Barrington in memory of her grandfather.

Meanwhile work is progressing in honing our research and writing up the many facets of this ambitious project and its legacy, to be published in book form late in 2018, and we are seeking grant funding to seed the publication costs. This promises to be a substantial work with a cover price of £25.00, but is available at a concessionary subscriber price of £20.00 by paying in advance to secure your copy.

Towersey Festival (Cllrs Bretherton and Lambert)

Nothing additional received as at 19.7.17.

Thame Town Music Festival (Cllr and Wyse)

Thanks to the hard work of the organising committee and the Community Services Manager a fantastic day was had by thousands of people enjoying the great music and sunny weather. The shops and pubs must have had one of their best day's sales on record. Jon Littler has suggested that July 7th 2018 would be a great day for a second festival

Thame Shed (Cllr Wyse)

The Steering Group has followed a number of leads with regard to premises but despite these and appeals in the local media nowhere suitable has been located to get the Shed underway, even on a temporary basis.

Discussions with Chinnor Rugby Club have been extremely promising with a feeling that the activities of a Shed could be beneficial to the Rugby Club and a site adjacent to the existing car park could be used on a weekday, daytime basis without detracting from existing activities. The site discussed is owned by the Thame and Oxfordshire County Agricultural Association, more commonly known as The Thame Showground Committee.

Mike Ashford has met with Chris Parker, the Director of the Association on 16th June, the discussion was promising, with Mr Parker agreeing to table a proposal from Thame Shed at the next committee meeting at the end of July. If the Association is willing to grant a piece of land for the use of Thame Shed on a suitably lengthy lease then grant aid will be sought to purchase the materials and connect the mains services needed to establish premises. The building will then be built by volunteers from the Shed workforce.