

**Community, Leisure & Recreation Committee**

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**Date:** 13 April 2021  
**Title:** Report - External Organisations

**a) Cuttle Brook Management Committee (Cllr Jones)**

This has been heavily overused by the townsfolk of Thame and the paths have been massively degraded. It is not known how long it will take for them to recover along with the immediately adjacent land where people have walked to avoid the mud – just spreading the problem. Volunteers hope to meet up again shortly to recommence work in the reserve in small groups. Individuals have been litter picking to keep the place tidy.

There has also been a problem with some neighbours of the Cuttle Brook using the reserve as an extension to their own compost heaps and dumping garden waste onto the land and with people building their own personal bridges across the drainage ditches to access the reserve direct from their gardens. Council staff are aware.

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

Friends of Elms Park report they are in initial discussions about a Mini Muster of the Sealed Knot and Proms in the Park (Thame Concert Band) for 2022.

**c) Thame Carnival Committee (Cllr Emery)**

No meetings as Carnival cancelled until 2022.

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

The new artificial pitch was completed three weeks ahead of schedule and the formal handover took place on Friday 26 March. SODC have also signed off on the S.106 contribution, and the Football Foundation have released funds on schedule, so everything has fallen into place nicely. The first access to the pitch was on Saturday 3 April and it is now in regular use for senior training and for Thame Boys, and available for community hire as activity increases during the gradual opening up of team sports post lockdown.

Much credit is due to the Acting Town Clerk in particular, and the support from her Officers, for the diligence and attention to detail that she has brought to bear to ensure the successful and timely completion of this project.

**e) Twinning Association (no elected representative)**

Following the resignation of Cllr Francis there is a vacancy for the External Representative for the Twinning Association. It is intended to call for a Councillor nomination at the Annual Meeting of the Council in May.

**f) Thame Good Neighbour Scheme (Cllr Midwinter)**

Most requests are for prescription collection (often at short notice) and we have completed 61 jobs to date since the beginning of January. The few requests we have had for transport to hospital/GP appointments we have directed to Thame Community Car.

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

1. We are gearing up to open the club for cricket and looking forward to a full season which has now been approved by the Gov, ECB and Leagues - outdoor team practice starts 10th April with warm up fixtures and the league on 8th May. The nets are now open for members to use and we are hosting an Easter Cricket Camp with support from Institute of Cricket from 12th to 15th April - attached advert if this can be publicized via the Town Council ?
2. We will also welcome back our regular hiring's to the clubhouse, musical mayhem started last week outdoors and we will also be welcoming back martial arts, pilates, dance and of course the Thame Friendship Centre in due course over the coming months in line with COVID opening up policy.
3. We will be hosting Oxfordshire v Berkshire on Sunday to Tuesday 15th - 17th August for a 3 day County Fixture - more details to follow - please pencil it in the calendar and we look forward to seeing town councillors and staff at the ground for a drink.
4. No reports of ASB at the ground and car park of late and we would like to thank the town council and SODC for approving the inclusion of the cricket ground and Church Rd in the Thame PSPO which will be a great help to the club and Police. I am sure the neighbors will be pleased too!
5. We would like to put up a club 'welcome' sign similar to the one on the Aylesbury Rd at the entrance to the clubhouse by the nets - awaiting approval and guidance on how we progress this
6. After 5 incredible years as Chair I will be stepping down at the end of this season, my successor will be announced in due course, just as soon as I can find someone mad enough to take the job on!

Matt Swain  
Chair - Thame Town Cricket Club

**h) Chinnor RFC (Cllr Bretherton)**

There has been no rugby since the first lockdown but optimism that Rugby will be able to be played for the season starting in the Autumn.

Volunteers have been making improvements to the grounds and surrounds of the club house and they are now finalising plans to extend the youth and women's changing rooms.

Club president John Ashfield was pleased to announce in early February that they would be utilising their kitchens to provide meals to the needy in Thame on two days per week. With all costs borne by the club and their volunteers. The scheme will continue for a while so if you know of anyone who could benefit please e-mail [crcfmeals@gmail.com](mailto:crcfmeals@gmail.com).

**i) Music in the Park (Cllr Jones)**

The Thame Town Music Festival has invited MitP to join in with its event on Saturday 10 July 2021 and to have a stage at the SRRG for a family-friendly concert aimed at showcasing local bands. With a bigger grass area at our disposal we will hopefully be able to have plenty of family groups, plus food and drink concessions. We are looking to include some children focussed stalls such as Zorbs, face-painting and similar activities. Entry to all TTMF events on 10 July is free to all.

The SRRG area will be open to the public from 12:00 with music from 13:00 – 19:00. Slots will be either 30 or 45 minutes with 30-minute gaps between acts. There will no recorded music and professional sound engineers will monitor noise levels. Security will be provided by TTMF's contracted security company.

SRRG will still be used for car parking, but it will be clearly marked as such and separated from the MITP stage and area. Ox9ers are manning the car park and ensuring it is safely used for all. We envisage fencing between any car parking and the general public.

Licensing is being sought by TTMF and MitP. There will need to be a limit of 499 people attending. XT will provide a bar with the necessary licensing, Thame Wombles have been approached to do a litter pick after the event and staging is being organised. Public liability Insurance will be provided by TTMF. A full feasibility study and some of the details are still being finalised but it will be a great way to keep MitP in the public eye and to put back some fun after a long drought.

As with the Festival as a whole, the event will only go ahead if all COVID-19 related restrictions have been lifted.

**j) Thame Sinaia Friendship Association (Cllr Bretherton)**

The Association has continued to meet regularly on Zoom with the added advantage of including members from Sinaia. There are no planned visits either way for this year (yet).

**k) Thame Museum Trust (Cllrs Cowell & Emery)**

- Continue preparations to re-open Museum.
- Budget for 2021 / 2022 approved.
- New display furniture for the main exhibition hall has been ordered.
- Review of collection policy has been undertaken.
- Roof, awaiting report from contractor to submit to conservation officer for approval. Asset Manager is continuing to follow up.

**l) Thame Town Music Festival (Cllr Wyse)**

The Festival has confirmed it will be taking place on 9-10 July 2021, subject to any Covid-19 guidance.

*See also Music in the Park update in this report.*

**m) Thame Shed (Cllr Wyse)**

Still appealing for donations. Trying to get permission from Agricultural Association to start emptying the barn.

**n) Thame Sports Club (Cllr Jones)**

Tennis and bowls have now recommenced. The club house is finished and paid for and TSC has repaid their bridging loan from TTC with interest. Strategies have been put in place for cleaning and sanitising the inside spaces and new systems for contactless payment etc are being sourced. No external organisations are being allowed to use the facilities at the moment due to government guidelines.