

Community, Leisure & Recreation Committee

Date: 20 October 2020
Title: Report - External Organisations

a) Cuttle Brook Management Committee (Cllr Jones)

The volunteers managed to do most of the surveys reasonably successfully given the restrictions.

Some of the larger tasks could not be done because of Covid, such as in-stream divers and path improvements. A good number of new faces turned up to the meetings but retention may be a problem if lock-downs continue. It would be good to get started on some of the longer-term aspects of the management plan, especially where they support the GLP, such as looking for opportunities to extend the reserve or allocate further conservation areas.

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

Obviously Covid has put paid to anything this year but we are working with Thame Concert Band with a view to putting on some form of "Proms in the Park" in 2021.

c) Thame Carnival Committee (Cllr Emery)

No meetings, nothing to report.

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

At the last Board Meeting in early September it was reported that Thame Football Partnership is in a healthy financial position despite Covid, and is trading profitably. Junior training re-commenced as planned from August and first team matches are now being played as normal and with spectators, neither of these having been affected by the recent tightening of Covid rules. Surprisingly attendance at games has actually increased though, inevitably, bar takings are down. Commencement of installation for the 3G pitch is still being held up by minor planning queries but is imminent.

e) Twinning Association (Cllr Francis)

Thame and District Twinning Association was delighted to announce that Anna Harper has been named as a winner in the Community Champion section in the Thame Lockdown Love Awards. Anna is the youngest member of the Thame Twinning Association. When our annual visit from Montesson was cancelled in May, Anna not only suggested linking with our French friends on Zoom, she also produced a very detailed and user friendly guide for our older members to teach them how to use Zoom and enlisted the help of her younger brother Matthew, to set up and manage 2 chat rooms to enable more chat. Around 25 English and French families were able to connect thanks to their help and expertise. Other Zoom events will now be taking place thanks to Anna's initial training and patience. The Twinning association is very grateful to her for enabling us to stay connected during this challenging time.

The Association recently held its latest Committee Meeting via Zoom during which a new volunteer Treasurer came forward, Liz Barker, a long-term stalwart of Thame Twinning, to replace James Green.

The bank balance is currently healthy, and the Association is very grateful to have received the grant for the renewal of the Town Signs, to make the names of our twin towns, both Montesson and Sinaia, more obvious.

An on-line quiz via Zoom, on November 6, 2020, is being organised with the help of Sue Boyle, who has gained a lot of experience with her on-line, Tuesday quizzes throughout Lockdown. Several councillors joined in with these, and it is hoped lots of you will take part. More details to follow.

Although Thame's big Christmas event is somewhat curtailed this year, Twinning is hoping to be able to take part in some way or other, and is liaising with Cassie.

The Association is trying to work out a way in which they can somehow have their usual Christmas sing-along with mince pies and mulled wine, online, with perhaps the French joining in with French carols; something they usually do during the Christmas party, usually held when the Montessonaise come over the Thame Christmas event with their produce stall.

A photo album to present to the retired Mayor of Montesson, Jean Francois Bel, is almost complete and will be sent to him once all the captions have been added and the design complete.

f) Thame Good Neighbour Scheme (Cllr Midwinter)

Nothing to report.

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

1. Successful but short season for the 1st XI who reached two finals and the 2nd, 3rd and 4th XI all finished top of their division.
2. The junior section was well attended, and we completed several competitive fixtures across the U11, U13 and U15 age group.
3. Going into next season we plan to enter an U17 boys' team into the league and progress our plans to develop a Girls section.
4. The club was thankful to its sponsors for their continued support plus the ECB, Sport England and South Oxfordshire who provided grants to cope with a significant reduction and additional cost in relation to risk minimisation measures.
5. Despite the pandemic it was great to see many spectators coming to watch the matches that were played, and we thank everyone for being compliant with the COVID restrictions that have been put in place.
6. Unfortunately, the season was marred by repeated and consistent anti-social behaviour at the ground which has resulted in the club enforcing stricter rules in terms of access, curfew at 10pm and stricter monitoring. We have also had no choice but to issue banning orders to a group of teenage girls whose continued unacceptable behaviour in front of junior members and users of the club as young as 4 and 5 years was unacceptable. We will be pursuing a civil injunction with legal representation and the Police on this matter.
7. Drop bollards will be installed at the entrance and exit to the car park to restrict unauthorised access to the private car park at the club which is shared with the barns centre
8. Additional CCTV with a direct link to the Police will also be in operation.
9. An incident on Friday 9th October in front of the club during which a group of c12 young people were trespassing & fighting led to blood soaked covid masks being left on the patio area which was captured on CCTV. A full report has been issued to the Police who will be following up with a number of the individuals who have been identified.
10. Work is under way for the cycle rack in the car park but we have uncovered a drainage system in the middle of the area which needs to be surveyed before we continue.

h) Chinnor RFC (Cllr Bretherton)

Nothing received at 14.10.20

i) Music in the Park (Cllr Jones)

The committee has a new tranche of enthusiastic members and planning for the 2021 event is forging ahead. That said we are, of course, keeping a very close eye on developments with respect to official guidelines for events in the pandemic situation and their potential impact on its viability.

j) Thame Sinaia Friendship Association (Cllr Bretherton)

Nothing received at 14.10.20

k) Thame Museum Trust (Cllrs Cowell & Emery)

Museum re-opened on 2nd September and will remain open.

Annual membership revenue is holding up. Financial controls to ensure we balance our books. Revised budgets to cope with the virus.

The Talks programme has been postponed until 2021 but the temporary Exhibitions continue. The 4th Thame Arts Crawl starting 15th to 18th October the Museum will be hosting an exhibition.

Problems with leaky roof causing lots of problems. Discussions ongoing with the council.

The recruitment drive for volunteers earlier in the year has been very successful. The new recruits have nearly finished their training and will shortly be included on the current rota.

As COVID-19 continues to develop, strict protocols have been introduced for volunteers and visitors.

Arts Council Accreditation, behind the scenes the museum has started the work required to renew our Accreditation in 2022, reviewing our strategic direction document, developing their key aims and drafting the project activity required to deliver those aims.

l) Thame Town Music Festival (Cllr Wyse)

Nothing to report.

m) Thame Shed (Cllr Wyse)

Thame Shed are seeking financial donations and contributions in order to progress the project.

n) Thame Sports Club (Cllr Jones)

The Sports Club has had to ask for an extension to the bridging loan supplied by TTC as Covid has delayed the sign-off by the builders. They fully expect to have the money from SODC this month and to be able to repay the £60,000 in full in the next few weeks.

The new club house is finished less some final snagging issues and the loos are open for the use of club members with proper precautions in place. Tennis and bowls have resumed, again with proper precautions in place. It has been decided to defer hiring out the club to outside groups for the time being.