

Community, Leisure & Recreation Committee

Date: 9 February 2021
Title: Report - External Organisations

a) Cuttle Brook Management Committee (Cllr Jones)

Nothing to report as lockdown has prevented any group work on the Cuttle Brook although individuals continue to litter pick or do some light maintenance where possible.

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

Unfortunately the proposed Mini Muster of the Sealed Knot has had to be put off until 2022 but is still on the cards.

Thame Concert Band are willing to do a small Event later in the year Covid permitting and we will look at Proms in the Park for 2022.

c) Thame Carnival Committee (Cllr Emery)

There has not been a meeting since 4th February 2020 due to Covid-19.

The Carnival committee had a meeting on the 25th January to decide if Carnival 2021 could be held this June within the limits and guidelines of the Government outdoor gatherings rules and regulations. It is with regret that the committee have taken the difficult decision to cancel this year's carnival planned for June. This decision has been made in line with the advice from the Government, Thame Town Council and our desire and obligation to provide a safe event environment for all our volunteers, performers, suppliers and of course our entire community who support us.

In view of our intention to hold the event in 2022 we will announce a date and more information as soon as we are able.

As a result of these exceptional circumstances we would like to ask the Council if we could ask for their continued support from Thame Town Council in an advisory capacity for Carnival 2022.

- Health & Safety Risk Assessment - New Covid19 Guidelines.
- Application preparation and recommendations on Road Closure
- Use of Southern Road Recreational Ground
- Overview and preparation of the set-up of the event.

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

The main focus at TFP is the new 3G pitch, on which construction is now proceeding. Various planning, legal, and financial complications delayed the start of work on site, which was then interrupted by standing water following heavy rainfall in mid-December, but the work in progress has passed its key stage inspections, drainage work is complete, and the sub-base has been levelled and compacted. Work now progresses to the installation of kerbing, fencing, and floodlight cabling before applying the Macadam pitch base and laying the synthetic carpet. Completion date is expected around mid-April.

Covid restrictions mean football at all levels is currently suspended but, despite a massive reduction in trade over the last six months the business still remains in a financially stable position.

In addition to the 3G development TFP hope to finally get planning approval for the floodlights around pitch 4 and, once planning is granted, works will commence straight away. They are also in the process of obtaining grant funding to add an additional stand to the stadium pitch which, along with a retractable player tunnel, will maintain the ground grading required for Southern League football.

e) Twinning Association (Cllr Francis)

No report received at 3.2.21

f) Thame Good Neighbour Scheme (Cllr Midwinter)

The Thame Good Neighbour Scheme joined forces with The Love Thame Blue Hearts at the beginning of November 2020. Chris Coe from Love Thame provided the TGNS with a mobile phone to enable us to be able to help answer the helpline during office hours. Out of hours the support line is manned by Blue Hearts volunteers. Since the beginning of November we have received around 50 calls for help with prescription collection and shopping, all of which have been completed mainly by TGNS volunteers assisted by Blue Hearts volunteers. Due to Covid-19 we are currently not offering transport to hospital/GP appointments. There are also a number of volunteers who are helping residents on a regular basis and are in contact directly so these requests aren't logged on the system. The Thame Good Neighbour Scheme was contacted by Chinnor Rugby Club in mid-January regarding their idea of offering free home cooked meals to be delivered to elderly and vulnerable residents in Thame and Chinnor. This new community initiative was advertised in the Thame Town Council newsletter and a list of names was collected and forwarded to the Rugby Club for them to assess if the scheme is viable.

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

Obviously there is little going on at TTCC due to Lockdown.

However there is a problem with Dog Poo. This becoming more of an issue as more people are using the Cricket Ground as a Place to exercise themselves and their dogs. Either the owners don't notice what their dogs are doing or they don't care. There are notices to say dogs must be on a lead but owners ignore them.

Please owners be responsible!

h) Chinnor RFC (Cllr Bretherton)

There is no rugby allowed below the Premiership level and so the Club has had to let go all players and most staff. Facilities for training and the gym will be available when COVID rules allow. The club are proceeding with a plan to improve their more remote pitches and intend drilling a bore hole on the site to allow those pitches to be watered. It will also save a lot of money generally spent on watering all pitches.

i) Music in the Park (Cllr Jones)

It is with great regret that MitP has decided to reschedule the event to next year. Covid permitting it will go ahead on 1 May 2022.

j) Thame Sinaia Friendship Association (Cllr Bretherton)

The association is pleased to see the addition of larger wording of the twinning locations on the gateway signs to Thame.

The Association continues to meet via Zoom with the added advantage of reps from Sinaia able to join the meetings. Sinaia is in a similar lock down to us, however the ski slopes are open but only for locals.

We are looking forward to being able to organise visits later this year.

k) Thame Museum Trust (Cllrs Cowell & Emery)

- Roof, new contractor appointed, first meeting 19th January.
- Management Committee continue to meet virtually
- Volunteer recruitment has had some success
- Move forward with Shopify to enable Internet shopping
- Move forward with Crowdcast to hold virtual talks
- Opening; awaiting Government guidelines
- Temporary exhibition to be held on Frank Kirby VC in September
- Thame Players & Museum collaborating on joint project " A Potted History of Thame"

l) Thame Town Music Festival (Cllr Wyse)

I have had an optimistic email from Jon Littler in which he states that depending on the dreaded pandemic he will be able to make a decision in May if it will be possible to organise the Music Festival for July this year. Hopefully some good news for the future!

m) Thame Shed (Cllr Wyse)

Following the award of £5000 by the Council the committee will be able to organise the start of some of the groundwork etc.

Approaches are being made to numerous organisations to obtain further sponsorship with the advantage now of informing them we have financial backing of our local Council.

n) Thame Sports Club (Cllr Jones)

The new clubhouse is now complete and the last of the s106 monies are about to be received from SODC thus allowing the repayment of the Club's bridging loan from TTC. The members are all looking forward to the end of lockdown and the chance to use the wonderful new facility.