

Policy & Resources Committee

Date:	17 April 2018
Title:	Reports - External Organisations

Thame Barns Centre (Cllr Dodds)

Update from the Clerk: Trustee meetings continue to be held every two months. The March meeting agreed that hire rates remain the same, reviewed salaries, reviewed progress against GDPR requirements and progressed the re-letting of the flat. The AGM has been set for 6:30pm on Thursday 19 July 2018.

Citizens Advice (Cllr Austin)

Not a great deal to report. CA will be contacting the Town Clerk shortly re making a possible bid for SODC's capital grant this month.

CA ended the year 2017/18 with a small surplus and served nearly 10,000 people across the two districts. This includes around 2,100 people served by the Thame Citizens Advice Centre.

The Town Clerk continues to circulate the Citizens Advice Oxfordshire South and Vale newsletter to Councillors and staff, the latest edition being circulated on 28 March.

Health Hub (Cllr Champken-Woods)

A meeting will take place on 13 April 2018 between the partners of both practices and Hallam & Montpellier to take things forward. I am not attending the meeting but as soon as I have more information I will update Councillors.

Community Hub

All is going well, recommendation to the Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust Board is to make this permanent. Awaiting result of Board meeting

NALC (Cllr Dyer)

The Town Clerk continues to circulate the weekly NALC Bulletin, and regular OALC newsletters, so Councillors are already aware of all current NALC campaigns and activities. Main current issues are GDPR implementation and the NPPF consultation.

I attended the OALC Meeting with the Town Clerk last week and, in addition to the above, discussions Local Government ethical standards and the new external audit regime. There was also a most interesting presentation and briefing on the protocol for marking the death of senior public figure (i.e. royalty) and the measures that need to be taken at the various levels of local government.

Red Kite Family Centre (Cllrs Emery & Wyse)

Meeting from 12th March 2018 was well attended.

Progress on publicity: website, leaflet and video

The technology support team at Indigo Michael has produced an assessment of RKFC's social media and web presence and made a number of recommendations. John has updated the website to include

more information, full details of party and private booking possibilities and the facility to book and pay for sessions online. Leaflets are still available for distribution.

Fundraising progress

The Race Night, organised jointly with Tom Wyse, was very successful and raised £1500. St Mary's Church donated the collection they made at Christingle services amounting to £690. A further £250 was received from St Catherine's church in Towersey, collected at their Christmas services. £330 has been donated by Barley Hill Church and Thame Concert Band being part of the collection made at Christmas Eve carols in the Town Centre.

Thame Welfare Trust: The trust agreed to pay a further payment towards the second year costs of the Centre.

Thame Town Council, Chinnor Parish Council and S.O.D.C.: Thame Town Council have agreed to continue their support for Year 2 with a further grant. Chinnor Parish Council have indicated that we will be able to apply for further funding to support Year 2 from their Communities Fund. A letter has now been prepared to send to SODC.

Oxford Community Foundation: An application for a grant of £5000 was submitted to OCF but was unsuccessful. Valuable feedback was given which included the following points: The fund was 12 times oversubscribed.

Current Financial Position: currently in a satisfactory position. Year 2 budget is funded.

Extract from end of year report for information:

The most popular activities run by the centre staff are the 'stay and play' sessions. One is held in Chinnor each week and two at the Rooks Lane Centre. These activities introduce the children to a range of learning through play activities and give parents ideas for things that they can do at home with their children as well. All of the sessions are planned to meet the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum. The numbers attending these and the other sessions during our first two terms of operation are given below. In many cases these figures represent an increase on the numbers attending similar sessions at the former children's centre which is very encouraging.

Attendance Data for Red Kite Family Centre April 1st – 19th December 2017

Stay and Play Sessions Thame (Wednesdays): 949 attendees (Average 41 attendees per session)
Stay and Play Sessions Thame* (Fridays): 978 attendees.

(Average 43 attendees per session) Stay and Play Sessions Chinnor (1 x weekly): 464 attendees (Average 20 attendees per session) Young Parents Lunch club (1 x weekly): 115 attendees (Average 5 attendees per session) Health Clinics (2 x weekly): 637 attendees Starting from a story (1 x weekly): 256 attendees (Average 11 attendees per session) Dads Group (monthly on a Saturday morning): 25 attendees (Average 8 attendees per session) Young parents group (weekly): 22 attendees (Average 2 attendees per session) Sensory Explorers group for children with disabilities (weekly): 104 attendees (Average 4 attendees per session). During the summer holidays the centre team organised a four week holiday play scheme for under 5s. This offered childcare and the service was chargeable. This was the first time that this has been done and it was very well patronised with 13 children attending for a varying number of sessions. This generated some income for the Centre. *This was an addition to the previous children's centre programme and as you can see from the numbers has been very well attended.

In addition to the above information we can report the following:

- . 177 new families have registered with the service since April 2017.
- . 238 under 5s have registered with the service. (This means that they also will have attended at least one event.)
- . Of the above families 25 parents have declared themselves as unemployed and seeking work. 13 of them have stated that they are in receipt of benefits. They are also collecting data on the Centre's impact on the areas of greatest social need in our community.
- 11 families including 14 under 5s have registered from Thame South 71 the most economically and socially deprived ward in our area.
- The centre is supporting 6 new children with special needs and 9 young parents (teens and early 20s) have accessed the young mums group. Whilst offering a universal service it has always been the intention of the trustees to ensure that families that are struggling, or who are vulnerable, are prioritised for support and they believe these statistics demonstrate that they have had considerable success in achieving this objective. In addition to this the centre has been able to support Oxfordshire County Council by hosting contact visits so children who are not in their parent's care have been able to see their family. 101 attendees have used the centre for this purpose since the beginning of April.

Thame Business Forum (Cllr Dyer)

Nothing to report as the Business Forum has not met since the last P&R Meeting. Next Forum is on 24 April.

Thame & District Day Centre (Cllr Midwinter)

The Day Centre operates on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9.30 am to 3pm. Transport is provided also lunch and entertainment.

The Centre can cater for 20 people on each of the three days. There is such a demand that if the Centre had the facilities we could help more people, there is currently a waiting list.

The Centre has suffered cuts from Oxfordshire County Council regarding the grant as all Centres have. From April the rate per day will go up to £12.50 which is still the cheapest in the County (there is help available for those who need help to pay).

Gill Coleman and her deputy Kate and her band of volunteers do a sterling job, running a much needed service for Thame.

Thame & District Housing Association (Cllr Butler)

Nothing additional received as at 13.4.18.

Thame Youth Memorial Trust (Cllr Lambert)

Nothing to report, next meeting scheduled to take place in May.

21st Century Thame (Cllrs Emery & Fickling)

A public meeting was held on Thursday 15 March, 6pm-7pm in Thame Town Hall to discuss the proposal for a new festival 'A Taste of Thame', which is an initiative of The Deli at No.5.

'A Taste of Thame' is intended not to be solely around food and drink, but for every business in Thame to be involved as much as they would like to be. The idea is to showcase what Thame has to offer. A number of local business attended the meeting where it was decided that the event would go ahead at the end of May 2019.

There will be a presentation about the festival at the next Town Centre Business Forum to be held at Thame Town Hall on the 19th April.

Welfare Trust (Cllr Champken-Woods)

No meetings have taken place – nothing to report.