

Full Council (on behalf of Community, Leisure & Recreation Committee)

Date:	16 June 2020
Title:	Report - External Organisations

a) Cuttle Brook Management Committee (Cllr Jones)

All normal maintenance and work at the Cuttle Brook has been suspended as too many jobs require several people working in close proximity. Volunteers walking through can and do litter pick. The bird survey was, however, carried out in May and a near record number of birds were recorded – 382 (the record was 392 in 2015) with 29 species identified.

b) Friends of Elms Park (Cllr Champken-Woods)

Nothing is happening this year due to Covid 19 but we are having discussions with outside bodies for 2 events next year.

c) Thame Carnival Committee (Cllr Emery)

Cancelled for this year. No meetings, nothing to report. Next Carnival 12th June 2021.

d) Thame Football Partnership (TFP) (Cllr Dyer)

In common with every other organisation the Covid pandemic has impacted on TFP, in particular through the enforced cancellation of their annual Festival of Football which normally brings in a five figure surplus and through loss of facility hire and events. However, the business rates holiday, furlough monies, reduction in utilities bills, and the £25k emergency grant funding awarded to all small businesses have largely offset the lost revenue and TFP remain in a strong financial position.

The one significant development has been the long awaited confirmation of Football Foundation funding for 51% of the cost of the new artificial pitch, the remainder being made up from s.106 monies and from TFP themselves, so it is hoped that installation work can commence within a matter of weeks. This will provide a valuable new facility for both the club and the community as well as being a significant income stream through hire charges.

The next Board Meeting will be held virtually on Monday 22nd June.

e) Twinning Association (Cllr Francis)

The committee of Thame and District Twinning Association met via Zoom and agreed to put together a Photo Album of pictures of the out-going Mayor of Montesson, M. Jean Francois Bel, who has been the Mayor of Montesson since the beginning of twinning almost 20 years-ago, as a gift and memento of our times together. This will be a physical album that we can present to M. Bel if we are able to visit in September, or for our usual Christmas Market visit.

It was also decided to send cards of congratulations to the newly elected Mayor of Montesson, Nichol Bristol, and the First Deputy Mayor, Huguette Fouche, who has been a particularly good friend to Thame Twining from the beginning.

Our Chair, Linda Emery, agreed to ask the Mayor of Thame, if she would consider sending a short video, congratulating the new Mayor of our Twin town, that we could post on the Thame Twinning Facebook page, and the Montesson and Thame Facebook page.

f) Thame Good Neighbour Scheme (Cllr Midwinter)

Most of the Good Neighbour Scheme volunteers are over 70, so were not able to help at this time of the pandemic. The social media 'Love Thame' volunteers who were younger and recruited younger volunteers, did a sterling job for our town.

g) Thame Town Cricket Club (Cllr Champken-Woods)

TTCC are looking to open up a grass wicket for net practice utilising the wicket cage from next week and extending the group size to up to 6 adults or 5 juniors and one adult, which we will also do in the hard nets for up to groups of 6. Keeping just one lane open.

Oxfordshire cricket have a meeting tomorrow evening to discuss providing further guidance for clubs to open up coaching and practice and we have started to discuss how we can provide coaching and practice to groups going forward. One coach to 5 juniors is a good ratio from an ability to provide good coaching point of view but of course requires a lot more coaches than we have. e.g. U9s fully subscribed is c40 kids which would require 8 coaches and a lot of co-ordination and planning. But we don't currently have available 8 coaches in this example so our membership numbers would have to be restricted, unless of course we could find additional coaches who have first aid plus DBS, another alternative would be to split the session times and have more of them but also requires more coaching time from the same number of coaches. So it won't be an easy task.

The primary concern is the Juniors and I am thinking we can start something more meaningful for them early July by which point I am hoping we will also be able to open the bar and our 'beer garden'. First pint is on the TTC Representative!

We are also in discussion with some of our indoor hirers to find ways for them to continue their exercise groups outdoors at the club within guidelines set e.g. martial arts, yoga, pilates etc.

And whilst we have some down time Matt is looking for a successor because 2021 will officially be his last season as Chair.

h) Chinnor RFC (Cllr Bretherton)

The club house has been closed since lockdown started with no activities taking place. Many of the first team and the team manager have left the club. They are coping financially but with no income that is not easy. The club are grateful for the help from TTC with their loan repayments.

With lockdown easing they are looking forward to resuming training and playing rugby. A new rugby manager for the club has been appointed, who will be concentrating on the club's community base.

On another point, the club board have agreed in principal to support the Men's Shed project as proposed by Doug Humphries, Adrian and myself last year. A working group to oversee the project will be formed soon.

i) Music in the Park (Cllr Jones)

The event – the 10th anniversary one – was cancelled due to Corvid-19. Subsequently the committee has received the resignations of Christine Fram, Adrian Dite and Jane Branch. The remaining committee will meet when feasible to plan a way forward.

j) Thame Sinaia Friendship Association (Cllr Bretherton)

We managed to meet via Zoom last week, including a rep from Sinaia. Sinaia is in lockdown at the moment with all facilities closed, although they have no reported cases of Covid19. With social activities suspended it is unlikely that any visits will go ahead this year.

k) Thame Museum Trust (Cllrs Cowell & Emery)

- Museum received £25K grant in response to C19 outbreak
- Finance management has moved to receipt basis and Trustees have approved purchase of Sage license for management of accounts and reporting.
- A revised budget will be drawn up in July based on the C19 situation
- Trustees continue to work towards a new strategic plan up to 2024, this plan is required as part of re accreditation in 2021
- Key Aims currently under review are ; Governance review; Audience research; Improving displays to be more interactive
- AGM - TBC, currently planned for September, reviewed in conjunction with C19 guidance
- Re- opening; still under consideration, work has been carried out on social distancing, and a one way route. Currently, there are insufficient volunteers to enable a full schedule to be undertaken. The situation will be reviewed in line with government guidelines.
- Additional workspace has been approved.
- We are going to a receivables system of accounting away from receipts process.

l) Thame Town Music Festival (Cllr Wyse)

I think everyone should be aware that the Festival is cancelled for this year. Johnnie Littler is trying to keep interest going by using music associated to the First Thursday Music Club on the internet.

m) Thame Shed (Cllr Wyse)

A further approach is being made to Chinnor Rugby Club to try and get an agreement to use part of the barn to be the Shed workshop.

The area in the barn which would be suitable to be converted to a Shed is currently being used to store old equipment which was used by the Agricultural Association.

n) Thame Sports Club (Cllr Jones)

The work on the new Clubhouse is continuing apace now, after being slowed by the coronavirus situation. Work currently taking place is completion of the toilets and changing rooms, fitting the boiler, internal doors and locks, storage shed, plus the groundworks around the building. The contractor, Hawes Construction from Ickford, estimates approximately 4 weeks to completion. This depends also other contractors fitting flooring and the kitchen complete their works on time.

As soon as practicable after the completion of the clubhouse, the tennis club intends to resurface the two hard courts nearest to the clubhouse to an all weather surface, called Tiger Turf.