

Policy & Resources Committee

Title: Report - External Organisations**Date:** Tuesday 14 February 2023**a) Barns Centre** (Cllrs Deacock and Dodds)

The Barns Centre is recruiting for a Volunteer Treasurer / Trustee for more information or to apply please contact info@thamebarnscentre.co.uk.

At the last Trustees meeting John Saville gave a presentation on centre becoming a CIO, he is the mentor for the district Lions Clubs who are all converting from Charities to CIOs as it gives extra protection for the Trustees. It was agreed that this would be advantageous to the centre's charitable status.

On 10th December there was a car fire just outside the Small Barn, the car belonged to someone using the Barns Centre. The hirers called the fire brigade and the centre. The managers came down to inspect. The car was removed a about a week later, there is some slight damage to the tarmac. The car park is the responsibility of Cricket Club. No damage to the Barns.

Much activity in applying energy saving methods i.e., changing light bulbs, fitting draft excluders, filling gaps in doors, etc. There was much discussion regarding potential fitting of solar panels and alternative methods of heating including infra-red heating panels.

On 11th January, a Health and Safety Audit was undertaken. It took a different format to the one we imagined. It was thought she had come to advise us, not do a report, and score us. We are still waiting to hear from her about our Health and Safety Policy, if she has any recommendations, we will discuss them with The Town Clerk before a copy is signed. It was advised that the report was usual and the suggestions could be worked at over the year.

Nige Forshaw from Rubicon Drones Ltd did some thermal imaging on a cold night in December, the trustees had all received a link to it before Christmas and had questions. Nige kindly joined the meeting and played the images. He explained that the Centre did not have many heat spots, there were some above the kitchen and flat, possibly need more insulation, the roof on the south side of the building showed heat but that was likely to have been from the sunshine on the tiles. Nige also did a free roof inspection, the roof looked mostly good but there were a few broken tiles. Discussion took place about ways to keep the heat in the building. It was thought that blinds behind the curtains in Room 1 and the Small Barn might help. Mandy said the report was usual and the suggestions could be worked at over the year.

The office staff will be attending Fire Warden Training on 8th February.

The Barns have now nearly given away the whole of the £6K budget for the Community Fund. It was asked if the Barns website told people about the community fund, apparently it did not, but will look at putting something on it.

b) Citizens Advice (Cllr Austin)

There will be no report owing to CA presentation to the committee on 14 February 2023.

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

Nothing received at 10/02/2023

d) NALC (Cllr Dyer)

The Town Clerk circulates the NALC Weekly Bulletin to all Councillors so nothing to add.

e) Red Kite Family Centre (Cllr Emery)

“It is with great pleasure that I write this report as new Centre Manager. Over the past three months I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to delve deeper into the workings of the centre, having previously been employed for the last year as its Administrator. It is such a special and unique place for the families of Thame that I hope I can do it justice.

Centre Staffing:

The centre has settled into the new structure well with the team supporting each other with the challenges we face. My experience, previously being in the private sector, is being adapted to the new role, however with the support of the team, we are all bringing different, complimentary qualities to the team. Catherine Myles, Helen Burton and Rebecca Boulton continue to be brilliant assets to the centre, and we have welcomed Kirsty Blackwell as well to the team since our last report. Kirsty has come to us from The Maple Tree in Wheatley and has proven herself to be an enthusiastic, approachable member of the team.

January 2023 Staff Team

Family Centre Manager	Marie Scott
Professional Lead Programme Delivery	Catherine Myles
Professional lead Family Support	Helen Burton
Family Support Worker	Rebecca Boulton
Family Support Assistant	Kirsty Blackwell

Trustees:

There have been a couple of changes to the board of trustees. At the end of 2022 we said a big ‘thank you’ and farewell to Sarah Roberts, after 5 years as a trustee, and she was also a former chair of the advisory board when the centre was run with government funding before 2017; and farewell to Rebecca Matthews, one of our Parent Users who was on the board until her current Maternity Leave.

The full list of trustees is as follows:

Katie English – co-chair	Amy Spicer – co-chair
Rosie Pearce – co-treasurer	Sarah Bradford – co-treasurer
John Hulett – Link person for TTC, SODC and OCC.	Lottie Curry – secretary

Centre Activities and Attendance:

The Centre continues to be a hub of activity and support for local families of 0-4 year olds. Our Sensory Explorers group, for children with identified needs has grown from strength to strength with a number of families now regularly attending with their children. Our universal Stay and Play sessions are now busy and vibrant and families have been forging the connections and networks during these that are so vital to them. Brilliant Babies is running again this term, after having been used for our ‘Baby Massage’ course last term, which we were able to offer families at no charge, through part of our Adult learning offering through Abingdon and Witney College.

Our programme for the winter term has been going very well. We now have 302 families registered with the Family Centre. 65% of these have been coming to more than one session. Sessions have been well attended and we have had 471 check-ins to our sessions over the last quarter. Our online booking system is continuing to make administration much easier, however we are looking at how to streamline further the two systems to make booking and registering a smoother process for families whilst also capturing the right data in order to better apply for funding.

Community Engagement:

Over Christmas we were able to run several events, such as our Christmas Party, Christmas Messy Play, Santa's Post Box at The Book House and Children's Cinema at the Players Theatre. We are very grateful to the financial donations from the local churches and the Thame Concert Band. This all helped to raise an additional £2130, with some further donations expected shortly. We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of the local community, with an inundation of offers of toys and vouchers for our more vulnerable families, and those struggling during this period of increased cost-of-living.

Centre Update:

Unfortunately just before Christmas, following some issues with our boiler, our centre was flooded. In the usual 'can do' spirit of the centre, mops and buckets were manned by the staff team and trustees, and the offers of dehumidifiers and heaters by the local community meant that we were able to re-open in January with no delay to our family users. We are still without heat or hot water, however are in the process of remedying this with OCC.

Over the coming month of February we are going to focus on our 'Friends scheme' as we currently only have 34 individuals signed up to donate via this scheme, and we want to grow this to at least 100. There will of course be benefits to the members however the biggest benefit for us will be to have a sustainable and regular income to the centre.

We are very grateful indeed for the on-going financial support of the Town Council for the Family Centre. We take our accountability to the local community very seriously and hope that, with your continued support, we can offer our vital family support service to as many families with young children in the area as possible."

Marie Scott, Centre Manager

f) Thame Business Forum (Cllr Dyer)

A well-attended and lively meeting in December received an in-depth briefing on TNP2, with particular emphasis on provision for employment land but concern was expressed that the Aecom recommended allocation of 5.5ha would be insufficient to meet current demand.

Other key topics and concerns were identified, which will form the basis of the agenda for the next meeting on 7th February.

There was also a lengthy discussion on whether the Business Forum had perhaps run its course, but representatives were unanimous that they find it useful and support its continuation.

g) Thame Senior Friendship Centre (Cllr Midwinter)

The membership of the Thame Senior Friendship Centre is 35 clients, and the Memories Cafe has 13 clients.

Applications continue to be steady for the Memories Café, and the move to the Snooker Club has been a positive improvement. We are receiving regular applications from volunteers to assist at the Memories Café. We have trained two additional minibus drivers. Members have returned to the Friendship Society after Christmas Break full of enthusiasm and gifts to make a week of the Coronation celebrations full of fun.

h) Thame Youth Memorial Trust (Cllr Dyer)

The overhanging trees from the Elms have now been cut back. This will reduce the constant problems caused by leaf fall, such as slippery surfaces and blockages in the water feature.

The AGM was held on 14th November and approved funds to replace the pump and repair the lamps which light the statue (now done). Quotations are also now being sought for replacing the stone flooring with anti-slip outdoor porcelain tiles.

i) Thame Youth Projects Group (Cllr Bretherton)

Nothing received at 10/02/2023

j) 21st Century Thame (Cllr Fickling)

Minutes: Wednesday 18th January 2023 - 7.45pm Racquets Fitness Centre - Meeting 1

This years carnival does not have a "theme" so all parade entries can dress up, create a float or walk with a community group whatever costume or outfit you'd like. This is so that we hopefully make the parade bigger and better than it has been for the last few years.

- Attendees - Sharon Smits, Linda Emery, Ashleigh Dearlove, Katie-Lee English, Cassie Hooper and Louise Bragger
- Apologies - Thame Round Table
- Thank you to Cassie Hooper for the new logo
- Thank you to all the nominations for Charities to benefit from the Thame Carnival, The successful charities for 2023 are Thame Youth Memorial, Red Kite Family Centre, Thame & District Society for the Visually Impaired and Jack & Jill Pre-school Chinnor
- We have already been taking bookings for stalls, for more details on how to book a stall or a place in the parade or to be a sponsor, please go to the website <https://thamecarnival.co.uk/>
- Thank you to the Thame Round Table for running the bar
- Thank you for Thame Town Council Maintenance Team for helping on the morning

To do

- Sponsorship from Local Business
- Book equipment at Thame Equipment Bank
- Update Website
- Thame Carnival Quiz - date TBC
- K&A Scaffolding the stage
- Book DJ Dan Blaze as compare
- Fly-past confirmation
- Dog Show?

Next meeting - Wednesday 15th February 7.45pm at Racquets Fitness Centre

Please come along if you are interested in helping, or just to find out about the Carnival is organised please come along.

k) Welfare Trust (Cllr Champken-Woods)

Nothing received at 10/02/2023