
Policy & Resources Committee

Title: Report - External Organisations

Date: Tuesday 30 August 2022

a) Barns Centre (Cllrs Deacock and Dodds)

Nothing received at 18/08/2022

b) Citizens Advice (Cllr Austin)

The instigation of Tuesday drop-in sessions are proving very popular and Thame Citizens Advice is going to extend this service to include Thursdays from 21st July. The drop-in service is aimed primarily at people who are struggling to use adviceline.

c) Health Hub (including Community Hub Pilot) (Cllrs Champken-Woods and Richards)

Discussions are on-going with Buckinghamshire NHS Trust (BHT) regarding collaborative approaches to the use of space at the current Health Centre site. If these are unsuccessful then The Rycote Practice will be looking at other possible sites within Thame.

Discussions with Hallam land have been discontinued.

The Practice Manager will keep TTC updated with any future developments and also update us on the Autumn Covid Vaccinations for the over 65's.

Report of Community Hub Pilot

The majority of services in Thame Community Hub are running as normal.

The exception is the Cancer Care Outreach Service. The reopening of the Thame and Marlow Cancer care Outreach services have been delayed until after the summer.

Buckinghamshire Healthcare Trust is engaging with local community, voluntary and healthcare organisations to understand the current challenges around the Thame area.

The aim of the project:

- To produce a set of recommendations for how to address these challenges at the Thame Community Hospital.
- To improve the health and wellbeing of the local population.

d) NALC (Cllr Dyer)

Nothing to report.

e) Red Kite Family Centre (Cllr Emery)

The Family Centre continues to offer a wide range of provision and support to parents with 0-4yr olds in both the Thame (OX9) area and in Chinnor (OX39). We are sorry to report that Sarah Candy, our manager who joined us in January, left at the end of May. This has obviously created staffing pressures on the rest of the team and the trustees are working with them to ensure that the programme can continue. We are reviewing the current staffing structure and putting new

arrangements in place that will adjust some existing roles and also bring in the additional staff time that is needed.

Funding position

We are very grateful for the on-going support from Thame Town Council. In common with most voluntary organisations, we are experiencing a significant increase in costs this financial year. This is being caused by the inflationary pressures of which we are all aware. Staff salary costs have increased together with day to day running costs and the rising cost of energy. Our annual budget for the 2022-23 financial year is £101,000 in comparison with £70k in our first year of operation five years ago. At the end of the first quarter about 20% of this budget has been spent and through careful monitoring we hope to keep well within our planned budget overall. As you will realise the TTC contribution amounts to 10% of our projected costs.

Session attendance

You will find full details of all the sessions that we run on our website. Overall attendance has been at 76% of capacity. The Stay and Play sessions (2 in Thame and 1 in Chinnor) remain the most popular with attendance normally being over 100%. (Now that the pandemic restrictions have eased we have started offering 'drop-in' attendance to these sessions. Hence the over subscription.) The 'Brilliant babies' sessions for new-borns have been popular and the lunch club for young mums have started up again.

So far this year numerous courses have been run, some of them jointly funded with Abingdon and Witney College. Starting School had glowing reviews from parents and the 'Henry' parenting course had a positive impact on those attending. The 'Bump' café for expecting mums was well attended but most have now had their babies. The Makaton signing course was run again and was well attended.

Our arrangement with Moreton Barn Farm for Outdoor Explorers sessions has unfortunately had to finish. We have been temporarily using the forest school site in Tetsworth for these sessions but are now looking for a new permanent venue in Thame as we are keen to continue with this important opportunity for outdoor learning and play.

Community Engagement

Our stall at 'Taste of Thame' raised almost £150 and our two weeks running the charity market stall raised over £350.

A Holiday Club for parents is currently being advertised for selected days in the school holidays. Our volunteer recruitment had to be held over during pandemic restrictions but we are now actively encouraging new local people interested in supporting us to join our volunteer team. Our friends supporters scheme continues and we are expecting income of about £4500 from this over the year.

John Hulett, Trustee

f) Thame Business Forum (Cllr Dyer)

The meeting hosted at Thame Sports Club on 26 April was unfortunately poorly attended, despite the main two agenda items having been specifically requested by members. Those that did attend received an overview of SODC's Economic Development strategy from Cabinet Member Robin Bennett and a presentation on Thame COP from Lisa Meaney.

The meeting scheduled for 12 July, which had intended to devote the agenda to a presentation and discussion of TNP2, has been cancelled due to delays in completing the final consultation version of the plan. This discussion is therefore carried forward to the September meeting.

g) Thame Senior Friendship Centre (Cllr Midwinter)

Nothing to report.

h) Thame Youth Memorial Trust (Cllr Dyer)

Accounts to 31 March were presented and accepted at a meeting on 25 May, confirming that the trust holds sufficient funds to cover foreseeable maintenance expenditure. Assistance has been requested though TTC to instruct the owners of the Elms to cut overhanging trees back to their boundary, following which remedial work to the border tiling is being investigated.

i) Thame Youth Projects Group (Cllr Bretherton)

The project members continue to work with youngsters at meetings on the Recreation ground and are engaging them in the designs for the new Youth/Community centre.

The new youth leader has had to leave due to personal reasons and so the group have entered into another phase of recruitment.

The main focus at the moment is the design and development of the Youth/Community Centre on Southern Road Recreation Ground with regular meetings held with TTC and the Architects.

j) 21st Century Thame (Cllr Fickling)

Nothing received at 18/08/2022

k) Welfare Trust (Cllr Champken-Woods)

A few small awards were made but the main ones were for:

- Lord Williams's School for uniforms for deserving families.
- St Mary's Church to replace tower lighting and lighting the public right of way through the churchyard.